



PARENTS GUIDE TO ESPORTS

What is Esports?



Esports

Esports, also known as professional gaming, is the competitive practice of video games. There are professional esports teams that compete in franchised leagues, akin to the NBA or NFL. Professional players are paid a salary by a team, and the team makes money through sponsorship deals with brands like Puma, Red Bull, and Dell. Your child may be competing in esports leagues organized by their schools, community centers, or other online platforms.

Where are people watching it?

The most popular platform to watch esports on is Twitch, which was acquired by Amazon in 2014 for \$970 million. Other platforms include YouTube and Facebook. Content is livestreamed, and often involves a “chat” function, where audience members may comment on action as it’s happening.

Streaming

Esports is not the only kind of content on platforms like Twitch. There are professional streamers, like Tyler “Ninja” Blevins, who play games like Fortnite live for their fans. The key difference between esports and streaming is a competitive nature – esports involves highly coordinated, high stakes competition, while streaming is often more casual and driven by a streamer’s personality.

Is It Safe to Watch?

Not all esports content is alike. The broadcast of a rated “M” game such as Call of Duty can be expected to have more violence than a game such as Rocket League. It’s important to discuss with your children the kinds of games they’re playing and which streams they’re watching, be it a professional esports stream or a streamer like Ninja.

Top Games



League of Legends

A Massive Online Battle Arena (MOBA), League of Legends is widely regarded as the most popular esports. Created by Riot Games, two teams of five players work to destroy their enemy's base using strategy and teamwork. Rated T for Teens.



Fortnite

A Battle Royale (BR) where 100 players land on a constantly shrinking map, where only one player survives. Fortnite, by Epic Games, is known for hosting events like a Travis Scott concert in game. Rated T for Teens.



Valorant

Created by Riot Games, two teams of five compete in this first person shooter. Through a variety of game modes, teams must work together to meet their objective as either an attacker or defender. Rated T for Teens.



Call of Duty: Modern Warfare

Published by Activision Blizzard, Call of Duty has been around since 2003. Through teams of five, teams compete in a variety of game modes in this first person shooter. Warzone, a new mode, is a Battle Royale format similar to Fortnite. Rated M for Mature.



Counter Strike: Global Offensive

Teams of five compete in this first person shooter to either plant or defuse a bomb. Published by Valve, CS:GO is one of the oldest esports still played. Teams take turns as either terrorists or counter-terrorists. Rated M for Mature.

Top Games



Rocket League

Best described as soccer with racecars, Rocket League, published by Psyonix, was acquired by Epic Games in 2019. Teams of three work together to score and defend goals against the other team. Rated E for Everyone.



Apex Legends

Teams of three compete in this Battle Royale made by Respawn Entertainment and EA. Considered a more strategic alternative to Fortnite, players select from a variety of characters to determine the best strategy. Rated T for Teens.



Rainbow Six: Siege

Two teams of five compete in this first person shooter created by Ubisoft. Though not as popular as CSGO or Call of Duty, Rainbow Six has built niche popularity for its strategic elements, mostly done through character selection. Rated M for Mature.



Overwatch

Developed by Activision Blizzard, two teams of six players compete in this cartoony, arena shooter. Players form team compositions based on a variety of characters, defined in role such as tank, damage, and healer. Rated T for Teens.



Hearthstone

This turn based card game brings the lore from World of Warcraft to a new platform. Individual players create a thirty card deck and compete one on one, with strategy coming from both deck composition but also during battle. Rated T for Teens.

Top Games



FIFA

A simulation of soccer, NBA 2k, published by EA Sports, has been published annually since 1993. The game features professional teams as well as a career management mode. Rated E for Everyone.



Madden

A simulation of football, Madden has been released on an annual basis since 1990. Published by EA Sports, the game features all thirty-two NFL teams. Madden includes detailed playbooks and stats. Rated E for Everyone.



PUBG

PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) is the "original" Battle Royale. Developed by PUBG Corp, the game was inspired by 2000 Japanese Film *Battle Royale*.. Rated T for Teens.



Super Smash Brothers

Super Smash Brothers is a fighting game developed by Nintendo. There are two different esports titles: Super Smash Bros Melee, released in 2001, and Super Smash Bros Ultimate, released in 2018. Both are rated T for Teens.



Teamfight Tactics

Teamfight Tactics is an "auto battler" released by Riot Games. Auto battlers are similar to card games in that they are turn based, but players build their "decks" on the fly. Using strategy, luck, and resource management, players build armies and battle. Rated T for Teens.

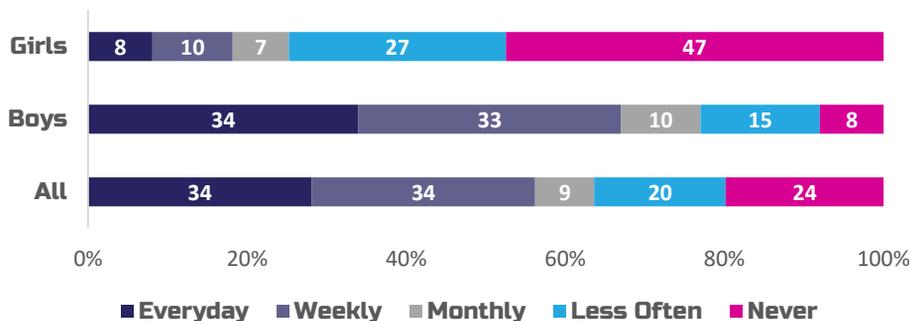


Why Esports Matters

Esports is Social

Much like traditional sports, esports can be very social. Competing together on a team requires strong communication, teamwork, and leadership skills. Esports teams work together to develop strategies and build bonds that you'd find on any other sports team. According to a study by Pew Research, 34% of boys play games with others online nearly every day.

Gaming Boys Play Games in Person or Online with Friends More Frequently Than Gaming Girls



[Source: Pew Research](#)

Esports in Education

Schools are rapidly investing in esports at the high school and collegiate level. In 2019, \$15 million was awarded in esports scholarships by universities to top talent. Many high schools are starting their own teams and competing in leagues run by organizations like PlayVS or High School Esports League. School esports teams offer the kind of social and community engagement that traditional sports do, but to the kind of student that often feels left out from such school activities.

Career Paths

Gaming at the professional is a dream for many kids, but often not realistic. However, that doesn't mean the dream of working in gaming has to die! There are plenty of opportunities in esports to work in graphic design, marketing, writing, broadcast/production, and more! According to a report by Goldman Sachs, the esports industry is anticipated to grow rapidly, reaching nearly \$3 billion by 2022.



How Can I Get Involved?

Play Games with your Kids

While it can be daunting, playing with your kids is the best way to get involved. The easiest games to learn will be sports simulation titles such as Madden or FIFA. Rocket League is a step up – combining the rules of soccer with the zaniness that we expect from video games.

The games you play with your child don't have to be esports titles. Most important of all is taking an interest in what matters to them. Games like the newly released Fall Guys are very simple to understand yet hard to master. So long as you're gaming and having fun with your child, the lessons you learn will transfer to their passion for esports.

Watch Streams with Them

Similar to watching sports or a favorite TV show with your child, watching streams can be quite educational. Not only do you get an idea of the kind of content your child is watching, but this also provides you with an opportunity to ask questions. If watching a professional esports match, ask why your child supports a certain team or player, or the importance of big plays. When watching a streamer, ask about the streamer – what game are they playing, who are they, and why does your child like them?

Learn with Other Parents

Learning with a peer is a great way to compare notes. If your child is part of a recreational league or team, introduce yourself to the other parents, as you would with little league. A more experienced parent can help show you the ropes of certain games. And if you find yourself the more experienced parent, teaching is the best way to understand what you learn!



About Us

What We Do

GGLeagues provides the infrastructure for your community to run esports tournaments. Be it a school or community center, we're there making sure you get to focus on what's important – gaming!



Who We Are

GGLeagues was founded in Chicago with one purpose – help communities connect through the power of esports. We believe that esports can bring everyone together, regardless of gender or physical ability.



Contact Us

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