



# **ESPORTS HANDBOOK**

## **2024-25**

### **South Dakota**

### **High School Activities Association**

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## ESPORTS GENERAL INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>Registration</b>	Oct 14-Nov 6, 2024		
<b>First Practice/Preseason</b>	Nov 11, 2024	TBD	TBD
<b>First Allowable Competition (TBD)</b>	Dec. 2, 2024	TBD	TBD
<b>State Tournament Forms (TBD) <u>Online Form due*</u></b>	February 7, 2025	TBD	TBD
<b>State Qualifiers (Monday-Friday, Week 31)</b>	February 3-7, 2025	TBD	TBD
<b>State Tournament (Friday –Saturday, Week 32)</b>	February 14-15, 2025 Aberdeen	TBD TBD	TBD TBD

**\*NOTE: LATE ENTRY FEE – ONLINE entries electronically submitted after the deadline will be assessed a \$50.00 late entry fee.**

### **MANDATORY ESPORTS RULES MEETING DATES:**

**Approximate date available online** – N/A in 24-25, TBD for the future.

**Date to be completed** – N/A in 24-25, TBD for the future.

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### **A. PARTICIPATION FEES**

There are no participation fee paid to the SDHSAA from schools for participation in Esports. However, there are management and licensing fees that need to be paid to Fenworks, which help run the programming itself. SDHSAA and Fenworks will annually agree on school fees, and any fees due shall be paid directly to Fenworks.

### **B. TITLE SELECTION**

Title selection will be determined annually by Fenworks and SDHSAA based on interest surveys of schools and students. All titles selected will fall into the ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) categories of E for Everyone, E 10+ for Everyone ages 10 and above, and T for Teen. The titles for the 2024-25 school year are Chess, Mario Kart 8, Super Smash Brothers Ultimate, Rocket League, Microsoft Java Edition- Bed Wars, and League of Legends

### **C. SEASON TIMEFRAME**

Fenworks will schedule all matches.

- A. PRESEASON- There will be a two-week preseason of NFHS Week 19 and NFHS Week 20, with no matches scheduled on NFHS Week 21 (Thanksgiving Week).
- B. REGULAR SEASON- The SDHSAA Esports Season will be eight weeks in length.
- C. STATE TOURNAMENT- The state tournament will be held in NFHS Week 32

**D. IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION RULE.** Once a student reports for the school's Esports team, the student cannot compete at other tournaments and contests as a representative of his/her own school's team.

### **E. Classification**

1. All SHDSAA member schools will compete in the same class for the 2024-25 school year.
2. The intent for the 2025-26 school year will be to have two classes.

**STATE ESPORTS TOURNAMENT  
ROTATION FOR FUTURE DATES AND SITES**

**HOSTING COMMUNITIES: TBD**

**FUTURE DATES AND SITES (STANDARD CALENDAR WEEK TBD):**

2024-25	FEB 14-15	ABERDEEN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ABERDEEN, SD
2025-26	TBD	
2026-27	TBD	

**STATE ESPORTS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

A draft of the schedule can be found [here](#).

**CONTEST REGULATIONS FOR ESPORTS EVENTS**

**CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL STATE ESPORTS TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE I-STATE ESPORTS TOURNAMENT  
MANAGEMENT AND CONTEST EVENTS**

**Section 1. MANAGEMENT OF STATE TOURNAMENT.** Management of the state tournament is the responsibility of the SDHSAA staff member in charge of Esports activities with the assistance of Fenworks. The SDHSAA and Fenworks shall have the power to meet all unforeseen emergencies at the State Tournament.

**Section 2. STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY SUBMISSION.** Schools entering the State Tournament MUST be registered online by Tuesday of Standard Calendar Week 35. Schools whose entry form is not electronically submitted on or before the submission deadline will be penalized by paying a \$50.00 late fee.

**Section 3. STATE TOURNAMENT CONTEST EVENTS.** State tournament contest events will mirror title selection for the season. Rules for each title will be contained in the Fenworks GM, Program, and Student Handbooks.

**Section 4. ENTRY LIMITS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT.** Schools are allowed one varsity team entry per title at the state tournament; however, exclusions may apply based on title or the number of teams in each title which can be found in the Fenworks Handbook. Each title has a different number of contestants per team and its own limit on substitutes dictated by the Fenworks handbook.

**Section 5. WITHDRAWAL FROM CONTEST NOTIFICATION AND PENALTIES.** If a school finds it Necessary to withdraw from the State Tournament after filing an “Intent to Participate” Form, such school shall notify the SDHSAA of its withdrawal by February 26. If a school is unable to give notice of withdrawal before the deadline due to weather conditions, the illness of contestants, or some other act of God, a report should be filed with the SDHSAA as soon as possible. The report should provide an explanation of the circumstances for not notifying the SDHSAA of withdrawal from the Tournament.

**Section 6. FINANCING THE STATE TOURNAMENT.** The SDHSAA and Fenworks shall provide the financing for the State Tournament administrative expenses. Each participating school is to provide its own meals, lodging, transportation, incidental expenses, and required judges.

**Section 7. ETHICAL BEHAVIOR, SCOUTING OPPOSING SCHOOLS, AND AUDIENCE CONDUCT DURING ROUNDS.** All players and coaches are allowed to ask for “main accounts” for the purposes of scouting. All teams must provide their real/main accounts if requested.

**Section 8. VIDEO TAPING, AUDIO RECORDING AND FLASH PICTURES.** Except at the direction of the contest management, the use of flash cameras during a State Tournament round is prohibited.

## ARTICLE II – CONTESTANTS

**Section 1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY-** Students in grades 7 through 12 may participate in the SDHSAA Esports Season and Esports State Tournament.

**Section 2. IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION RULE.** Once a student reports for the school's Esports team, the student can compete only at tournaments and contests as a representative of his/her own school's team. Participation on a "club" or non-school sponsored team or unattached, or as an individual is not permissible during the SDHSAA Esports season. However, a student can participate as an individual, not affiliated with a school in scholarship competitions during the SDHSAA Esports season. Students can participate on club Esports teams outside of the SDHSAA Esports season at the discretion of their school's administration.

**Section 3. Students and teams in the State Tournament will be recognized by school name and team name.**

## ARTICLE III - STATE ESPORTS TOURNAMENT AWARDS POLICY

### Section 1. SCHOOL AWARDS FOR THE ESPORTS EVENTS.

- A. Plaques will be presented to the schools of the 1st through 4th place teams for each title.
- B. All-around Championship and Runner-up trophies will be presented to the schools who amass the most and second-most total team points, with 10 points for first place in a title, 7 points for second place in a title, and 4 points for third place in a title. Plaques will be given to the 3rd and 4th place teams.

All-Around tiebreakers are:

- a. The largest number of State Champions
- b. The largest number of 2nd place recipients

### Section 2. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE ESPORTS EVENTS.

- A. Medals will be presented to the members of the 1st - 4th place team members in each title.
- B. Medals will be presented to all team members of the 1st – 4th place all- around team winners.

**Section 3. SDHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT AWARDS POLICY.** During the State Tournament, no awards will be given out prior to the official Awards Presentation session. Schools finding it necessary to leave the tournament prior to the awards session will need to make arrangements to pick up their awards at the SDHSAA office in Pierre.