



# Esports Sport Handbook

## Winter of 2025-26

### **Section 1: Rules**

- A. All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Association Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the RIIL and listed in this handbook below.
- B. Schools participating in an RIIL Esports Title must have each student complete the *RIIL Esport Title Acknowledgement Form*. Forms must be kept on file with each school's Athletic Director.
- C. Schools participating in additional titles not offered by the RIIL must have each student complete the *Additional Esports Title Request Form*. Forms must be kept on file with each school's Athletic Director.

### **Section 2: Mandatory Coaches Certification & Continuing Education**

- A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration and upload their valid certificates to the Coaches' Certification website below. A coach is any adult with access to student-athletes through an education-based athletic program.
  - a. Including, but not limited to: Volunteer Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Head Coaches.
- B. Coaching Requirements: Article 13
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: Article 7, Section 8
- D. Rules on Recruitment: Article 3, Section 11
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches: Article 12, Section 3

### **Section 3: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans**

- A. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols as required by RI General Laws must be developed and in place at every high school.
  - a. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.
  - b. *Rationale*: An effective emergency action plan (EAP) must be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be

designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites.

**Section 4: General Regulations for all Sports**

- A. Heat Acclimatization: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 3
- B. Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 2
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 8
- D. Use of Equipment During the Summer: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 13
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: RIIL R&R Art. 12, Sect. 3
- F. Loyalty to Home School: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 7
- G. National Events: RIIL R&R Article 7, Section 11
- H. Penalties for Ejections: RIIL R&R Article 6, Section 7
- I. Protest Procedure: RIIL R&R Article 5

**Section 5: Sport Advisory Committee**

- A. Each Sport Advisory Committee is comprised of Member School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials, and other relevant individuals who work with and report to the RIIL on all matters concerning their sport.
- A. Esports' Advisory Committee Membership:

<b><u>Committee Role</u></b>	<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
Director	Sam Schachter	Barrington
Athletic Director	Bob Morris	Times2
Athletic Director	Justin Erickson	Johnston
Head Coach	Brandon Lahoud	Lincoln
Head Coach	Dave Carnevale	Ponaganset
Head Coach	David Landi	Chariho

**Section 6: Regular Season:**

- A. School Registration on PlayVs
  - a. Participating Schools are required to register their team(s) through PlayVs
  - b. Registration Opens: July 11, 2025
  - c. Registration Closes: November 1, 2025
- B. Important Dates:

<b>School Year</b>	2025-26
<b>Sport</b>	<b>Esports</b>
<b>Start Date</b>	Monday, December 1, 2025
<b>Days in the Preseason</b>	10
<b>Games Can Begin</b>	Thursday, December 11, 2025
<b>Regular Season Weeks</b>	7
<b>Week #1 Begins On</b>	Monday, December 15, 2025
<b>Week #2 Begins On</b>	Monday, January 5, 2026
<b>Week #3 Begins On</b>	Monday, January 12, 2026
<b>Week #4 Begins On</b>	Monday, January 19, 2026
<b>Week #5 Begins On</b>	Monday, January 26, 2026
<b>Week #6 Begins On</b>	Monday, February 2, 2026
<b>Week #7 Begins On</b>	Monday, February 9, 2026
<b>Last Day of the Regular Season</b>	Thursday, February 12, 2026
<b>Championships Concluded By</b>	Sunday, March 8, 2026

C. Divisions:

- a. Esports has One (1) Division

<u>School</u>	<u>Titles per School</u>	<u>MarioKart 8</u>	<u>Super Smash Bros.</u>	<u>Rocket League</u>
<b>18 Schools</b>	<b>38 Teams</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Achievement First	1		X	
Barrington	2	X	X	
Bishop Hendricken	2		X	X
Chariho	3	X	X	X
Classical	2	X	X	
Cranston East	3	X	X	X
Cranston West	3	X	X	X
East Providence	2		X	X
Hope	2	X	X	
Lincoln	2	X	X	
Middletown	2		X	X
Mt. Pleasant	1		X	
North Providence	2	X	X	
Ponaganset	2		X	X
Prout	1	X		
Smithfield	3	X	X	X
Times2	2	X	X	
Toll Gate	3	X	X	X

D. Game Cap: 9 Regular Season Games prior to the start of the playoffs

E. PlayVS shall set a date/time for all contests.

- a. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit **a written request** to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**
- b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

- A. Score Reporting for all Regular Season and Postseason League Games: In accordance with Article 6, Section 14, all contest scores are to be reported on-line on the RIIL Website. Coaches obtain access to the system through their Athletic Director.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of school officials/administrators/supervisors to provide a safe and secure environment for the teams and officials by ensuring the playing field and sidelines are continuously cleared of **everyone** except certified & appointed coaches, team managers/scorers, student-athletes, medical personnel, and school designated personnel. Media are allowed with prior permission of the host school.
- C. The RIIL will set the day of the week for each title competition on PlayVs
- F. Postponement of Regular Season Varsity Games after the confirmation deadline:
  - a. Where unusual circumstances prevail or where weather conditions are unfavorable, a game may be postponed by mutual consent of the Principals and/or Athletic Directors
  - b. Postponed games shall be rescheduled to the next day when the teams, facility, and officials are available.
    - i. Includes weekends and/or school vacations.
    - ii. League games must take precedent over non-league games or lesser events
    - iii. Rescheduled games must be within all other guidelines contained in this handbook and the RIIL Rules & Regulations.
  - c. Additional Officials Fees for Games Changed within Two Weeks of original date/time:  
Article 6, Section 5
- G. Practice Limitations:
  - a. Preseason Practice Limitations are also located in Heat Acclimatization: Article 7, Section 3
  - b. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice
  - c. Games allowed after 10 days of practice

### **Section 7: Postseason Qualification & Format:**

- A. Postseason Qualification:
  - a. League Games Required to Qualify for the Postseason: 8 league games
  - b. Teams will be ranked according to their Win/Loss in all league games
  - c. Top-8 eligible teams in each title shall qualify for the playoffs
- B. Single Elimination throughout the playoffs
  - a. Quarterfinals – Semifinals - Finals
- C. Straight Bracket, no reseeding
- D. Postseason Tiebreaker
  - a. Playoff Seeding will be determined by a team's Win/Loss as calculated on the PlayVS website.
  - b. Win/Loss Tiebreaker:

- 1) Head-to-Head result(s) in League Games between the tied teams
  - 2) Winning Percentage in all League Games vs teams in your division
  - 3) Wins in all League Games vs teams in a higher division
  - 4) Win Percentage in all League Games
  - 5) Opponents' Win Percentage
  - 6) Highest-rated win (according to the final Win/Loss standings)
  - 7) Next-highest-rated win (exhaust all possibilities)
  - 8) Coin Toss
- E. In the event a “playoff game” must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the time of the suspension of play.

### **Section 8: Regulations Specific to Esports**

- A. **Rosters** shall be completed via the RIIL website and made available to the public no later than 10 days after the start of practice. Rosters must be updated when students are added/removed from the team. Rosters must include: full name, grade, and jersey number.
- D. In the event a “playoff game” must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the exact point of the suspension of play.
- E. **Playoff Warmup:** Teams must be allowed no less than 20 minutes to warm up on the field prior to the start of any playoff game unless specific warmup procedures are contained elsewhere in this handbook.
- A. “RIIL Esport Titles” refer to any games offered by The Rhode Island Interscholastic League during the year. Two of those games will be offered in the fall, and two of those games will be offered in the winter. All students participating in a RIIL Esport Title must complete the [RIIL Esport Title Acknowledgement Form](#). One form must be completed for each student.
- B. PlayVS offers additional titles that are not offered by The Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Any school looking to participate in any additional titles must complete the [Additional Esport Title Request Form](#). One form must be completed for each student.
- C. A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be disqualified for:
- a. Taunting
  - b. Inappropriate communication
  - c. A disqualified player shall be ineligible to participate in the next League contest(s) as per Article 6, Section 6.
- D. There shall be no negative, foul, or abusive dialogue between and/or among coaches, players and referees during the course of a game.
- E. Game Clock:

- a. Based on the game being played, it is managed by the software and ends at the necessary time.
- b. In some instances the game clock will not expire as certain titles are finalized either by total points or time expiration.

**Section 9: Officials**

- A. RIL assigned official's authority extends to pre and post-game oversight. Fighting and unsportsmanlike penalties will be within the authority of the officials at all times at the contest site.