



MSEA . AESM
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

Manitoba School Esports Association



Senior Years Rule Guide 2024-2025



MSEA . AESM
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

MSEA Community Guidelines Agreement

Manitoba School Esports Association strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for players to compete and an inclusive space for spectators, coaches, and organizers to connect and enjoy the game. Participation in any MSEA tournaments or events requires adherence to the following set of community guidelines for sportsmanship, conduct and ethics.

All Players, Coaches, Spectators, and Organizers must:

- Strive to enhance the safety of all esports participants, spectators, coaches, and organizers by treating everyone with respect, never condoning the use of offensive language, nicknames, or any form of insult towards yourself or others. This includes, but is not limited to racism, sexism, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or physical ability.
- Uphold the values of sportsmanship, digital citizenship, and integrity by creating a space that is free of language or gestures (physically or in-game) inferring sexual violence or inciting other forms of violence, spamming, or cheating and use of appropriate screen names.
- Respect all participant and spectator information as private and confidential. All age restrictions, Terms of Service, and Privacy Policies for each game, client, and program must be strictly adhered to.

Important terms:

Game refers to single game played.

Match refers to a series of games played (example, a best-of-3 or best-of-5)

Season refers to a series of matches over the span of several weeks to months, including both round robin stages and playoffs.

Player refers to an individual student competitor/participant.

Team refers to a group of players competing together



MSEA . AESM
ESPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

MSEA Senior Years Competition Rules

1. Registration

- a. Registrations must be done on the appropriate web site. See discord or the info package for a link to registration, and for instructions on how to register.
- b. Registrations must be completed by the deadline above. Late registrations will not be accepted.
- c. After the registration deadline there is a “grace period” where you may change your rosters (swap/add/remove players). You may not add another team. Withdrawing a team will result in forfeiture of your fee. Rosters will be considered locked when matches begin during the second week of competition.
- d. Registrations must include real names as well as valid in-game names for all players.

2. Teams

- a. Each school may register multiple teams. The number of teams will depend on the esports in question.
- b. Each team must have a minimum number of players and may have some alternates. Exact number depend on the esports in question.
- c. If you are fielding more than one team, those teams should be, as much as possible, composed of players of similar skill level. In-game ranking system provides a method to gauge player skill.
- d. The first team from a school should be named after their school mascot (e.g. SAC Lynx). Second and third teams should be named after the school colours (e.g. SAC Red and SAC Black)
- e. Each team must have a team captain (and may have an alternate captain as well)

3. Individual Player Requirements

- a. Players must be in Grades 9-12, registered and in good standing.
- b. Players may only compete as a high school student during their age-appropriate Grade 9-12 school years. Students returning for a fifth or more high school year may not compete.
- c. Players must compete for the school where they are currently registered.
- d. Exceptions to rules 4a-c may be made at the discretion of the convener. Exceptions must be requested by the coach prior to active participation, or results may be voided.
 - i. Examples of exceptions may include older students in an alternative education setting, younger students in a mixed middle/high school, or students attending vocational programming.



MSEA . AESM

ESPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

- e. Players must use their “main” account to provide an accurate reflection of skill level.
- f. Players may not compete on multiple teams or for multiple schools
- g. Players must play with the account that they registered with.
 - i. If a player’s registered account has been temporarily/permanently banned, the player is not able to use an alternative account for the duration of the ban. (i.e. the player is not able to participate in MSEA sanctioned games.)
 - ii. An exception may be made for a student playing on school equipment with a school account. In this case, the student must be registered with their “main” account, and the coach must communicate who is using the account with the commissioner.
- h. If any team uses a player with an in-game name that does not match what is registered for the team:
 - i. If the player is otherwise eligible to compete for that team, the match will count as a loss for that team. *(i.e. a player has changed their in-game name or registered incorrectly)*
 - ii. If the player is ineligible to compete for that team, then that team will forfeit the match in which the ineligible player or players played. *(i.e. a player registered for another team or otherwise ineligible to compete)*
 - iii. *Note: If you or your players encounter a team fielding players who are not listed on their team, please have them take a screenshot and forward to the MSEA commissioner for investigation.*
- i. Player account names will be shared with other teams to provide equal opportunity for scouting opposing teams.
- j. Players may not use an account with an offensive/inappropriate account name as determined by the MSEA.
 - i. MSEA has the right to revoke a player username if deemed inappropriate.
 - ii. If an account name is revoked the player will be disqualified from the current match and must change their account name before the next match.
 - iii. Examples of inappropriate names include, but are not limited to, names containing racial slurs, references to alcohol or drug use (such as “420”), or sexual content (such as “69”). Coaches, please be aware that your players are representing your school and their names will be publicly posted.
- k. Account name changes may not be done after the start of the season, except names deemed inappropriate.
 - i. If a player changes their account name during season, it can result in that player being expunged from the current season/tournament/competitive outlet.

4. Rescheduling :



MSEA . AESM

ESPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

- a. Teams that are unable to make the scheduled match times will be permitted to reschedule their games by directly contacting the opposing coach to set up an alternate time.
- i. It is the responsibility of the team who requested the rescheduling to take the initiative in order to reschedule matches and accommodate the team which did not.
 - ii. Teams that are not able to play must let their opponents know no later than 12:30 pm on the day of the match, but teams should attempt to give their opponents at least 24 hours notice.
 - iii. If a team does not contact their opponent prior to 12:30 pm on the day of the match, the match will count as a forfeit.
 - iv. In case of emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances, teams may still reschedule a match so long as they contact the opposing team prior to the match start. **Note: players “not showing up” is not an emergency.**
 - v. In any case, if a team fails to contact their opponent before the match start time, the match will be forfeit.
- b. All game time changes must be reported to the commissioner and must be completed 72 hours prior to the next week’s match start time.
- c. If the match cannot be rescheduled within the scheduled dates:
- i. If both teams have made a reasonable effort to reschedule, the match will count as a loss for the team initially requesting a reschedule and a win for the other team.
 - ii. If both teams requested a reschedule, the match will count as a draw.
 - iii. If teams do not make a reasonable effort to complete a match before these deadlines it will count as a forfeiture.
 - iv. MSEA has final say on what constitutes “reasonable effort”.
- d. **Provincial Tournament/Playoff matches cannot be rescheduled** and will result in forfeit if they cannot be played.
- i. If a team forfeits a match during playoffs, they will be eliminated from playoffs.
- e. Teams who forfeit matches over 2 separate days will be disqualified from the tournament.
- f. Teams must compete in at least 50% of the regular season matches in order to qualify for playoffs.



MSEA . AESM
RTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

5. Reporting:

- a. Teams must report match results using the website for the tournament.
 - i. Coaches, please screenshot/photo of end screen after each game in case match verification is required
- b. Matches must be reported by 9pm on match day.
- c. If there is a problem with the website for match reporting, report match results to the commissioner via discord.
- d. If neither team reports results, the match will count as a loss for both teams.

6. Game Issues:

- a. Connectivity Issues:
 - i. In the event of connectivity issue **PRIOR TO THE START OF A GAME:**
 1. The disadvantaged team will be given 5 minutes of grace to address the issue. Coaches should confer.
 2. After 5 minutes the match will continue with the team suffering from the connectivity issue playing disadvantaged
 - ii. In the event of a connectivity issue **DURING A GAME:**
 1. The game should be paused if possible (some games cannot be)
 2. If the game can be paused, the disadvantaged team will be given 5 minutes of grace to address the issue. Coaches should confer.
 3. If the game cannot be paused, the team will finish out the game with a disadvantage then be given up to 5 minutes to address the issue before the next game starts. If the player can reconnect mid-game, they will be permitted to play.
 4. If the team has a substitute the substitute can join the game in place of the disconnected player, if possible from within the game. However, the substitute **MUST THEN FINISH THE GAME** and cannot swap back out.
- b. Replaying games:
 - i. In the event of a problem during a match related to the fairness of competition (i.e., a team started the match early, or an entire team loses connectivity within the two minutes of a game), both coaches can agree to replay a game in a match



MSEA . AESM
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

- ii. The ENTIRE GAME must be started over. You cannot play a part of a game (i.e., replaying the final 2 minutes of a game)
- iii. Both coaches must agree to this, and both agree that the original game will not count
- iv. If the coaches do not agree on this outcome, then they should complete the match including the original game score, and protest the game by contacting the commissioner following the match.

7. Play location and equipment

- a. Students are expected to play from school. Coaches should be in the same room as their students as they play.
 - i. If a team is not able to play from school due to policy, equipment or connectivity issues, they may receive a play-from-home exemption from MSEA. Contact the league commissioner for more information.
 - ii. If a team is playing from home, the coach must be in voice or video contact with their team while they play. Coaches are also encouraged to spectate matches, either through in-game spectating or have a player share their screen through discord.
- b. Players may play from a PC or video game console, as appropriate for the game in question.
- c. Players may compete with either school or personal equipment.
- d. If using school equipment and your school has multiple teams, there must be enough systems so all teams can play simultaneously.
- e. Note that an internet connection is required for playing online.
If students are bringing in their own Xbox, PlayStation or Switch, they will need to connect it to an internet connection.
- f. Students are responsible for any fees associated with playing online (i.e. if they need a Nintendo account or an xbox live account)

8. Communication/Discord

- a. Coaches are expected to join the MSEA discord server. This will be the primary means of communication for information about matches, playoffs and other events.
- b. Teams should primarily use the MSEA discord server for rescheduling matches. A list of coaches and teams will be posted at the start of the season to help with communication.



MSEA . AESM
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

9. Streaming

We encourage teams to stream their games!

- a. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure their players have all necessary media release forms as required by their school/division if they wish to stream.
- b. If a team wishes to stream the game, they must ask the other team for permission before the game starts. Teams have the right to ask the game not be streamed, unless it is taking place at a MSEA event.
- c. Only other rostered players on the team (or the coach) may spectate/stream.
 - i. If there is another person who streams, please verify by emailing the MSEA convenor connected to the esports you are participating in.
- d. Representatives from the MSEA may stream games for promotional purposes.

10. Sportsmanship/Player Behaviour

- a. MSEA supports, encourages and expects sportsmanship and fair play. It is by these standards that we expect all teams to conduct themselves.
- b. Coaches are expected to monitor player communication applications (In game chat and/or third-party applications).
 - i. MSEA recommends that an in-game captain be the only player who participates in chat (unless they are not in attendance, or an emergency).
- c. Any actions considered to be unsportsmanlike or inappropriate will result in discipline of the offending party. The MSEA has final say on what constitutes “unsportsmanlike or inappropriate”.
- d. The MSEA expects all competitors to play to the best of their ability. “Throwing” a match is considered grounds for immediate expulsion.
- e. There will be a “Three Strike System” in place. Any player found to be breaking any of the rules in this document will receive a strike.
 - i. Strike 1: Suspension from the next game.
 - ii. Strike 2: Suspension from the next two games.
 - iii. Strike 3: Disqualification from the event.
- f. Coaches are to hold themselves to the highest standards of professionalism at all times, instructing and expecting their students to embody the qualities of sportsmanship and fair play in all MSEA activities. Coaches not doing so will be addressed in accordance with the MTS Professional Code of Conduct.



MSEA . AESM
RTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

- g. Any player or coach actions considered serious enough to warrant significant discipline will be addressed with the MSEA Discipline Committee and may warrant immediate suspension or expulsion from the event.
- h. Forward any potential rule violations to the MSEA commissioner with evidence.
 - i. *Note due to how some games work, or if players are playing from home, coaches may not be able to monitor in-game chat unless they are present with the players. If your players encounter objectionable behavior or chat, please have them take a screenshot for forwarding to MSEA*

11. Dispute Mechanism

- a. All rules are subject to change and interpretation with an emphasis on fair competition and the spirit of the game. The commissioner will communicate those interpretations as need be in a timely manner by making rulings.
- b. Types of protests:
 - i. Sportsmanship
 - ii. Eligibility
 - iii. Rule Interpretation
- c. Concerns or protests are to be addressed by contacting the league commissioner first. The league commissioner will use the rules and regulations listed to determine an outcome. Should a situation arise which does not fit into the league rules and regulations, it will be referred to the MSEA board for resolution.
- d. Commissioners have the duty to work toward ensuring the spirit of the rules, not the letter of the rules, are upheld.
- e. Commissioners can respond to protests with formal warnings, forfeiture of points/matches, requests to replay a game/match, deeming a Player ineligible to compete for any duration of a season, deeming a Team ineligible to compete for any duration of a season, or disqualifying a school from the MSEA championship
- f. In the event of a match being played “under protest”
 - i. Have the players complete the game/match in question
 - ii. Then one or both coaches can contact the commissioner via Discord, providing as much contextual information as possible to officially protest the results of a match
 - iii. Screenshots, replays, evidence should accompany a protest when possible



MSEA . AESM
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MSEA
Manitoba School Esports Association
P.O. Box 40067 Lagimodiere PO
Winnipeg, MB R2C 493
Canada

- g. All protests **MUST** be made within 24 hours of the completion of a match
- h. Should a school/coach feel a decision needs to be appealed, they must give notice to the MSEA vice-chair of their intent to do so and the reasons.
 - i. The vice-chair will decide whether to review an appeal or reject it without review.
 - ii. If the request is reviewed, it will be reviewed by a minimum of three members of the MSEA board who were not involved in the initial ruling. Their decision after review will be final.



www.msea.gg



@MSEA_gg



MSEA_gg