

Information Technology Director Rob Catron

Topic

Board Information Item

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Current State of Esports in Kentucky

**Takeaways to help
Board and Staff**

I met with the PlayVS team for about two hours during the summer meeting. I am happy to report that Kentucky ranks 3rd in the nation (behind Georgia and New Mexico) for the number of participating schools (currently at 43%). Game title selection may change this year and it appears that PlayVS may not be able to negotiate with the Makers of NBA2K (we have had three champions since adding the title in the Spring of '24).

Additionally, participation in League of Legends continues to dwindle. We will know more about both titles early to mid August. Additional titles that should be available in the regional leagues for the 25-26 school year are Pokemon Unite and Minecraft. PlayVS continues to expand their presence in the Middle Schools. In regards to this season: School Registration ends 9/19/25, with the preseason beginning 9/8/25. Regular Season Kicks off 9/22/25 with the playoff rounds taking place the weeks of 11/17 & 12/5. Our Playoffs will be the week after our State Football Playoffs. Exact date TBD with the staff at the University of Kentucky.

In regards to SB181 & Esports - PlayVS will, effective with the 25-26 school year, DISABLE the chat function for players. Period. Only coaches will be able to communicate via PlayVS chat. PlayVS and the KHSAA will refer Coaches/schools back to their district policies on what tracable forms of communication can be used between players and their coaches. This is key as some districts do not allow teams to play on campus.

General Commentary

Esports continues its positive trend in Kentucky.