

OVERWATCH 2 OFFICIAL RULES



**NSE Spring 2024**

In order for the tournaments to run fairly and smoothly we have issued the following rule book

Most problems you encounter on the night can be solved by talking to the opposing team's captain and a tournament admin as soon as the problem has arisen. It’s always better to contact an admin if you are unsure than to leave it and the problem getting bigger. The earlier an admin can give you a ruling the less likely it is to majorly impact your team.

All students are expected to follow the letter and spirit of the rules while competing. Deliberately breaking or avoiding the rules will result in harsher penalties. That said, mistakes can be made. If you become aware you or your team have unintentionally broken a rule, contact an admin as soon as possible.

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# Individual Eligibility and Team Rules

## Institution Eligibility

In order for an institution to be eligible to compete in Overwatch 2 NSE Spring, they must be a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE). Eligible institutions may compete as one institution or may compete as separate ‘Playing Entities’. Each playing entity is required to fit into one of the following player models:

* + 1. Main Campus playing as 1 entity.
		2. Satellite Campus: Plays as a separate entity from the ‘Main Campus’ or other campuses of the same institution.
		3. All eligible students are playing as 1 entity regardless of geographical spread/campuses, etc. (Similar to 1. Main Campus)
		4. Further Education (FE) College offering Higher Education (HE) qualifications provided by another external awarding body.
		5. Umbrella Campus/Organisation which is composed of students from multiple HE awarding bodies.

 Full list of playing entities can be found in Appendix B

## Player Eligibility

* + 1. In order for a student to be eligible to compete in Overwatch 2 NSE Spring they must:
			1. Be a registered student at an institution of higher education that is currently entitled to participate in Overwatch 2 NSE Spring
			2. Be registered on a credit rated course (e.g MSc ,Degree or HND) that is registered under CATS (Credit accumulation under CATS)
			3. Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to at least 50% of a full time student (60 credits per year)
				1. A year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.
			4. Be aged 18 years or older
				1. Students studying at HE institutions in Scotland will be eligible to compete from the age of 17.
			5. All participants are required to have a registered account on [www.nse.gg](http://www.nse.gg) which has not been suspended. NSE accounts may be suspended at any time by National Student Esports for breaches of the NSE Code of Conduct. <https://nse.gg/resources/nse-resources/our-code-of-conduct/>
			6. Must have Battlenet account with a copy of Overwatch 2 associated to their [www.nse.gg](http://www.nse.gg) account
			7. Offensive Battlenet igns are not allowed. Whether an account name is considered offensive is at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team.
			8. Battletags may not contain sponsor or organisation names that are considered inappropriate by NSE staff or promote any of the following; gambling website, pornography, alcohol, tobacco or cigarettes or firearms. If unsure, please contact a member of the NSE Admin Team.
		2. Ineligible Participants

 The following students are ineligible to participate

* + - 1. Current members of the NSE Admin Team for Overwatch 2. Students who work with NSE in some other capacity e.g. casters or Admin team for non-Overwatch 2 games may still compete.
			2. Externally registered students, as determined by the University’s Registrar, unless otherwise allowed in accordance with the playing entities being used by the institutions concerned.
		1. Special Cases
			1. A student satisfactorily finishing his/her course of study after the start of December will be eligible until the end of the academic year provided their institution still classifies them as a registered student .
			2. A student embarking on a Sandwich Course and/or Year Abroad course is eligible provided the duration of the course is less than one year.
			3. A student undertaking PhD study on a full-time basis will be eligible to compete provided that their institution classifies them as a registered student.
		2. Students may not compete for more than one academic institution in any one academic year

##  Team Rules

* + 1. Eligibility
			1. Each team must have a designated captain who will be the primary point of contact for other teams and NSE staff. Captaincy can be reassigned during the season.
			2. Teams must consist of at least 5 students.
			3. All students on a team must attend the same academic institution.
		2. Substitutions
			1. Teams may play with any players listed on their roster. In a bo3 or bo5 match teams may substitute players between games.
			2. Students may not play for more than one team in a single tournament night.
			3. Each team should be selected as though the other teams would be playing in a match of equal importance at the same time. For example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team does, no players who would normally represent the first team are eligible to play for the second team.
			4. Players may be added to teams at any time if it does not cause a delay to games starting.
		3. Offensive team names are not allowed. Whether a team name is considered offensive is to be determined at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team.
		4. Team names may not contain sponsor or organisation names that are considered inappropriate by NSE staff or promote any of the following; gambling website, pornography, alcohol, tobacco or cigarettes or firearms. If unsure, please contact a member of the NSE Admin Team.
		5. In the event a team splits into multiple teams the majority of the team has the right to any seeding,qualification spots or points earnt. If there is no new majority team no team inherits seeding,qualification spots or points earnt.

## Check in

* + 1. Throughout the tournament there will be check-in phases which require teams to check in. When check-in is required the deadline will be at 6:30pm on match day.
		2. Teams who do not check in by the deadline will not be entered into that stage’s fixtures and will not earn any points for that stage.

# Match Rules

## Lobby Settings

Game lobbies must be set up by a player. A player from either team may set up a game lobby. Games should be setup using default settings with the following changes:

Competitive rules: ON

Kill Cam: OFF

Skins: Disabled

It is the responsibility of both teams to check the settings of the game are set correctly before starting. If a game is started with the wrong setting the game should be paused and an admin contacted.

## Map Selection

* + 1. All Maps must be chosen from the following map Pool.

Control: Antarctic Peninsula, Busan, Nepal, Samoa

Hybrid: Blizzard World, Hollywood, ​King's Row, Midtown

Flashpoint: New Junk City, Suravasa

Escort: Dorado, Shambali Monastery, Route 66, Watch Point Gibraltar

Push: Colosseo, Esperança, New Queen Street​

* + 1. For best of 5 maps, game modes will be played in the following order with higher seed choosing the map in the first game and lower seed choosing the starting side. In subsequent games, the loser of the previous map chooses the next map and the winning team chooses the side.

Control

Hybrid

Flashpoint

Push

Escort

* + - 1. If the match is tied after 5 games, a remaining unplayed control map is to be played.
		1. For best of 3 maps game modes and order played will be decided in advance by the NSE admin team and will change each week. For specific weeks game modes and order can be found in Appendix A. For the first game the higher seed chooses the map in the first game and the lower seed chooses the starting side. In subsequent games, the loser of the previous map chooses the next map and the winning team chooses the side.
			1. In the event the best of 3 matches is tied after 3 maps, an additional control map is to be played.
				1. If a control map has already been played during the series the remaining control map is to be played.
				2. If no control maps have been played, the team who lost the last game chooses the map and the other team has a choice of sides. If the last game was drawn, the team that chose the last map has a choice of side and the other team has a choice of map.

## Pauses

* + 1. Teams may use the pause function to resolve technical or rules issues.
		2. Teams should request a pause using all chat, at which point the lobby leader should pause as soon as possible.
		3. Once a game is paused, the team that initiated the pause should make the other team aware of the reason for the pause and give an estimate of the length of the pause.
		4. Before unpausing a paused game both teams should indicate they are ready to continue.
		5. In the event of an extended pause, over 5 minutes, the NSE tournament team should be contacted. The NSE tournament team will then decide whether to extend the pause or to resume play based on the likelihood to resolve the issue. The game will automatically pause if a player disconnects.

## Draws

In the event of a drawn map, the following map is chosen by the team who chose the drawn map and choice of side is given to the other team.

## Bugs and Remakes

* + 1. If a player fails to connect the game may be remade
		2. In the event of a bug in the game, the NSE admin team should be contacted. If the NSE admin team decides the bug will affect the competitive integrity of the game, they may decide to remake the game.

## No show

* + 1. Teams expected to arrive promptly to all games
		2. All 6 players should be in the lobby within 20 minutes of the scheduled start time or within 20 minutes of the previous round ending, whichever is later.

## Submitting Results

* + 1. Both Teams are required to submit results after game ends
		2. If neither team submits a result and teams cannot be contacted, the higher seed will be awarded the victory.

# Spectator Rules

* 1. NSE reserves the right to cast any game played as part of the tournament..
		1. NSE may choose to feature a game. Featured games are subject to the following restrictions:
			1. NSE Staff must be given access to pregame lobbies.
			2. Players must wait until casters indicate they are ready before starting a game.
			3. The following additional restrictions may be put on a featured game. If this is the case, players will be informed by the casters before the game begins.
				1. It cannot be streamed by any third parties.
				2. It cannot be streamed by players in the game.
		2. For non-featured games
			1. For non-featured matches, students may stream their own games from their own player’s perspective without delay.
				1. Players are solely responsible for any negative effects that occur in game due to streaming without delay.
			2. Third parties, anyone not currently playing in the game, may stream games from a team's perspective with permission from that team using the team specific spectator slot.
				1. If a third party has both teams' permission, they may stream the game using the main spectator slot.
				2. Teams are solely responsible for any negative effects that occur in game due to agreeing to a third party stream without delay.

# Sportsmanship

* 1. Students are expected to uphold the principles of sportsmanship and fair play at all times during the NSE Season. Students who do not conform to these principles will be penalised. Additionally, it is a captain's responsibility to ensure their team behaves in a sporting manner.
	2. Unfair Play

The following are to be considered unfair play and not allowed in any form

* + 1. Hacking, any modification to game client.
		2. Exploiting, intentional use of ingame bugs to gain an advantage.
		3. ‘Ringing’, i.e. playing using another player's account or using a player not eligible to compete.
		4. Use of any cheat program.
		5. Collusion as defined by cooperation or conspiracy to cheat others. This includes but is not limited to:
			1. Soft play, an agreement among players to not play to a reasonable standard of competition in a game.
			2. Prearranging to split prizes with other teams.
			3. Intentionally losing a game
		6. Illegal pause, use of pause for any reason not specified in Section 2 of this document titled “Match rules”.
	1. Players must uphold the NSE Code of Conduct whilst competing in, and around, NSE Spring.
	2. Harassment of other students is not allowed this includes but is not limited to:
		1. Verbal abuse, this covers any offensive communication in game lobbies or in game .
		2. Any use of racist, sexist, homophobic or other discriminatory language.
		3. Any implied or direct threats to other students.
		4. In game trolling, use of in game features to intentionally reduce the quality of game experience of other students in the game.
	3. Penalties

Any student or team found to have engaged in or attempted to engage in any act that NSE believes constitutes unfair play or poor sportsmanship, will be subject to penalty. Penalties issued by the NSE Admin team may include but are not limited to:

* + 1. Formal warning
		2. Forfeit of a single game/map
		3. Forfeit of full match/series
		4. Temporary suspension of a student
		5. Lifetime ban of a student
		6. Forfeiture of points earnt or qualification spots
		7. Forfeiture of prizes
		8. Disqualification of a team from a tournament
		9. Disqualification of a team from NSE Overwatch 2 Spring
		10. Suspension of the team from future tournaments

# Live Event Rules

* 1. For practical reasons the rules laid out in this rulebook may not apply to live events. For this reason live events may be subject to additional and/or different rules which will be provided to students attending live events. These may include but not limited to:
* adjusted late and no show penalties
* additional rules regarding usage of peripherals
* adjusted rules regarding setting up of game lobbies
* adjusted rules regarding streaming rights
	1. If a team is unable to attend Live final their spot will be forfeited and 3rd place team will instead take their place

# Prizes

* 1. All prizes will be sent to the captain of the respective team and it is the captain's responsibility to distribute the prizes among their team. In the event the listed captain is unable to fulfil this role, a member of the respective team should contact NSE staff.
	2. Prizes are to be distributed evenly among the starting lineup of a team. It is at the team’s discretion to further distribute a portion of the prizes among the team’s substitutes.

# Enforcement of Rules

* 1. In the event a dispute cannot be resolved between teams, contact the NSE Admin Team and provide relevant match media e.g. chat logs/screenshots, where possible.
	2. All decisions regarding the interpretation and enforcement of these rules are at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team, whose decisions are final.
	3. These rules may be amended, changed or supplemented when required by the NSE Admin Team to ensure fair play and competitive integrity.

# Appendix A

Appendix A shows the game modes chosen for each week of tournament

### Week 1

Escort

Hybrid

Flashpoint

### Week 2

Control

Flashpoint

Push

### Week 3

Hybrid

Control

Escort

### Week 4

Flashpoint

Push
Hybrid

### Week 5

Push

Escort

Flashpoint

### Week 6

Escort

Control

Hybrid

### Week 7

Push

Flashpoint

Control

# Appendix B Playing Entities

Below is a list of currently recognised Playing Entities. If you are a member of an institution that should be recognised please contact NSE staff.

Aberystwyth University

AECC University College

Anglia Ruskin University

Aston University

Bangor University

Bath Spa University

Birkbeck, University of London

Birmingham City University

Bishop Burton College

Bishop Grosseteste University

Blackpool and The Fylde College

Bournemouth University

BPP University Ltd

Bridgwater & Taunton College

Brooksby Melton College

Brunel University

Buckinghamshire New University

Canterbury Christ Church University

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Cardiff University

Carmarthen

Chesterfield College

City of Glasgow College

City of Liverpool College

City, University of London

College of Esports

College of Esports

Coventry University

Cranfield University

De Montfort University

Doncaster College and University Centre

Dundee & Angus College

Durham University

Easton & Otley College

Edge Hill University

Edinburgh College

Edinburgh Napier University

FXU (Falmouth & Exeter Student's Union)

Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow Clyde College

Glasgow Kelvin College

Goldsmiths, University of London

Harper Adams University

Hartpury University Centre

Heriot-Watt University

Imperial College London

Keele University

King's College London

Kingston University

Lancaster University

Leeds Arts University

Leeds Beckett University

Leeds City College

Leeds Conservatoire

Leeds Trinity University

Liverpool Hope University

Liverpool John Moores University

London Metropolitan University

London School of Economics

London South Bank University

Loughborough University

Manchester Metropolitan University

Middlesex University

New College Lanarkshire

Newcastle University

Newman University

North East Scotland College

Northampton College

Northumbria University

Norwich University of the Arts

Nottingham Trent University

Oxford Brookes University

Oxford University

Plymouth Marjon University

Queen Margaret University

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

Ravensbourne

Reading University

Richmond The American International University in London

Robert Gordon University

Roehampton University

Royal Agricultural University

Royal Holloway, University of London

Royal Veterinary College

School of Oriental and African Studies

Sheffield Hallam University

Solent University

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

St George's, University of London

St Mary's University

Staffordshire University

Swansea University

Teesside University

The London College

Tottenham Hotspur Foundation

UCEN Manchester

UCFB

Ulster University

Universities at Medway

University Campus Barnsley

University Centre Leeds

University College Birmingham

University College London

University for the Creative Arts, Surrey

University of Aberdeen

University of Abertay Dundee

University of Bath

University of Bedfordshire

University of Birmingham

University of Bolton

University of Bradford

University of Brighton

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

University of Central Lancashire

University of Chester

University of Chichester

University of Cumbria

University of Derby

University of Dundee

University of East Anglia

University of East London

University of Edinburgh

University of Essex

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

University of Gloucestershire

University of Greenwich

University of Hertfordshire

University of Huddersfield

University of Hull

University of Kent

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Lincoln

University of Liverpool

University of London

University of Manchester

University of Northampton

University of Nottingham

University of Plymouth

University of Portsmouth

University of Salford

University of Sheffield

University of South Wales

University of Southampton

University of St Andrews

University of Stirling

University of Strathclyde

University of Suffolk

University of Sunderland

University of Surrey

University of Sussex

University of the Arts London

University of the Highlands and Islands

University of the West of England (UWE)

University of the West of Scotland

University of Wales Trinity St David

University of Wales Trinity St David Lampeter

University of Wales Trinity St David Swansea

University of Warwick

University of West London

University of Westminster

University of Winchester

University of Wolverhampton

University of Worcester

University of York

Wakefield College

Walsall College

West College Scotland

West Lothian College

Wrexham Glyndwr University

Writtle University College

York St John University