



NJCAA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



THE LEADER IN 2-YEAR COLLEGIATE ESPORTS



IMPORTANT COMPETITION REMINDERS

- While the National Office presets a schedule, teams can and should work with each other to find dates and times that work best for them!
- Matches need to be finished by the end of the season.
- Students can play from their homes when needed!

[Review the Match Day Reminders!](#)

www.njcaaesports.org

RECRUITING WEBINAR

On Thursday, February 5th at 3:00 pm ET (2:00 pm CT), the NJCAA broadcasted a special webinar focused on recruiting, with speaker Billy Howard. Billy is a professional with years of experience in the collegiate esports space.

[Read More...](#)

REGISTRATION COUNTDOWN

Competitive registration is closing this week! Make sure to get your team into their desired seasons.

[Read More...](#)

SPRING SEASON SCHEDULES

REGULAR SEASON

FINALIZED

Click here to see the dates for the Spring Regular Season.

POST SEASON

NOT FINALIZED

Click here to see the dates for the Spring Postseason Season.

SEASON ADJUSTMENTS

To create a healthier season experience, the National Office has avoided creating small season groups. The result is the creation of extra rounds for select Division 1 and Division 2 activities. The National Office has preset competition days for these activities, but [expects for teams to coordinate with each other to find the best day to play the extra rounds.](#)

D1 EA FC

- Central Group 1 has 1 extra round on 4/8/26

D1 FN No-Build

- All Groups has 1 extra rounds on 4/8/26

D1 Tekken

- Central Group 1 has 1 extra round on 4/8/26

D1 Marvel Rivals

- Central Group and East Group has 1 extra round on 4/8/26

D1 COD: Gunfight

- Central Group has 1 extra rounds on 4/6/26

D1 Valorant

- Central and East Group has 2 extra round on 3/10/26 & 3/17/26

D1 COD: Warzone

- Central Group has 1 extra round on 4/6/26

COMBINED SEASONS

Activities with a combined regular season will have an additional Invitational postseason for teams that do not make the National postseason bracket.

Applicable Activities:

- **Call of Duty: 4v4**
- **Call of Duty: Gunfight**
- **Call of Duty: Warzone**
- **EA FC**
- **Hearthstone**
- **Madden**
- **Marvel Rivals**
- **Rainbow Six Siege**
- **Rocket League 3v3**
- **Street Fighter 6: Solos**
- **Tekkenx 8**
- **Overwatch 2**

RECRUITING HAPPENS NOW

17 February, 2026

Spring means it's crunch time for Fall 26 recruitment! You still have time to fill out your teams with new full-time enrollment.

NJCAAE Webinar - Recruitment

On Thursday, February 5th at 3:00 pm ET (2:00 pm CT), the NJCAAE broadcasted a special webinar focused on recruiting, with speaker Billy Howard. Billy is a professional with years of experience in the collegiate esports space.

Learn his recruiting methods by
[WATCHING HERE!](#)

REGISTRATION COUNTDOWN

Membership Registration is **CLOSED**!

Competition registration is **CLOSED**!

DIVISION 1

CLOSED

Seasons are
now underway!

DIVISION 2

CLOSED

Seasons are
now underway!

DIVISION 3

OPEN

Rolling
Enrollment

INSTRUCTIONAL WEBINAR HEARTHSTONE

Learn how to expand the teams and students you support by watching the Instructional Webinar series found on the NJCAAE YouTube channel.

WATCH NOW!



Did you know that Hearthstone is a great activity to grow your program? It is a 1v1 activity, meaning you only need one player to field a team! There are countless educational materials online that can help your students improve their play.

Nimley Bestman, a 26-year-old student at Onondaga Community College, is balancing his passion for collegiate esports with his pursuit of a future in the culinary industry. A first-year student majoring in culinary management, Bestman is working toward the long-term goal of opening his own restaurant or food establishment.

Born in Syracuse, New York, Bestman spent much of his upbringing in Atlanta, Georgia, before returning to Syracuse last year to continue his education. He credits Onondaga Community College (OCC) for providing an accessible and supportive environment for students of all ages. Bestman said the school offers strong resources for counseling and financial support, making it an ideal place for those returning to school or starting a new academic path.

At OCC, Bestman studies culinary management, where he is learning the techniques and business fundamentals needed to succeed in the food service industry. After completing his program at OCC, he plans to transfer to a four-year institution to finish his bachelor's degree, with Syracuse University among the schools he is considering.

Bestman also competes on OCC's Rainbow Six Siege esports team. He also serves as a substitute player for the Counter-Strike team and is pursuing opportunities to join the school's Marvel Rivals roster. During his first season, Bestman filled a flex role while adjusting to the competitive environment. He is now preparing to step into an in-game leader role as team responsibilities shift.

Bestman's interest in esports developed through watching professional Rainbow Six Siege competitions. Influenced by players such as Beaulo, Spoit and Doki, he became drawn to the strategy and structure of high-level play. That interest translated into competition, where he has found much success.

His biggest accomplishment so far came during his first season with OCC, when the team not only reached the playoffs but also earned postseason victories. Bestman said the progress from early practices to in-season competition highlighted the team's growth and commitment.

Improvement has come through consistent offseason work with teammates and coaches. Bestman has focused on strengthening his critical thinking, situational awareness and decision-making, skills he views as essential to success in Rainbow Six Siege. While he said those strategies do not always translate directly to everyday life, he believes learning how to work with limited resources and adapt to challenges remains valuable.

Being part of a collegiate esports team has been a positive experience for Bestman. He said sharing a common goal with teammates and working together to improve has made competition both enjoyable and rewarding.

Competing in the NJCAA has provided structure and fairness, according to Bestman. After completing his first full season, he said the league's rules create an even playing field for all participating schools. One of his most memorable moments came early in the season, when the team earned its first win during the first couple of weeks, a milestone that reflected how far the roster had come since its initial matches.

Outside of competition, Bestman also creates content as a streamer on Twitch. He regularly streams Rainbow Six Siege and Marvel Rivals, along with party games, with the goal of creating a welcoming and lighthearted space for viewers. Bestman said his aim is to help make people's days a little easier through laughter and community.

During Black History Month, the NJCAA recognizes how Black voices and talent continue to impact the world of collegiate esports. When asked what Black History Month means to him, Bestman described it as a celebration of Black culture and the pioneers, inventors and social leaders who helped secure the rights and freedoms Black Americans have today.

Looking ahead, Bestman hopes to establish himself in the Rainbow Six Siege streaming space, either as a professional competitor or content creator. If that path does not come to fruition, he plans to pursue his culinary ambitions by opening his own food service business.

Whether competing on stage, leading his team, or working toward his future career, Bestman continues to push forward with purpose, creativity and determination.



FALL 25 ALL-ACADEMICS

Its time to submit students with exceptional academic records for the NJCAA's Fall 2025 season's All-Academic recognitions!

Complete all of your submissions by February 27th, 2026 at 11:59 pm.

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS IN!

~~\$149/yr~~ FREE

PRO MEMBERSHIP



(limits on certain licensed items may apply)

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

1

Jersey Design

1

Mousepad / Flag Design

2

DTF Designs

1

Sublimated Design

With Crit Apparel setting up a high quality merch store is easy! No minimum order quantity, Free year-round store hosting, Fundraising opportunities, and 20% OFF your first 5 jerseys!

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FALL 2026 NEW COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Below are the activities that will be moved up to Competitive Levels, meaning participants must meet student eligibility requirements, for the Fall 2026 - Spring 2027 year of activity.

Rocket League 2v2

Chess

SSBU Crew Battles 3v3

**Start recruiting your Fall 2026 teams
for these activities**

TODAY!

FantasticWE – NJCAA

Your Simple Coaching And
Practice Platform



Special Discount Offer For NJCAA Coaches



Groundbreaking New Platform

Hassle-Free Process – Custom Onboarding – Monthly Analytics Support

Contact – Sales@Fantasticwe.Com – Connect With Us In [Discord](#)

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25% Discount For NJCAA Coaches

9 Month Commitment Instead Of 12



Use It With All Your Players!

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**The Next Generation Platform
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Why Us?



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Coaches Get More By Letting Athletes Do Less



Discover Individual / Squad Patterns

The New “People First” Approach For Your Athletes



Consistent Honest Improvement

Creating True Accountable & Reliable Players



Custom Marking Tools

Tackle Different Player Needs At The Same Time!



Use Our New Patented Data

Find The “WHY” Behind Every Player Action



Automated Player Analysis

Coaches Get Detailed Reports

Ready To Sign Up?



Contact Our Team Today!

Sales@Fantasticwe.Com

For Specific Questions About FantasticWE, Or For Technical Support, Please Contact Our Dedicated Support Team Via The [Contact Form](#) Inside The Platform, Through Our [Discord Server](#), Or At support@fantasticwe.com



Did you know NJCAAE is a member institution driven association? This is primarily accomplished through subcommittees. NJCAAE subcommittees are manned by coaches, leads, administrators, and directors from member institutions. Learn more about the subcommittees below!

Looking to send a proposal for the NJCAAE and subcommittees to review?

[Send in a proposal form today!](#)

Game Title Subcommittees

Game Title Subcommittees advise on rules, expectations, and schedules for games the NJCAAE hosts activity for. Chairs of each subcommittee make up the NJCAAE Competition Committee.

[Submit interest today!](#)

Subcommittees

The NJCAAE subcommittees advise the NJCAAE National Office on proposals, rules, operations, and much more! We're currently looking for Athletic Directors, Deans, Administrators, and Decision Makers from institution's to join the Advisory Committee.

[Submit interest today!](#)

NJCAA ESPORTS

In 2019 the National Junior College Athletic Association formed NJCAA Esports to better serve their existing community of member institutions who wanted a competitive association focused on their unique needs and the groups they serve. To date, NJCAA Esports serves over 6,000 students and is working with over 230 institutions.

With a focus on breaking down barriers to entry for member colleges and their students, we have created the only association capable of thoroughly meeting the needs of 2-year and community colleges. The NJCAA Esports offers many program solutions through the association and our partners. These offerings range from program development, competition, media, broadcasting, gearing solutions, and much more!

View us online at
njcaaesports.org!

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