



Dear Connecticut Athletic Directors, Principals, Educators, and Esports Coaches,

As we prepare for the upcoming 2026-27 academic year, the Connecticut Association of Schools - Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS-CIAC) remains completely committed to providing diverse, meaningful competitive opportunities that drive student engagement across our member schools. Scholastic esports continue to be one of our most powerful tools for reaching students who may be detached from traditional sports, helping them build an inclusive community right within their school building.

To support this growing movement, CAS-CIAC is proud to announce an extension of our partnership with PlayVS as our exclusive competitive esports platform provider. Ahead of the new school year, we want to share important updates regarding our shift to a single official Spring season, updated schedule milestones, and fee logistics.

To guarantee long-term platform stability, official game publisher compliance, and robust live operational support, PlayVS is transitioning to a sustainable, flat annual site license framework starting this school year.

The data behind this platform remains exceptionally strong for our athletic departments: 50% of esports students have never participated in any other traditional high school sport or activity, 64% report feeling part of a school community for the first time, and 45% show noticeable improvements in academic grades.

2026-27 Official CAS-CIAC Spring Competitive Season & Schedule

For the 2026-27 academic year, CAS-CIAC will officially operate one focused Spring Competitive Season for official state championship recognition.

Spring 2027 CAS-CIAC State Titles

- ***Mario Kart 8 Deluxe***
- ***Super Smash Bros. Ultimate™***
- ***Rocket League***

Spring 2027 Calendar Milestones

- **Registration:** CAS-CIAC Leagues will be open for sign-ups on Monday, October 5th.
- **Spring Break Bye Weeks:** The weeks of April 5th and April 12th are designated bye weeks with no playoff matches scheduled to accommodate school spring break schedules.
- **CAS-CIAC State Semi-Finals & Finals:** Thursday, April 29, 2027 (Quinnipiac University)
- **CNESSPA New England Playoffs:** May 10th – May 15th, 2027 (TBD)

While official CAS-CIAC State Championship play takes place in the Spring, registration is officially OPEN NOW for Fall 2026 PlayVS Regional Leagues!

Activating your school building's annual PlayVS platform site license grants your program all-access, year-round competitive entry with zero individual student seat caps or roster limits. Your single annual site license covers:

- **Spring 2027 CAS-CIAC State Leagues:** Full entry into official CAS-CIAC Spring state competition.
- **Fall 2026 & Spring 2027 PlayVS Regional Leagues:** Full competition access across all PlayVS titles during the Fall & Spring seasons.
- **Postseason Pathways:** Eligibility for the national PlayVS Cup and the CNESSPA New England Championship tournament track.
- **[PlayVS Recruit](#):** Free, school-wide college scouting and digital portfolio tools connecting all students with collegiate esports coaches and scholarship opportunities.
- **[Valor](#):** Complimentary 2-week trial of team performance analytics and coaching tools.
- **Live Match-Day Support:** Real-time match-day reporting tools, lobby monitoring, and live support operators.

2026-27 Fee Structure & Pricing Breakdown

Participation in 2026-27 competitive esports involves two distinct components:

1. PlayVS Platform Site License (Payable to PlayVS)

Covers platform maintenance, COPPA data compliance, live match support, Fall/Spring regional play, and CAS-CIAC spring league play:

- **High School Annual License:** \$595.00 per school building (\$495.00 Early Bird rate if completed before Friday, September 4th).
- **Middle School Annual License:** \$495.00 per school building (\$395.00 Early Bird rate if completed before Friday, September 4th).

2. CAS-CIAC State Tournament Entry Fee (Billed directly by CAS-CIAC)

- CAS-CIAC assesses a \$100.00 per-title entry fee specifically for schools that qualify for and enter official state postseason tournaments.
- Note: This fee covers state tournament administration and is billed and collected directly through CAS-CIAC's internal invoicing process. It will NOT be collected during the PlayVS online checkout flow.

How to Complete PlayVS Payment & Registration (3 Easy Steps)

Platform payment functionality is live. Completing registration and securing your annual site license takes only a few minutes:

1. **Log In to PlayVS:** Go to app.playvs.com and log in to your coach or administrator account.
2. **Access the Payment Portal:** Click the "Pay Via Credit Card Or Invoice" or "Start A Fundraiser" banner directly on your main dashboard, or initiate team enrollment under the Competitions tab.
3. **Select Your Preferred Payment Method (Choose 1 of 3):**
 - **Credit Card:** Select *Credit Card* to check out instantly via secure Stripe Checkout.
 - **Request Invoice:** Select *Request Invoice* to submit your billing details and optional Purchase Order (PO) number. A formal DocuSign invoice will be automatically routed to your billing contact for processing.
 - **Fundraise (No Out-of-Pocket Cost):** Select *Fundraise for your program* to launch an integrated Snap! Raise campaign. League access activates immediately upon campaign creation, no waiting for raised funds to clear. (Note: Early Bird promotional rates do not apply to the fundraising path).

PlayVS Deficit Protection Guarantee: If your program launches a fundraising campaign in good faith and completes the required steps but falls short of your site license fee total, PlayVS absorbs the remaining balance. No school or student will be prevented from competing due to financial shortfalls.

Essential Resource Links for CAS-CIAC Schools

- **[Get Started for 2026-'27](#):** Use this direct link to create or update your school account, set up your profile, and enroll your program for the Fall season.
- **[PlayVS 2026 - 27 FAQs](#):** Review comprehensive answers to frequently asked questions regarding the new annual site license model, platform updates, and onboarding logistics..
- **[Fall 2026 Schedule](#):** Full schedule for the upcoming season.
- **[Coach Handbook](#):** Review the PlayVS Coach Handbook for essential instructions on creating accounts, building rosters, and managing match days. The Handbook also includes partner offers, exclusive discounted promo codes and more!
- **[Starting a New Esports Program](#):** Access step-by-step instructions on securing administrative approval, recruiting players, and launching a successful team from scratch.
- **[Inclusion / IT](#):** Share this guide with your technology director to review hardware specifications, network configurations, and IT firewall clearance needed for match days.

Whether your campus is continuing an established championship program or looking to launch a team for the first time, our dedicated PlayVS partner representative is ready to assist.

If you have technical questions regarding platform mechanics, registration setup, or invoicing, please contact sales@playvs.com. For questions regarding CAS-CIAC state tournament regulations, eligibility, or state championship logistics, please reach out to the CAS-CIAC office directly.

Thank you for your leadership and tireless dedication to expanding meaningful opportunities for Connecticut students!

Sincerely,

Cherese Odukwe

Director of Student Activities

The Connecticut Association of Schools

Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

(CAS-CIAC)