



PIEA Statement on Status of 2020 State Esports Championships

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association (PIEA) is committed to the health and safety of its participating schools and their students, faculty and staff. We understand the difficult decisions being made by school administrators and state officials throughout the Commonwealth, and support the protocols and policies being implemented to help limit and control the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Although esports itself provides opportunities for students to participate in competitions online, not all programs and students are afforded the ability to play outside of the school environment. While the PIEA believes these student athletes deserve the opportunity to participate in a spectator experience among their peers and supporters, their health and well-being is our priority. Therefore, the PIEA has made the decision to **postpone the remainder of the 2020 PIEA State Esports Championships**. This was not an easy decision, but a necessary one to ensure the integrity of the event, and the safety of our student athletes.

With nearly 50 teams qualifying for the 2020 PIEA State Esports Championships, hailing from every corner of the Commonwealth, the success and interest of esports as a viable high school competition is evident. The PIEA is committed to providing the oversight, governance and regulatory structure necessary to grow esports in high schools throughout Pennsylvania and will continue to provide competitive opportunities for high school programs across the Commonwealth.

The PIEA also extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many talented public servants, doctors, nurses, medical professionals and emergency services personnel who are working tirelessly to address this matter of public health.