



UPDATE: Status of 2020 State Esports Championships

April 7, 2020 – HARRISBURG, PA. On March 13, 2020, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association (PIEA) announced it was postponing the remainder of the 2020 PIEA State Esports Championships due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The hope was to resume the tournament once Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education gave the green light for schools to resume their in-person and on-campus activities.

Unfortunately, in the weeks following our initial postponement, the situation around the novel coronavirus has become more complicated, and social distancing and other mitigation efforts have expanded here in Pennsylvania. This includes the indefinite closure of all K-12 schools across the Commonwealth. There is no set date for students to return to school, or for school buildings and facilities to reopen.

These unprecedented times have forced the PIEA to make the difficult decision to **cancel the remainder of the 2020 PIEA State Esports Championships.**

This was not an easy decision, but the PIEA's primary concern is the health and safety of its participating schools and their students, faculty and staff. The decision to cancel the rest of State Esports Championships for this year rests on one dominant principal: 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.

The PIEA wants to thank and congratulate all participants in this inaugural event! With nearly 50 teams qualifying for the event, hailing from every corner of the Commonwealth, and even more schools expressing support of the PIEA's mission to create an organizational and governing body and establish a path to a state championship for esports, the success and interest of esports as a viable high school competition is evident.



And although we are disappointed with the cancellation of this incredible event, special recognition must go to the teams that made it to the PIEA League of Legends and Overwatch Top 8. Congratulations to the following schools:

League of Legends: Conrad Weiser High School; Shady Side Academy; Penn Manor High School; Cumberland Valley High School; Manheim Township High School; Hughesville High School; Achievement House Cyber Charter; and, Garnet Valley High School.

Overwatch: Penn Manor High School; York Co. School of Technology; Central Dauphin High School; Shady Side Academy; Garnet Valley High School; Northwest PA Collegiate Academy; Manheim Township High School; and, Susquehanna Township High School.

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. As we look toward the future of high school esports in Pennsylvania, we are excited for the creation of a new, statewide coordinated league that will serve as the pathway to crowning an annual state champion in approved game titles. Stay tuned for more information from the PIEA on this exciting opportunity!

As we continue to manage the current situation forced on us by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PIEA wants to thank all our teachers and educational staff who are helping students learn in these difficult times. We also want to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many workers on the front lines helping Pennsylvania weather this unprecedented storm -- including doctors, nurses, medical professionals, emergency services personnel, delivery professionals and food and grocery store employees.

Stay Safe. Stay Sane. And Game On!