



NJCAA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



THE LEADER IN 2-YEAR COLLEGIATE ESPORTS



WELCOME

The NJCAA National Office is excited to welcome you to a new membership year of activity, competition, connection, and growth! As always, the NJCAA National Office and Committees have been diligently preparing for this year.

[Read More...](#)

www.njcaaesports.org

SCHEDULES & CHANGES

All NJCAA members are able to find the competition schedules for current and upcoming seasons not only in the [NJCAA Welcome Package](#), but also under each [tier page](#). Both the NJCAA Welcome Package and tier pages can be found on the NJCAA website.

[Read More...](#)

COUNTDOWN

Countdown the days left in registration with us through the registration countdown page!

[Read More...](#)



WELCOME

The NJCAAE National Office welcomes you to a new membership year of activity, competition, connection, and growth! As always, the NJCAAE National Office and Committees used the summer, diligently preparing for this year. Among the changes, additions, and improvements, we want to make sure that everyone has all of the information they need in hand. As such, we've created two new sources of information. The **NJCAAE Welcome Package** and the **NJCAAE Weekly Newsletter**. Be sure to read both to get everything you need for this year of membership!

We look forward to working with each and every one of you to make this the best year of competition and activity we've had so far!

Registration is now open!

NJCAAE Welcome Package



If you're looking for any information on the upcoming year of NJCAAE activity, look no further. The NJCAAE Welcome Package houses a host of useful information NJCAAE members may need throughout the membership year. With schedules, dates, and links to what has already been planned for this year of NJCAAE membership, the NJCAAE Welcome Package is any institution's source of reliable information for the association.

[View it here...](#)

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

All NJCAAE members are able to find the competition schedules for current and upcoming seasons not only in the [NJCAAE Welcome Package](#), but also under each [tier page](#). Both the NJCAAE Welcome Package and tier pages can be found on the NJCAAE website.

Welcome Package

This package covers all of the information members need in hand for the start of the current year of NJCAAE membership!

[Click here to view...](#)

Competition Schedules

You can view the planned schedules for the current membership year here.

[Click here to view...](#)

COMPETITION CHANGES



As always, a number of changes have been implemented to keep up with the ever-changing environment within collegiate esports. Below are a few of the major changes that have been implemented through the NJCAAE Committees and National Office.

Round Robin Check-in Requirement:

No longer twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

No-shows:

One verified No-show in Tier 1 and Tier 2 competitions may lead to complete removal from the competition, and possibly further sanctions.

Tier 1 - Team Limitations:

Game titles with only two (2) players on a team are no longer limited to one (1) team for the Tier 1 - Premier Series. This means you can field as many teams as you'd like for Tier 1 competition for these game titles. Our suggestion is that each team you field in Tier 1 competition have at least one person filling a sub slot.

REGISTRATION COUNTDOWN

Registration is now open!

Keep up with the countdown to the end of registration on the NJCAAE website!

**Tier 1
Premier
Series**

45 days
until registration
ends!

**Tier 2
Contender
Series**

45 days
until registration
ends!

**Tier 3
Open
Series**

Open
rolling enrolment
is now open!

ANNUAL SIGN-UP FORM

The time for institution's to renew membership and their annual sign-ups is here!

All NJCAAE members must fill out the [Annual Sign-up Form](#) to be eligible for competition registrations. This form gives the NJCAAE National Office all of the information it needs to update member information and contact the correct parties of each member institution. If an institution has not submitted a completed form by the listed due dates, they may not be eligible for Tier 1 or Tier 2 registrations.

Fall Due Dates

[T1 & T2 - 9/19/24](#)

Spring Due Dates

[\(Only if this wasn't finished in Fall\) T1 & T2 - 2/13/25](#)

SPRING 24 ALL ACADEMIC



The NJCAAE is looking to highlight those who over achieve in their academic studies. Students who have achieved at least a 3.5 GPA during the Spring 2024 academic semester, meet all other [NJCAAE Student Eligibility](#) requirements, and [NJCAAE Code of Conduct](#) requirements are eligible to be listed as an "All Academic Student" for the NJCAAE.

If you have students who meet these requirements, please fill out the [All Academic Form](#) by September 13th 2024 at 11:59 pm for them to be considered for All Academic prizing.

[NJCAAE All Academic Form](#)

ARTICLE: LUCAS LUMBRA



Lucas Lumbra (he/him) is the Esports Head Coach at Central Community College (CCC) and is leading his team into their third year of competition this fall. Last year, Lumbra had 20 scholarship students competing in three game titles: Call of Duty (CoD), Rocket League, and League of Legends. In addition to his competitors, he had a group of student staff who assisted with streams, social media, and graphic design. The team earned four NJCAA National Tier 1 Runner-Up titles across all CoD modes and two recent Tier 1 National Championships: SP24 CoD: 4v4 and SP24 CoD: Gunfight, bringing the first-ever National Championship to CCC Athletics.

Esports has always been a passion for Lumbra, beginning with Team Fortress 2 tournaments he signed up for while in high school. When Overwatch (OW) was released in 2016, just after his high school graduation, he had more time to play and money to build his own PC. During his first year at The Ohio State University, Lumbra balanced his classes with grinding in OW ranked. In his second year, he joined the university's esports club, ESI, and competed on the Ohio State Overwatch team as the only Grandmaster participant.

In his second year of competition with ESI, Lumbra helped reorganize and rebrand the club to Buckeye Gaming Collective and became the lead player-manager for the Overwatch team. Under his leadership, the team grew to compete on the national stage, achieving a top 8 regular season finish and a top 16 playoff finish in Blizzard's Spring 2019 Collegiate Overwatch competition, and repeated this success in Spring 2021.

In 2020, Lumbra became an inaugural member of the official Ohio State Esports program as both a competitor and team manager, before graduating in December 2021. He has successfully leveraged his experience and passion for collegiate esports competition to secure his current position at CCC.

What is the best part of your job? Are there any challenges?

"The best part of my job is, without a doubt, working with an amazing group of students. I was very lucky to start the program with a class of students who were as enthusiastic and committed to the success of the program as I was. As the program has grown, the dedication and engagement of our student body have only grown with it," said Lumbra, "As a coach who can work closely with all of our competitive teams, seeing the development over the last two years is a point of pride. There are certainly challenges, many seasons have ended in ways that we did not hope they would, but perseverance and a growth mindset have helped us continue to bounce back from any disappointing results."

Lumbra explained that their team's approach to preparing for the NJCAA competitions focuses on rigorous practice and a developmental mindset. According to Lumbra, many of the initial players were not ready to win national championships when they started, but they understood that every practice, rep, or scrim, regardless of how well it goes in the moment, contributes to long-term development with the right mindset. The team focuses on 3-4 practices per week with its national championship-caliber teams, which has paid dividends across all the success seen in the first two years.

"I think that NJCAA provides amazing opportunities and resources for two-year colleges. It really is a league unlike any other that can be found across college esports. I have been able to meet some incredible people while working within multiple committees and competitions," said Lumbra.

Have any of your players' growth or stories stood out to you as a coach?

"I have worked with many students who have not seen much success at larger institutions, but CCC and esports have provided a second chance to accomplish their academic goals, while also providing passionate participation in extra-curricular opportunities. One student in particular, Jackson 'Vexpr', had mixed success during his time at South Dakota State University and eventually had to drop out. Joining CCC to work on classes while also playing Call of Duty, and eventually becoming our team captain, represented a huge shift for him, securing a 4.0 GPA in his second year here at CCC," said Lumbra.

Entering into their third season, Lumbra and the CCC esports team have high hopes for continued success. Lumbra advises players to play, have fun, and not take it too seriously. He believes the easiest way to end a future career in esports is to stop enjoying the games you play. He encourages getting involved in high school programs, meeting people who share your passion, and taking it as seriously as they do. Lumbra emphasizes that competition is not the only path to a career in esports, but that the opportunities are endless.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The NJCAAE is excited to announce that it is the first and only association taking active steps to promote its member institution's esports program success! In an effort to assist in stabilization of member institution's esports program development, the NJCAAE is taking steps to create professional development courses and materials that paid members will have access to.

[1. Introduction to Recruitment](#)

Successful recruiting efforts will lead to a program that not only positively impacts the institution as a whole, but the individuals who participate in any level of the esports program.

[Click here to learn more...](#)

LOS PORTAL

The NJCAAE is excited to announce that NJCAAE Member Institutions who have paid their annual membership dues will have access to the [LOS PORTAL](#) for recruitment starting immediately! Access to this platform is the first step in many initiatives focused on helping institution's stabilize and grow their collegiate esports programs coming from the NJCAAE.

Using [LOS PORTAL](#) will put NJCAAE Member Institutions in front of 20,000+ student prospects and give them introductory access to these prospects.

Learn how to gain access to your institution's [LOS PORTAL](#) account by [CLICKING HERE](#).



ANNUAL MEETING

Join in to the NJCAAE Opening Annual Meeting learn about the upcoming year of NJCAAE activity! The current state of the association, major news, changes, adjustments, and more will all be covered by the NJCAAE National Office Staff and Committee members.

[Click here to save the meeting...](#)

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 member 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!](https://njcaaesports.org)

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