

S T J O S E P H S
N U D G E E
C O L L E G E



ESPORTS HANDBOOK 2026

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Welcome to Esports at Nudgee College

As competitive gaming becomes part of the educational conversation worldwide, schools are increasingly recognising Esports as a vehicle for 21st-century learning. At Nudgee, we are proud to be at the forefront of this movement through our evolving Esports program.

The Nudgee College Esports Program positions our students to thrive in an evolving digital world. Built on the pillars of Respect, Fairness, and Safety, the program provides a structured, values-driven environment where young men develop resilience, collaboration, leadership, and digital citizenship. It is not simply a space to play games; it is a platform for personal growth, skill development, and meaningful connection.

Open to students from Years 5 to 12, Nudgee Esports offers bi-weekly training, inter-school competitions, and inter-house tournaments in our state-of-the-art Cleary Building Computer Labs. The program is designed to meet the cognitive, emotional, and social needs of students, combining high-level competitive gaming with opportunities for mentorship, reflection, and restorative approaches to challenge and conflict. Senior students lead by example, mentoring younger peers, modelling teamwork, and cultivating a culture of encouragement, healthy competition, and shared success.

As we enter 2026, we continue to be guided by a philosophy that emphasises connection, reflection, and growth. We recognise that the pace of change in the digital space can feel overwhelming for families. You are not alone. Together, we can continue to be the guardrails our boys need, offering both structure and freedom, discipline and trust. I encourage parents and caregivers to reach out if you have questions about the Esports Program or would like to understand more about how it operates and supports students.

The digital frontier is not going away - but with the right guidance, it can become a place where our young men thrive. By championing structure, purpose, and creativity, we are preparing our students to participate in the digital world, and to lead authentically within it.

Will Duffield
Esports Coordinator



Key Highlights from 2025

- **Finalist** - Best Australian School Esports Program 2025
- **Winner** - Australian Rising Star in Esports Education 2025
- **Winner** - NC Esports Open 2025
- Consistent high performances in FUSE Cup Competitions
- Consistent Top 3 placements in the QUT High School Esports Competitions

The Art and Science of Esports

Evolution of Our Program

Esports - the competitive and organised playing of video games, whether online or in-person - has become a deliberate, disciplined arena for collaboration, problem-solving, and innovation. At Nudgee, our Esports program was created to provide a space where students, particularly those who may be less engaged in traditional co-curricular activities, can connect, belong, and lead. Guided by the values of Respect, Fairness, and Safety, and shaped by student voice, the program develops digital literacy, team-based strategy, leadership, and social-emotional skills, meeting the cognitive and emotional needs of students in a rapidly changing educational landscape.

The Science of Competitive Gaming

Competitive Esports requires intense cognitive engagement. Research, including findings from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, highlights how gaming can enhance executive functioning, working memory, and spatial reasoning. Titles such as Rocket League and League of Legends demand rapid decision-making, strategic foresight, and adaptive problem-solving under pressure - skills increasingly recognised in academic and professional contexts.

The Nudgee Esports environment also fosters reflective learning and restorative practices. Students analyse match footage, review performance data, and refine communication strategies, creating an iterative learning cycle that mirrors high-performing academic environments. Restorative principles underpin the way students navigate challenges, resolve conflict, and learn from setbacks: relationships are prioritised, effort is celebrated, and mistakes are treated as opportunities for growth. Game-specific masterclasses further develop these skills, providing targeted opportunities to refine gameplay, strategy, and decision-making.

Through these experiences, Esports at Nudgee is a platform for belonging, growth, and leadership, preparing students to navigate challenges both online and offline while contributing positively to their teams and the wider community.



Our Structure



Esports is a year long activity for all students. Training sessions and times will be communicated at the beginning of each term via Team App.

Our sessions will include:

- Weekly after-school training sessions (Tuesday 3-4pm for Years 7-12 and Wednesday 3-4pm for Years 5-6)
- Weekly lunchtime sessions
- Additional training in lead-up to competition
- Students representing the College in external competitions are required to wear the NC Esports training shirt, available from the Locker Room. It is optional for regular training.

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Please communicate any absences each week with the Esports Coordinator.

All updates, session times, and announcements are made via the NC Esports Team App. We have also introduced an Esports at Nudgee website in 2026. We encourage you to explore the website and make use of its resources as the year progresses.

Scan the QR code and search for **NC Esports Technology Club**.

Our Pillars

Respect

- We uphold respectful communication and behaviour, both online and face-to-face.
- We encourage positive sporting conduct at all times.
- We treat teammates, opponents, coaches, and equipment with care.
- We celebrate effort, improvement, and teamwork, not just winning.

Fairness

- We strive to ensure equal opportunity and fairness for all students.
- All players are supported to learn, improve, and contribute.
- Teams uphold honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship in all competitions.
- We commit to fair play, inclusivity, and respect for tournament rules.



Safety

- We promote a safe and supportive environment, physically and digitally.
- Students demonstrate appropriate online behaviour and digital citizenship.
- We manage equipment responsibly and ensure shared spaces are safe and calm.
- Students support each other and speak up when something isn't right.

Why Join Esports?

Skills Developed

- Teamwork and collaboration
- Strategic thinking
- Digital literacy
- Communication
- Time management

Respect

Nudgee College Esports operates year-round and is overseen by the Esports Coordinator who works collaboratively with staff and senior leaders to deliver a high-quality and future-focused program. Through structured training, competition and enrichment opportunities, the program aims to achieve the following:

- Enhanced strategic and critical thinking through engagement in games such as Rocket League, Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros., Minecraft Education, FIFA, NBA2K, and Overwatch
- Development of teamwork, communication and leadership skills through collaborative gameplay and competition
- Opportunities to compete in high-level interschool competitions, including the QUT High Schools Competition and the FUSE Cup Competitions
- Exposure to pathways within the esports and technology industries through guest speakers and industry connections, supporting career exploration and digital literacy
- Opportunities to participate in and lead Nudgee College-hosted events, including experiences in commentating and behind-the-scenes event setup.

Games We Play

Our core competitive titles include:

- Rocket League
- Super Smash Bros. Ultimate
- Minecraft Education
- NBA 2K
- FIFA
- Mario Kart
- Just Dance

All games used in our program are G or PG-rated and chosen for their alignment with College values. Game offerings may evolve based on student interest and competition availability.





Competitions

Our competitions foster teamwork, discipline, resilience, and school spirit while providing exciting opportunities for students to grow, compete, and excel.

Students have the chance to participate in a wide range of tournaments throughout the year:

- Inter-House based competitions
- Inter-Club based competitions
- QUT Competitions (all year)
- FUSE Cup Competitions (all year)
- Nudgee based competitions

It is an expectation that all students involved in competitions:

- Attend training sessions leading up to any tournament
- Wear the official NC Esports Polo for all competition days

The NC Esports Polo is available for purchase through the Locker Room website.



Guidelines and Community Agreements

Nudgee College is very fortunate to have a dedicated Esports Hub in our Performing Arts Cleary Building. As such, there are expectations for students and staff to ensure a safe, respectful, and productive environment. These rules are outlined at the beginning of each term and reinforced throughout the season.

1. Access and Availability

The Esports Room is available for use during scheduled club sessions, practice times, and competition events. Students may not access the room outside of designated hours without prior approval from the Esports Coordinator or Director of Performing Arts.

2. General Conduct Expectations

All members of the Esports community are expected to:

- Communicate respectfully and constructively, both in-person and online.
- Treat all participants with care, recognising that everyone's sense of belonging matters.
- Maintain the space by leaving it clean, tidy, and safe.
- Report any equipment issues immediately, rather than letting harm go unaddressed.
- Play only approved games aligned with the College's values and Esports program objectives.

3. Equipment Usage

- All students must handle gaming equipment with care and use it only for its intended purpose.
- Students must not tamper with hardware or software settings.
- Any unauthorised downloads or installations are not allowed.
- At the end of each session, all controllers must be put on charge and computers switched off.

4. Supervision

A supervising staff member must be present during all Esports activities. Students are not allowed to enter the space without a supervisor.

5. Policy Violations

If expectations are not met, students are invited to meet with the Esports Coordinator to:

- Reflect on what happened and consider the impact on others.
- Participate in a dialogue to repair relationships or address harm.
- Explore strategies to prevent similar issues in the future.

This approach reinforces that students are not defined by mistakes; rather, mistakes are opportunities for learning, growth, and strengthening the community. Any repeated breaches to these rules may lead to suspension from the Esports Room.

Masterclasses and Resources

At Nudgee College Esports, we aim to provide students with opportunities to develop gameplay skills, strategic thinking, and communication through structured masterclasses.

These sessions are designed to enhance performance, build confidence, and foster teamwork - helping students reach their full potential in both competitive and social Esports settings.

Masterclass Opportunities

Our masterclasses focus on a combination of gameplay mechanics, strategic development, and mental skills. They are tailored to students of all experience levels and are designed to complement regular training and competitions.

Current masterclasses have included:

- **Rocket League** - Advanced ball control, rotation strategies, teamwork, and decision-making under pressure
- **Mario Kart** - Track mastery, item strategy, and risk/reward management for competitive racing
- **Super Smash Bros** - Character mechanics, spacing, timing, and tactical approaches for competitive play

Additional masterclasses may be offered throughout the year depending on student interest, external guests, and competition schedules. These will be communicated to families in advance from the Esports Coordinator.



the game.

QUT Sport
qut.edu.au/sport



Sign Up

Esports is open to all students from Years 5–12, and no experience is necessary!

Sign-ups are open at the end of each term for the following term. Head to the Extra-Curricular tab on Student Café to register your interest.

If you would like to speak to our Esports Team, please contact esports@nudgee.qld.edu.au



ESPORTS WEBSITE

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES,
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA & TEAM APP



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