



### What is it?

“Esports” is the label for the world of competitive, organized, and incentive-laden video gaming. People from around the world compete in tournaments with prize pools worth millions of dollars. Popular games include Counter-Strike, Magic: The Gathering, League of Legends, Overwatch, Call of Duty, Madden, and Fortnite. Esports have become so popular that more than 150 colleges now have scholarships for Esports programs.

### Popularity

Around 2015 Esports started its extreme rise in popularity. According to [influencermarketinghub.com](http://influencermarketinghub.com), in 2016 Esports had approximately 281 million viewers between casual fans and enthusiasts. In 2021, Esports is predicted to have 557 million viewers.

As with traditional sports, the driving force behind the viewership of Esports is the natural human desire to watch the best at the game perform on the biggest stages. The fact that these same games are both accessible to the public and relatable are other driving forces behind Esports’ popularity.

### How Can I get involved?

Esports are broadcast on ESPN, BBC, YouTube, Facebook, and most popularly on Twitch.tv. Large tournaments and league play can be found nearly every week during their seasons. Esports athletes are also commonly seen broadcasting their gameplay (streaming) on platforms like Twitch, Mixer, and YouTube gaming. Streamers provide a window into their lives as they showcase and interact with viewers. The best players and personalities the world has to offer such as Ninja, Faker, and TimTheTatman top the charts on these platforms.

## Experience Esports Locally

The [Minnesota ROKKR](#) are a Call of Duty team that were founded/supported in 2019 by the Wilf family (Minnesota Vikings owner) to compete in the Call of Duty league.



The Timberwolves’ NBA 2k League team “[T-Wolves Gaming](#)” was formed in 2018 and they won the 2k League championship most recently in 2019.

