eSports is the New Athletics

COMMSCOPE®

Is Your Campus Ready for the eSports Revolution?

There's a new game in town at colleges and universities, and you don't have to be a top athlete to play it. In fact, you don't have to be an athlete at all.
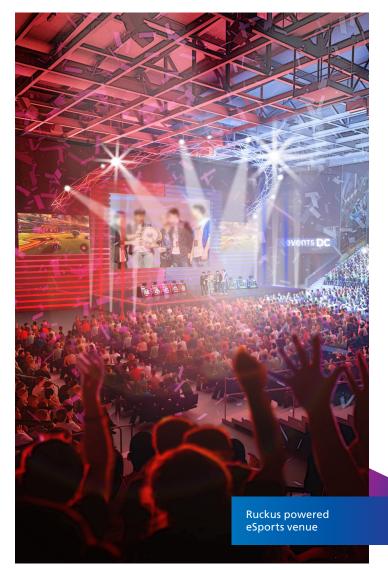
It's eSports, and it's coming to a campus near you. Think competitive videogaming isn't as big a deal as conventional sports? Think again. Nearly 590 million people will watch eSports by 2020, and analysts expect it to be a $1.8 billion industry by 2022. eSports can help your college attract and retain students by showing you have a state-of-the-art digital campus. With hundreds of millions spent on eSports sponsorships and events, it can even generate revenues. But none of that's possible if you can't deliver a great eSports experience.

Do you have video-gamers complaining about lagging, inconsistent network connections in residence halls? Take that problem and multiply it by every eSports team competing on campus, each demanding the best possible gaming experience. Now, put those teams in front of hundreds or even thousands of spectators—all livestreaming and uploading photos of the event, all at once, over the same network. You wouldn't host a big-time football game if you couldn't guarantee that your headsets and scoreboards would work when the school's reputation and dollars are on the line. In the same way, a major eSports event on campus can turn into a nightmare if your network isn't up to the challenge.

Smart Campuses Use Blazing-Fast, Reliable eSports Infrastructures

Some schools are building an eSports lab or practice facility. Have gaming computers, headsets and peripherals? Then you can run eSports games. Hosting an eSports match or tournament, however, requires more preparation. Here's what you'll need to think about:

· **The venue:** Where will you hold the competition? Schools with big-time eSports programs often augment existing venues, like basketball arenas. But many schools want more flexibility and mobility. They start with "popup" venues—temporary installations in gymnasiums, auditoriums, even outdoors.

Ruckus powered eSports venue

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· **The gamers' experience:** In eSports competition, lag of even a fraction of a second can mean the difference between winning and losing. Or, for visiting teams, between a great venue and a place they never want to compete again. You'll need an ultra-fast, ultra-reliable switching infrastructure that supports 100-Gbps uplinks and Multigigabit speeds to gamers' computers.

· **The fan experience:** eSports draws fans like any other big sporting event. Expect lots of spectators—sometimes hundreds, even thousands, depending on the venue. For the first sport

born in the Digital Age, eSports fans expect an immersive digital experience. That means livestreaming, posting on social media, uploading photos and more, all simultaneously. You'll need a Wi-Fi infrastructure and guest access experience up to the challenge.

· **Reporting:** As your school's students and fans get more excited about eSports, you'll need to track how your venue is holding up to demand. Do teams consistently have the bandwidth they need? Can fans easily get online in this dense environment? Do you have enough throughput for them to share their experiences as they'd like? By collecting fine-grained metrics about network and Wi-Fi performance, and network and application utilization, you can stay ahead of the game as eSports grows on your campus.

· **Security:** You'll need strong security and network isolation to protect eSports events and teams from hackers (like fanboys from competing teams) looking to disrupt the competition. For spectators, you'll want a guest Wi-Fi onboarding process that's quick and simple, while protecting users' security.

Bring Your A-Game with Ruckus Networks and CommScope

CommScope's Ruckus network portfolio can help you bring a fully immersive, state-of-the-art eSports experience to your campus. We're longtime leaders in wired and wireless networking for colleges and universities around the world. And, we've been providing

wicked-fast, reliable Wi-Fi at the world's premier sporting venues for years. We're already a top choice for eSports venues—from high schools to pro sports arenas. We even sponsor a professional eSports team, the Philadelphia Fusion. CommScope and Ruckus can deliver:

· **The best wireless** to connect, go fast and compete. We offer the industry's first Wi-Fi 6-certified access points (APs), and the widest

> ### We're already a top choice for eSports venues – from high schools to pro sports arenas

portfolio of antenna options and outdoor APs to cover even challenging venues. We're also the only vendor who can help you beef up your wireless coverage and capacity with private LTE or CBRS connectivity.

· **The best network scaling** to meet the demanding capacity requirements of eSports teams and fans. With Ruckus ICX Switches, you can support up to 450,000 clients and manage up to 1,800 ports as easily as if they were on a single physical switch.

- **Ideal multigigabit solutions** for affordable eSports performance. Get the right capacity and performance for your venue, from affordable entry-level multigigabit solutions, to compact form factors for popup networks, to top-of-the-line, Wi-Fi 6-optimized solutions with 100-GbE uplinks and 10-GbE client connectivity.

- **The best unified reporting** to troubleshoot and optimize your infrastructure. With Ruckus Smart Cell Insight, you get total visibility into the team and fan experience as eSports grows on your campus. Track number and type of users, device operating systems, upload/download output by event or type, guest applications and more.

- **The most future-proof solution** to adapt to future requirements. Ruckus solutions support up to 90 Watts PoE power, fiber or structured cabling, and upgradable uplinks. And, Ruckus is the only vendor that lets you add private or in-building LTE connectivity, or new IoT sensors and connected devices to existing infrastructure, just by adding a new module to your APs.

- **The simplest management** with complete wired and wireless management all in one place. Ruckus SmartZone provides a single element network controller, on-premises or cloud-based form factor, intuitive wired and wireless troubleshooting tools, and unified policy management.

Get in the Game

To learn more about how you can deliver an amazing eSports experience for your students, gaming teams and fans, check out our eSports blog, then contact

https://theruckusroom.ruckuswireless.com/wired-wireless/technologytrends/designing-future-esports-stadiums/

Ruckus products for eSports
Ruckus Wi-Fi 6 access points for maximum banwidth and capacity
Ruckus ICX multigigabit stackable switches for low latency
Ruckus Cloudpath for secure network access
Ruckus SCI for reporting and insights for better fan experience
Ruckus SmartZone for simplified, unified wired and wireless network controller

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Visit our website or contact your local CommScope representative for more information.

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