

Subject: Important Updates: 2026-27 MPA Esports Season & PlayVS Platform Transition

Good morning,

As we prepare for the 2026-27 academic year, the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) looks forward to providing robust, meaningful competitive esports opportunities for our student-athletes through our ongoing partnership with PlayVS. Ahead of the upcoming school year, we want to share several important structural updates regarding the league format and registration process for our upcoming seasons.

In May 2026, PlayVS experienced operational and financial challenges that prompted organizational updates and a restructuring of its business operations. MPA leadership has been in direct contact with representatives at PlayVS to fully evaluate these developments and ensure total operational stability for our member schools. We have been assured that the PlayVS platform remains fully operational, and the company is deeply committed to supporting scholastic esports across Maine.

To establish long-term platform durability and support localized league execution, PlayVS is transitioning away from a recent "free" model that was entirely reliant on funding from national brand partners. Because that brand-subsidized strategy is not viable, the league is moving to a school-based annual site license framework for the 2026-27 school year. We want to ensure all our athletic directors, teachers, coaches, and administrators have accurate and timely information as you plan your school's activities and athletic budgets for the coming year.

2026-27 Fee Structure & Registration Deadlines

The updated fee model utilizes a flat annual site license fee for each participating school, designed to support ongoing league administration, platform maintenance, and unlimited student participation.

- **High School Standard PlayVS Platform Fee:** \$595 per school for the full academic year.
- **High School Early Bird Platform Discount:** \$495 per school, if payment or an active Purchase Order is completed before Friday, August 7th.
- **Middle School Standard PlayVS Platform Fee:** \$495 per school for the full academic year.
- **Middle School Early Bird Platform Discount:** \$395 per school, if payment or an active Purchase Order is completed before Friday, August 7th.

This annual fee covers all tournament and competition costs for both the Fall and Spring seasons. Under this site license model, there are no limitations on the number of game titles a school can play, nor are there caps on the number of teams or players you can enroll. The annual fee also covers all PlayVS Regional competitions, PlayVS Cup and other benefits.

Special Billing Requests: If your school or district has a unique financial request, such as splitting payments across different fiscal budgets or timelines, please select the "Invoicing" option during your online sign-up process and write your specific request directly into the notes field. The PlayVS team will do their absolute best to accommodate any special requests.

Future Planning: Baseline PlayVS platform site license fees for subsequent academic years within our multi-year framework will be finalized by January preceding the respective school year and shared transparently with membership at that time.

Program Funding & Support

To assist our schools in navigating this budgetary adjustment and minimizing direct out-of-pocket infrastructure expenses, PlayVS is offering an integrated scholastic fundraising solution during seasonal enrollment.

Schools will have the option to seamlessly opt into a built-in fundraising campaign directly through the PlayVS interface during the standard registration process.

One hundred percent (100%) of the funds raised (net of standard operational fees) will be applied directly toward your school's annual platform site license fee and any applicable MPA league fees.

PlayVS Deficit Protection: PlayVS has instituted a safety-net policy for this upcoming year: any school that launches and completes a baseline fundraising campaign in good faith but falls short of the platform fee total will have the remaining financial difference covered entirely by PlayVS to guarantee full seasonal platform activation.

PlayVS Resource Links for Schools:

- [Get Started for 2026-'27](#): Use this direct link to create or update your school account, set up your profile, and enroll your program for the Fall season.
- [Fall 2026 Schedule](#): Full schedule for the upcoming season.
- [High School Coach Handbook](#): Review the PlayVS High School Coach Handbook for essential instructions on creating accounts, building rosters, and managing match days.
- [Program Roadmap](#): Check out the PlayVS Esports Roadmap to view upcoming season dates, title offerings, and key milestone deadlines.
- [GamingConcepts](#): Seamlessly integrate scholastic esports curriculum and health/wellness moments into your program's daily routine.

Next Steps

MPA remains fully committed to supporting our coaches and administrators to ensure our student-athletes continue to experience the immense benefits of scholastic esports, including teamwork, leadership, and digital citizenship.

If you have technical questions regarding registration, billing setups, or platform logistics, please contact our designated PlayVS partner representative, Alex Earley, at alexander.earley@playvs.com.

For questions regarding how these updates impact localized MPA tournament regulations, divisions, or state championship events, please reach out to the MPA office directly.

Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence in our student programs. We look forward to an outstanding 2026-27 competitive season!