



Pennsylvania Interscholastic  
Esports Association



## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

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### **Phila. to Host High School Fall Esports State Championships**

*Saint Joseph's University selected as site for the PIEA Valorant State Championship on Dec. 18*

**HARRISBURG, Pa.** – [Saint Joseph's University](#) in Philadelphia will play host to the [Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association's](#) (PIEA) 2022 Fall Valorant State Championships, which will feature live, in-person semifinals and Grand Final, on Dec. 18, 2022.

This is the first time the PIEA will host a state championship event inside a university based in the city of Philadelphia. In the Spring, the PIEA held its Valorant championship event at Widener University in Chester.

“We are very excited to bring the PIEA State Championships to the City of Brotherly Love,” said Samantha Bickel, the Executive Director of the PIEA. “We have seen tremendous growth in the number of schools from Southeast Pennsylvania as more and more schools are establishing esports teams and programs. There is a buzz around Philadelphia regarding esports and we are thrilled to partner with Saint Joseph’s University to make this event a huge success for these student athletes.”

Currently, the PIEA boasts nearly 140 schools in its network, with more than 30 percent hailing from Southeastern Pennsylvania. For the 2022 Fall Season, the PIEA reached its largest number of teams competing from across the corners of the Commonwealth.

“As the popularity of esports continues to emerge, it’s clear it presents so many opportunities to current and prospective students — professionally, recreationally and academically. This is one of the reasons we launched our multi-faceted esports program at Saint Joseph’s University,” says Tricia Purcell, associate athletic director for campus recreation and special events at Saint Joseph’s. “We look forward to hosting talented student-athletes, families and spectators from across the state to our campus for this year’s championships.”

The PIEA Fall 2022 Valorant State Championships is a FREE event. The live, in-person semifinals will begin at 11 a.m, and doors to the venue at Saint Joseph’s University will open at 10 a.m.

In addition to its Valorant State Championships in Philadelphia, the PIEA will head to the other side of the state to host its 2022 Fall Rocket League State Championships on Dec. 17, 2022 in Pittsburgh at the Phoenix-14 Theaters in Bridgeville.

Along with Saint Joseph's University, the PIEA is proud to partner with additional sponsors for the 2022 Fall Esports State Championships, including Pittsburgh Technical College, Lycoming College and the Phoenix-14 Theaters.

For more information about the PIEA Fall 2022 State Championships, please contact Samantha Bickel. For more general information about the PIEA, or to register for future competitions, visit [interscholasticsports.org](https://interscholasticsports.org).

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### **About Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association**

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association (PIEA) is one of the nation's first high school governing bodies solely focused on scholastic esports programs and clubs. The nonprofit is a collaborative effort between McNees, Wallace and Nurick; the Hollinger Family; and, Estars, a leading esports tournament infrastructure company. The mission of PIEA is to be a Pennsylvania esports advocate and resource for regulatory oversight and competition guidelines for interscholastic esports.

### **About Saint Joseph's University**

Founded in 1851 as Philadelphia's Jesuit university, Saint Joseph's University prepares students for a rapidly changing world by focusing on academic excellence and courageous exploration. With an intellectual tradition distinguished by a foundational liberal arts core and diversified by strong professional programs in education, business, health and science, Saint Joseph's students are empowered, challenged and supported by faculty-scholar mentors to follow their own path. There are nearly 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the University's four schools and colleges — the College of Arts and Sciences, the Erivan K. Haub School of Business, the School of Education and Human Development, and the School of Health Professions. With academic offerings in the most sought-after majors, including leading programs in the first-in-the-nation Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, nearly 100% of students are employed, pursuing advanced degrees or volunteering in prestigious service programs upon graduation. The University's two networks of nearly 100,000 proud alumni keep alive the rallying cry — The Hawk Will Never Die.