

NZSSE SCHOOLS LEAGUE

OVERWATCH

Quick Reference & Game Rules | August 2026

MATCH DAY: Every Tuesday at 4:30 PM
FORMAT: Swiss — BO3
TEAM SIZE: 5–8 players + up to 2 support staff
Tournament Platform: [NZ Esports Tournament Platform](#)

Your captain (or teacher) must join the Discord and select the game role to see channels and post results.

MATCH DAY — STEP BY STEP

1. Check the draw. Your weekly matchup and opponent roster are visible on the platform. Use the match chat to coordinate.
2. Add your opponents. Captains exchange BattleTags via the match chat and add each other in-game.
3. The HIGHER SEED creates the lobby: Play → Custom Game → Create.
4. Settings: Mode: Role Queue | Hero Limit: 1 Per Team | Kill Cam: Off.
5. Follow the Map & Ban process below. Set the first map and start the match.
6. Submit the score. Use the “Submit Score” button on the platform. Your opponent must confirm. Unconfirmed scores are accepted after 48 hours. Repeated non-confirmation will result in a warning and possible removal.

⚠ DISPUTES: Must be raised within 30 minutes of the match ending, or the submitted score stands.

⚠ LATE? 15+ minutes late without notice = forfeit of both games. Report all late/FF situations via a Discord support ticket or email armani@esf.nz.

GAME SETTINGS (OWCS FORMAT)

Map Order

Bo5 matches follow a fixed mode order. Map 1 is always Control:

Map	Mode	Selection
Map 1	Control	The team on the left of the bracket selects the map, the team on the right bans second
Map 2	Loser picks mode	Choose from: Escort, Hybrid, Push, or Flashpoint
Map 3	Loser picks mode	Must be a different mode to Map 1 and 2

Map types cannot be repeated during a series

All standard Escort, Hybrid, Control, Push, and Flashpoint maps are available. Clash maps are excluded.

Hero Bans (OWCS Format)

- Each team bans 2 heroes for map 1 and bans 1 hero for map 2 and 3. Bans apply to both teams.
- Each ban must be from a different role than the other team's ban (e.g. if Team A bans a Support, Team B must ban a Tank or Damage hero). Exception for map 1 where the final ban can be from any role.
- A team cannot ban the same hero more than once in a series.
- The team who lost the previous map (or higher seed on Map 1) chooses whether to ban first or second.
- Bans must be submitted in the match chat before the map starts.

Restricted Content

New heroes and maps are banned for 2 weeks after release. Check Discord for updates.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Playdays are every Tuesday at 4:30 PM for the duration of the season.
- You play one BO3 series against the same opponent each match day.

- Swiss-style: teams with similar records play each other each week.

Win	Tie	Loss
3		0

Tie-breakers: H2H → Default differential → Loss differential → Playoff

RESCHEDULING & FORFEITS

- You may reschedule via the match chat on the platform. The platform time is the official match time. Reschedules can be made to any time during the week from Monday – Sunday. All matches must be completed before Sunday midnight.
- If an agreeable reschedule time cannot be made by both teams the official game time is forced.
- Reasonable communication is expected by both teams, teams are expected to check the schedule on Monday and begin communication through the match chat room. It is expected that teams will attempt to give at least 24 hours noticed for reschedule times, and teams will respond within 24 hours. Platform notifications can be activated if required.
- Results must be submitted as soon as possible after the match via the platform.
- If you know you can't play, default the game in advance through the platform.
- Teams who join after registration closes will not receive catch-up matches.

⚠ NO-SHOWS: Two consecutive no-shows without notice = removed from the tournament. If your opponents don't show, stick around — we'll try to match you with another available team.

ROSTERS & ELIGIBILITY

- All players must be current NZ high school students, residing in New Zealand.
- Each team must have a Teacher-in-Charge nominated at registration, contactable during match times.
- By registering, you confirm parent/guardian consent and school endorsement.
- Emergency subs require referee approval.
- All team names and in-game names must be school-appropriate. Refs can require changes.

NEED HELP?

- **Open a ticket:** [NZES Tournament Support Page](#)
- **Report an issue:** Screenshot everything and submit via a support ticket with details.
- **Report bad behaviour:** Use a support ticket or the NZ Esports Complaints Page. You can report anonymously.
- **Email:** schools@esf.nz for anything urgent.

KEY RULES

DO:

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect — players, refs, opponents
- ✓ Screenshot your match results every game
- ✓ Let the ref team know in advance if you can't make a match
- ✓ Check the tournament platform regularly for announcements

DON'T:

- ✗ Cheat, exploit bugs, or fix matches (match-fixing is a crime in NZ)
- ✗ Use abusive, discriminatory, or offensive language
- ✗ Have non-roster players coach or communicate during a live match
- ✗ Edit or crop result screenshots

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