

OVERWATCH

Quick Reference & Game Rules | April 2026

MATCH DAY: Official Game Time/Day Can Be Viewed on Platform**FORMAT:** Swiss — Best of 5**TEAM SIZE:** 5–8 players + up to 2 support staff**PLATFORM:** [NZES Tournament Platform](#)

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 the series. Report late/FF situations via a support ticket on the platform or email sam@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	Higher seed picks map;
Map 2	Loser picks mode	Choose from: Escort, Hybrid, Push, or Flashpoint
Map 3	Loser picks mode	Must be a different mode to Map 2
Map 4	Loser picks mode	Must be a different mode to Map 3
Map 5	Loser picks mode	Must be a different mode to Map 4 and must not be repeating a mode more than 2 times.

Map types can be repeated once within a series.

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

Hero Bans (OWCS Format)

- Each team bans 1 hero per map. 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).
- 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.

Between Maps

After each map: the losing team declares their map mode choice, substitutions can be made, and bans are performed in the order chosen by the losing team.

Restricted Content

New heroes are banned for 2 weeks after release. Check the platform for updates.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Matches are every Saturday. The platform time is the official match time.
- Bo3: first team to win 2 maps takes the series.
- Swiss-style: teams with similar records play each other each week.

Win	Loss
3	0

Tie-breakers: H2H → Map differential → Round 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.
- 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 and reported to your university. You can also default a game in advance if you know you cannot play.

ROSTERS & ELIGIBILITY

- All players must be currently enrolled or be alumni of the last two years, as a student at a New Zealand university or tertiary institution.
- Emergency subs require admin approval. Roster lock dates are announced on the platform.
- All team names and in-game names must be appropriate. Admins can require changes.

NEED HELP?

- **Open a ticket:** Submit a support ticket on the platform, or request an admin in the match chat.
- **Report an issue:** Screenshot everything and submit via a support ticket.
- **Report bad behaviour:** Use a support ticket or the NZ Esports Complaints Page. You can report anonymously.
- **Email:** sam@esf.nz for anything urgent.

KEY RULES

DO:

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect — players, admins, opponents
- ✓ Submit your match results promptly after each game
- ✓ Notify admins in advance if you can't make a match
- ✓ Check the 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
- ✗ Pause unless you have a genuine tech issue (1 per team, 3 min max)

