

## **Minnesota RØKKR and Minnesota Varsity League partner to bring competitive Call of Duty to high school teams**

Minnesota RØkkR is partnering with the Minnesota Varsity League (MNVL) on its inaugural season of varsity Call of Duty for Minnesota high schoolers. MNVL is the home of high school esports in Minnesota; it organizes varsity competition in multiple titles on behalf of high school teams across the state.

Minnesota RØkkR will serve as the title sponsor of the new Minnesota RØKKR Call of Duty High School League. It helped recruit teams to join the league and is promoting and livestreaming matches during the eight week season, which runs March 22–May 16, 2021. High school teams competing in the league include **Foley, Washington Tech, Big Lake, Rosemount, Henry Sibley** and **Inver Grove Heights**.

“One of the opportunities that comes with the localization of esports franchises is the ability to authentically engage the community player base, particularly at the high school level,” says Brett Diamond, chief operating officer at Version1. “These young men and women represent the future of the competitive player pipeline and the fan base for Minnesota RØkkR.”

Regular season Call of Duty matches are scheduled for Sundays and MNVL streams CoD weekly on Tuesday at 6PM CT. The season culminates on Sunday, May 23 with championship matches that will be live streamed on Minnesota RØkkR’s channels. RØkkR will also support MNVL’s Call of Duty “All-Star Night” on Sunday, May 30. The event will highlight student-athletes who stand out during the regular season.

High school CoD teams in the league compete 4v4 and face off in Hardpoint, Search and Destroy, and Control in a best of five format.

“Having a professional Call of Duty League franchise like Minnesota RØkkR support MNVL goes a long way in adding credibility to high school esports,” says Jake Utities, director at Minnesota Varsity League. “We’ve seen the benefits of organized gaming and high school esports. Many student-athletes who compete in esports shape life skills, including teamwork, social skills and thinking strategically and critically. MNVL is excited to help provide a continued platform in esports at our states high schools, alongside partners like RØkkR.”

In addition to the new Call of Duty high school league, MNVL also organizes leagues in Rocket League, Overwatch, Super Smash Brothers, Minecraft and chess. High schoolers who are part of an esports club or team are eligible to join a MNVL league if they have an advisor from their school’s faculty and maintain a 2.0 GPA.

To learn more about Minnesota Varsity League, visit <https://www.mnvl.org>.