

DAIGON Esports' Guide to Hardware

How to get your school ready to compete in the IAPS x DAIGON Esports Competition

Overview

In this guide, we'll try to help you evaluate and fill your gaps in terms of hardware to get ready to compete in IAPS x Daigon Esports Competition 2025-26. We'll start with a quick evaluation of your needs and then explore different solutions based on your location, budget, and potential future plans (this might be helpful to explore regardless of your current setup).

Please make sure you have read through the [IAPS x Daigon Esports Competition 2025-26](#) before going through this document. Regardless of your hardware setup, please also make sure you read through the [Inclusion List document](#) and share it with your IT department to make sure you have enough bandwidth to run the games you are planning on competing in and help them prepare for that if not.

If once you've read this guide you need additional guidance on what's best for your school, feel free to book a short tech support call [here](#) so we can work through your school's specific situation together.

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Step 1: Evaluate Your Situation

A. Are you ready to enter and take part?

For the 2025-26 IAPS x Daigon Esports Competition, we are offering Minecraft "Capture the Flag" only.

B. Minecraft

There's a very high chance your school already has everything you need in terms of hardware, as Minecraft Education Edition has "light" hardware requirements that most school computers should meet.

Please double check the minimum requirements for Minecraft [here](#). If your school computers meet the requirements and you have enough for the number of students wanting to participate, you're all set! If for some reason, they don't, please schedule a support call with us [here](#).

Step 2: Fill the Gaps

A. How many players do you want to facilitate in each game?

As for the 2025-26 IAPS x Daigon Esports Competition all games will happen at the same time on the same day in each given timezone, you'll need to evaluate your capacity in terms of player per device.

For each game, your current capacity will be equal to the number of simultaneous devices you have that can run each game. For example, if you 10 Minecraft compatible chromebooks, 15 compatible PCs, and 3 PS5s, you'd be able to have:

- 28 students playing Minecraft (10 chromebooks + 15 PCs and 3 PS5's),

B. Filling the Gaps: Controllers

Your students may want a controller that you can connect via Bluetooth or Cable to your device. Luckily, these are easy to transport to school and not too expensive. Moreover, you get one controller per console you buy out of the box. How we recommend filling your controller gaps:

1. Ask your students, many will have ps4/xbox/pro controllers that can hook up easily to laptops and/or iPads.
2. If that solution doesn't work and/or you want school owned controllers, they are reasonably affordable. Please find more information in [this article](#).

C. Filling the Gaps: Machines, a lot of options

Overall, considering your options below will depend on your budget, the future games you anticipate playing and where your school is based.

Future-proofing

As seasons progress, DAIGON Esports will be opening new competitions for new games based on school expression of interest. Unfortunately, no one machine or solution can support all video games. Essentially, some games can only be played on PC (such as league of legends) while all Nintendo games (such as Splatoon or Mario Kart) can only be played on Switch. Moreover, the Switch doesn't support some other games such as FIFA. Some solutions such as cloud gaming help but no single solution covers everything. It will be up to your school to decide which games they want to partake in and invest in the appropriate hardware accordingly with the possibility to add additional hardware if needed to participate in other games as student interest evolves or grows over time. For each solution below, we've added a table of some games (non-exhaustive) you might consider joining in the future to help contextualize your choices.

Our broad recommendation is as follows:

- If you aren't ready to invest in hardware consider the BYOM or Cloud Gaming solutions (depending on if it's available in your country)
- If you will definitely want to play in PC only games such as [League of Legends](#) in the future, invest in PCs.
- If you will definitely want to play in Nintendo games in the future, buy a switch.
- If you are on a budget and/or only want to play non-nintendo ([Splatoon](#), [Mario Kart](#), [Smash](#)) and non-PC only games ([League of Legends](#) / [Valorant](#)) such as Rocket League, [Overwatch](#), FIFA 23, and other EA games such as [NBA 2K](#) or [Apex Legends](#) buy a Xbox S/X or PS5 console.

BYOM (Bring Your Own Machine)

Your first option is to have students bring their own devices to school where they have gaming PCs that meet requirements or an Xbox S/X or a PS5.

Pros:

- Cost-effective
- Gives your school time to test out esports before investing in machines

Cons

- Inconvenient
- Inconsistent across students
- Not necessarily easily transportable
- Unreliable (students might forget one day etc.)

Cloud Gaming

Cloud gaming, also known as game streaming, is a method of playing video games where the actual game processing doesn't take place on your local device, like a console or computer, but instead on remote servers in data centers. This allows high-end games to be played on lower-end hardware, as the heavy computational tasks are offloaded to the servers.

This is still a relatively new technology and thus has limited availability based on where you are located. It is also even more highly dependent on your internet connection as both the game and the running of the game are being done virtually. As we expand our games offering, this may not cover all future games we play but it could be a good solution for this season.

Pros:

- Easy to get started
- Monthly subscription (low-risk)

Cons:

- Can be more expensive over long run
- Not available across the globe

Options:

1. [Xbox Game Pass Ultimate](#) (Comprehensive but Regionally limited)
 - **\$14.99/month per user**
 - **FIFA 23 is included in the price of its package**

- **Only available in:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-US/regions#xboxgamepass>
- Available on: <https://support.xbox.com/en-US/help/games-apps/cloud-gaming/verified-devices-for-xbox-cloud-gaming>

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIFA 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	✗
Overwatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
League of Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Valorant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NBA 2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apex Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. [NVIDIA GeForce Now](#) (Larger Regional Reach)
 - **\$9.99 per month per user for Priority**
 - **\$19.99 per month per user for Ultimate**
 - **Only available in:** https://nvidia.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/5023/~/what-are-the-supported-locations-for-geforce-now%3F
 - Available on: <https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/geforce-now/system-reqs/>

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIFA 23	✗
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart ,	✗

Smash)	
Overwatch	✓
League of Legends	✓
Valorant	✓
NBA 2K	✗
Apex Legends	✓

3. **Shadow** (Bespoke Computer)
- £29.99/month for regular pc
 - £45/month for upgraded performance
 - Available on any laptop

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	✓
FIFA 23	✓
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	✗
Overwatch	✓
League of Legends	✓
Valorant	✓
NBA 2K	✓
Apex Legends	✓

4. **AirGPU** (Unique Regional Coverage)
- Performance-based Pricing per hour + \$7.99/month minimum for storage + around 60c/hour for Windows License
 - Available on any laptop

- Server Locations:
 - **North America:** New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, N. Virginia, Ohio, N. California, Oregon, Central Canada
 - **Europe:** Amsterdam, Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Paris, Stockholm
 - **Asia Pacific:** Hong Kong, Mumbai, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo
 - **Middle East:** Bahrain
 - **Africa:** Cape Town

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIFA 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overwatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
League of Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Valorant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NBA 2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apex Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Buying a Console

While less powerful than Gaming PCs and covering fewer games, consoles offer a great price to quality ratio for gameplay with an easy setup. They are also more affordable and could be a good option to equip multiple students on a tighter budget. They might be worth the investment over Cloud Gaming services as the cost amortized over multiple seasons would likely be cheaper depending on your number of students.

Options

1. [Xbox S/X](#) or [PS5](#)
 - \$300 - \$500 per device

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIFA 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overwatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
League of Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Valorant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NBA 2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apex Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. [Nintendo Switch](#)
 - o \$350 per device

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FIFA 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overwatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
League of Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Valorant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NBA 2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apex Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Buying a Gaming PC

Gaming PCs offer unique performance for students to experience high quality gaming. They also support all the games in our table except for Nintendo Games, making them the most flexible and covering the most ground. Make sure to check the requirements of the games you will want to participate in to make sure the PC you are wanting to invest in meets its requirements.

- <https://www.pcgamer.com/best-gaming-pc/>
- <https://www.ign.com/articles/best-budget-gaming-pc>

Games	Supported?
Rocket League	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Nintendo Games (Splatoon , Mario Kart , Smash)	✗
Overwatch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Valorant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NBA 2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Apex Legends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

D. Additional Help: Book a Quick Support Call

If you want additional help, get a better understanding of this document, or simply need someone to bounce off your thoughts in terms of hardware feel free to book a 15-min support session with us [here](#) and we'll be happy to help!