

Recommended Equipment List

This guide outlines the most-needed equipment for an esports program. You'll find the basic requirements as well as purchasing guidance. This list includes strategies to help take your program to the next level – perfect for Clubs or Youth Centers that have established gaming areas and are ready for the next steps. BGCA and other resources may be able to help you find vendors for this equipment and provide guidance on specific consoles and accessory models.

Item	Requirements	Pro Tips	Level Up
Video Game Console	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Xbox One, One S, One X • Sony PlayStation 5 • Nintendo Switch • Gaming PC or laptop 	Each console can support up to four players simultaneously, but many games only support one or two players on the same console. Each gaming PC or laptop can support one player at a time.	Offer multiple types of consoles to increase game options and interest.
TV or Monitor	One per console or PC	4K OLED models with a refresh rate of at least 120 Hz offer the best video quality and let you take advantage of the advanced graphics capability of consoles.	Go bigger with screen size or offer dual monitors for gaming PCs and laptops.
Controller	Four controllers per console	Using off-brand controllers can save money but can also void the warranty on your console. Wireless rechargeable controllers help prevent tripping hazards, while wired controllers can reduce lag in gameplay. Have an extra controller on hand in case of breakage.	Offer adaptable controllers for youth with disabilities. Check out the Xbox Adaptive Controller (Xbox One and PC), RJ Cooper & Associates game controller boxes (Xbox One and PlayStation 5) or Hori Flex controller (Nintendo Switch) for customizable, adaptable controllers.
Surge Protector	Enough to allow every console or PC/laptop to be safely plugged into one	Nintendo Switch plugs are larger and may take up more than one outlet slot.	Use zip ties and cable cords to keep power cords neat and organized.
Video Game	At least one copy of each game per console	Video games come in two forms: hard copy and downloaded. Downloaded copies carry less risk for accidental damage and loss but require more hard drive storage space than hard copies.	Switch up the games that you offer seasonally to keep your players engaged. Consider matching sports games to pro sports seasons, or throw a “New Release” party to celebrate new games.
Internet Connection	The Wi-Fi connection to your Club or Youth Center’s existing network	Look for internet plans offering unlimited data and 1-2GB download speeds for the best experience.	All consoles (except the Switch) support “hard line” or ethernet internet access. This can reduce lag and greatly improve the game experience.

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Online Play Pass	One pass per console (Xbox Gold or Ultimate, PlayStation Plus or Nintendo Online)	Annual passes will save you quite a bit of money over a monthly subscription plan.	If you have multiple Nintendo Switches or Switch accounts, opt for a Family Membership to save even more.
Headset	One per controller	Each console has its own brand of basic headsets, but spending extra money on cross-compatible headsets that work with any console can simplify your equipment management.	Have an extra headset on hand in case of breakage. Higher-quality headsets come with higher price tags but will last longer than basic models.
Gaming Chair	One per player	Look for chairs with adjustable lumbar support, armrests and leather or simulated leather for easy cleaning.	Consider adding couches or other furniture for spectators. Esports are better with friends!
Hardware Racks	One per console	Racks allow you to mount monitors and consoles, and they give you customizable storage options to keep accessories and cables secure and safe.	Choose racks in the same colors as your gaming area, or add lighting for an extra cool look.