

September 14, 2019

Press Release:

## **The National Association of Esports Coaches and Directors (NAECAD) Launches Awards Recognition Program**

The NAECAD's award program will recognize esteemed coaches, directors, and athletes from various levels on an annual basis. Each award will be voted on by the current NAECAD membership and each individual receiving an award will be recognized each year at the NAECAD National Convention. The NAECAD, in 2019-20, will be the first association to offer competitive esports awards in the following categories at the high school and university level of competition:

### **Coach of the Year**

This prestigious award will recognize the outstanding leadership qualities a coach has made to its team, program, school, and to the entire esports ecosystem during the 2019-20 school year. The individual receiving this award will be recognized in person each year at the NAECAD National Convention.

### **Director of the Year**

The importance of running a successful program begins with the director, and this award acknowledges an individual serving in this capacity. This award will recognize the significant contribution a director has made to its overall esports program, school, and to the entire esports ecosystem. The individual receiving this award will be recognized in person each year at the NAECAD National Convention.

### **Player of the Year and Player of the Month**

This coveted award will recognize an individual for a balance of athletic achievement, sportsmanship and citizenship. While elite performance in the game is important, this award is aimed at recognizing the overall impact the individual has made. Example characteristics include:

- Impactful or notable in-game performance.
- Evidence of good sportsmanship and teamwork.
- Community service.
- Superior academic achievement.
- Overcoming personal obstacles.

Each month, players will be nominated and voted on by their NAECAD member coaches or directors. One *Player of the Month* will be recognized both at the high school and the university levels (September – April).

The *Player of the Month* recipients will be eligible for nomination of the *Player of the Year* award. The individual receiving the Player of the Year award will be recognized in person at the NAECAD National Convention each year. The individuals receiving the Player of the Month award will be recognized at the NAECAD National Convention each year.

### All-American

This distinct honor will be given to student athletes who are the best at their game and position and within their level of participation. Student athletes nominated for the *Player of the Month* award will be eligible for nomination of All-American status. Student athletes receiving the top ten most votes will be recognized at both the high school and the university levels. The individuals receiving All-American status will be recognized each year at the NAECAD National Convention.

### Award Process:

- *Player of the Month:*
  - Nominations can be submitted online until 11:59 PM on the first of every month for the previous month.
  - Voting opens on the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.
  - Voting closes at 11:59 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.
  - Announcement of *Player of the Month* will be no later than 11:59 PM on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.
  - All NAECAD members are entitled one vote per award that could be awarded to the student athlete within their organization.
  - To be considered for the vote, a ballot by a NAECAD member must be submitted by the specified deadline.
  - Recipients of any award must have at least one representative member from the NAECAD.
  - NAECAD members are responsible for submitting the required information by the stated deadline for consideration of any individual or team award.
  
- *Player of the Year:*
  - The eight *Player of the Month* recipients will be eligible for the *Player of the Year* award.
  - Voting opens on May 15.
  - Voting closes at 11:59 PM on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Announcement of *Player of the Year* will be no later than 11:59 PM on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - All NAECAD members are entitled one vote per award that could be awarded to the student athlete within their organization.
  - To be considered for the vote, a ballot by a NAECAD member must be submitted by the specified deadline.
  - Recipients of any award must have at least one representative member from the NAECAD.
  - NAECAD members are responsible for submitting the required information by the stated deadline for consideration of any individual or team award.
  
- *All-American:*
  - Student athletes **nominated** for the *Player of the Month* award will then be eligible for *All-American* status. Student athletes receiving the top ten most votes will be recognized at both the high school and the university levels.
  - Voting opens on May 1.
  - Voting closes at 11:59 PM on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Announcement of *All-American* status will be no later than 11:59 PM on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

- All NAECAD members are entitled one vote per award that could be awarded to the student athlete within their organization.
  - To be considered for the vote, a ballot by a NAECAD member must be submitted by the specified deadline.
  - Recipients of any award must have at least one representative member from the NAECAD.
  - NAECAD members are responsible for submitting the required information by the stated deadline for consideration of any individual or team award.
- *Coach of the Year:*
    - Nominations open April 1.
    - Nominations close at 11:59 PM April 10.
    - Voting opens on April 15.
    - Voting closes at 11:59 PM on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Announcement of *Coach of the Year* will be no later than midnight on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - All NAECAD members are entitled one vote per award that could be won by an individual from their organization.
    - To be considered for the vote a ballot by a NAECAD member must be submitted by the specified deadline.
    - Recipients of any award must have at least one representative member from the NAECAD.
    - NAECAD members are responsible for submitting the required information by the stated deadline for consideration of any individual or team award.
- *Director of the Year:*
    - Nominations open April 1.
    - Nominations close at 11:59 PM April 10.
    - Voting opens on April 15.
    - Voting closes at 11:59 PM on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Announcement of *Director of the Year* will be no later than 11:59 PM on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - All NAECAD members are entitled one vote per award that could be won by an individual from their organization.
    - To be considered for the vote, a ballot by a NAECAD member must be submitted by the specified deadline.
    - Recipients of any award must have at least one representative member from the NAECAD.
    - NAECAD members are responsible for submitting the required information by the stated deadline for consideration of any individual or team award.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS PROCESS:**

- The Achievement Recognition Advisory Committee within the NAECAD will oversee and administer the voting process for all existing awards, the creation of future awards, and the process for the recognition of the award recipients at the National Convention on behalf of the NAECAD.
- The NAECAD will continue to offer additional awards as the sport continues to grow. In order to qualify for awards in a particular region, state, or conference; a minimum of fifteen organizations/teams must exist within that given region, state, or conference. Additionally, a minimum of fifteen organizations/teams must have a representative who is a member of NAECAD.

### **NAECAD Hall of Fame**

Induction to the NAECAD Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the organization. While numerous individuals have made significant footprints into shaping competitive esports, individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame have been recognized by the leaders within the sport. The NAECAD Hall of Fame award process will be launched at the first annual NAECAD National Convention, June 15-17, at the MGM Grand, in Las Vegas, Nevada.