

**RESOLUTION**  
**National Headquarters, The American Legion**  
**One-Hundred and Sixth Annual National Convention, Tampa, Florida**  
**August 26, 27, 28, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. 18

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH NATIONAL ESPORTS PROGRAM

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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**WHEREAS**, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report, an average of 17.6 veterans died by suicide each day in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, A comprehensive 2025 ESA Veterans Survey found that nearly half (48%) of veterans aged 22-50 actively play PC or console games weekly, demonstrating a strong and active presence of veteran gamers; and

**WHEREAS**, The 2025 Entertainment Software Association (ESA) report highlights that video gaming plays a significant role in veterans' lives, providing stress relief (81%), relaxation (81%), and an effective means of social connection (77%); and

**WHEREAS**, Many veterans report that video games have had a very positive impact on their lives after military service, helping them cope with difficult times (77%), develop a sense of accomplishment (74%), and maintain a sense of camaraderie and community (73%); and

**WHEREAS**, Video games also help veterans stay connected to family and military friends, with 79% of veterans playing with others weekly (compared to 67% of non-veterans), including 61% who regularly play with other veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion Gaming program has established a strong initial traction, with a social media following exceeding 25,000 and an email list of more than 40,000 engaged supporters, reflecting veterans' growing interest in esports and gaming as a bridge to wellness and connection; and

**WHEREAS**, The ESA report further found that 69% of veterans agree that playing games with other veterans, whether or not they've met in person, helps them build camaraderie and supports their transition to civilian life; and

**WHEREAS**, Recognizing these trends, esports and gaming tournaments represent a powerful outreach and recruitment tool to connect veterans with American Legion resources, while also aligning with the American Legion's mission to support veteran wellness and reintegration; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Tampa, Florida, August 26, 27, 28, 2025, That The American Legion establish a National Esports Program to support veteran wellness, mental health, social engagement, and community involvement through esports and gaming; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That The American Legion promote awareness and education about the mental health, wellness, and social benefits of esports and gaming within its membership and the broader veteran community, leveraging these insights to reduce stigma and foster understanding; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That this Ad Hoc Committee continue to expand strategic partnerships with other military gaming charities and veteran-serving organizations, including ALG Veterans & Video Games Foundation, American Legion Gaming, and others in the VA Gaming War Room, to maximize outreach and ensure that veterans in need can access the mental health, social connection, and reintegration benefits of esports and gaming.

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This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our department but with national action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant Sam Flores

Department California

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

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APPENDIX

- **ESA report:** [https://katu.com/resources/pdf/c86f2b47-0942-4b4d-84d4-821e86488ece-FullStudy\\_ESAVeterans\\_UnderEmbargo.pdf](https://katu.com/resources/pdf/c86f2b47-0942-4b4d-84d4-821e86488ece-FullStudy_ESAVeterans_UnderEmbargo.pdf)
- **Veteran Suicide Data and Reporting:** [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/data.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp)
- **VA Gaming Partner War Room:** <https://americanlegion.gg/va-gaming-partner-war-room/>
- **ALG Veterans & Video Games Foundation:** <https://americanlegion.gg/alg-veterans-video-games-foundation/>

**LEGION.ORG - NATIONAL COVERAGE OF AMERICAN LEGION GAMING**

- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/community/2024/may/legionnaires-active-duty-sailors-connect-via-gaming>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/community/2024/august/american-legion-gaming-takes-root-in-california>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veteran-support/2025/may/unit-283-awarded-10k-grant-for-video-game-systems-in-veteran-facilities>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/be-the-one/2025/january/legionnaire-wants-to-use-gaming-as-a-way-to-be-the-one>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/membership/2022/september/power-and-potential-of-gaming-on-full-display>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/be-the-one/2024/july/a-new-way-to-be-the-one-post-to-use-gaming-to-reach-struggling-veterans>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/membership/2025/january/post-hopes-new-gaming-stations-can-assist-in-mental-health-arena>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/troops/2025/april/gaming-setups-provided-for-national-guardsmen-assisting-with-palisades-fire-relief-efforts>

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Adjutant Sam Flores

Department California

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- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/newsletters/2024/august/post-hoping-gaming-can-serve-as-stepping-stone-for-younger-veterans-in-the-legion>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2024/june/alaska-post-13-connects-veterans-youth-through-gaming>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/newsletters/2023/july/legion-now-sponsoring-veteran-gaming-community>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/fodpal/2023/september/connecting-in-the-great-frontier>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/convention/2022/july/gaming-event-to-take-place-during-national-convention>
- <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/veterans-benefits/2022/february/american-legion-helps-bring-veterans-benefits-info-to-gaming-community>

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## REGULATIONS

Based on the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its October 1956 meeting, the following regulations have been established for the procedure of Convention Resolutions:

1. Each must emanate from a department after favorable action or from the National Executive Committee, or from any convention standing or special committee. Resolutions submitted in advance of the convention by departments and the National Executive Committee shall be filed with the national adjutant, who shall refer them to the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.
2. The national adjutant shall maintain a convention register of all resolutions received, assigned and processed which shall identify each resolution by number, indicating the committee to which the resolution was referred and the originating source.

In submitting resolutions, the following points should be carefully observed:

- a. A resolution shall deal with only one subject. Do not attempt to deal with more than one subject in the RESOLVING clauses.
- b. All local RESOLVING clauses are to be omitted, substituting therein a clause resolving national action, i.e. the resolution as submitted should be worded for the National Convention as follows:

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Tampa, Florida, August 26, 27, 28, 2025, That —**

If the resolving clause is not stated as above (using convention business session dates) it necessitates having to re-write the resolution to show the proper resolving clause.

- c. Each resolution is to be worded in full, including all WHEREAS clauses as well as the RESOLVING clauses.
  - d. Each resolution is to be signed in black ink and the originating source clearly typewritten or indicated, unless it is submitted as a computer file. Then the originating source is to be placed in the footer of the form.
3. In accordance with Resolution No. 21, adopted by the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled on May 4-5, 2016, each resolution should be supported by the identification of the individual or group originating the resolution, and also by a written statement or brief containing the supporting arguments in favor of the action sought, and clearly establishing the material relevance of the subject to the purpose for which The American Legion was formed.
  4. In accordance with Resolution No. 50, adopted by the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled on May 5-6, 1965, resolutions adopted by departments and destined for consideration by the National Convention shall be forwarded to the national adjutant, to be in his hands fourteen (14) days prior to the opening session of the National Convention. The only exception to this provision shall be in instances where Department Conventions are held at such time that it becomes physically impossible to comply with this provision, in which instances, the resolutions shall be forwarded to the national adjutant immediately upon the adjournment of the Department Convention.
  5. The National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee may return through and with the consent of the secretary of the National Convention to the source, inappropriate or non-germane resolutions that may be resubmitted, when corrected, to the National Executive Committee or National Convention by the originator. Inappropriate or non-germane resolutions include, but are not limited to: Convention resolutions (1) containing more than one subject, (2) calling for or requiring the expenditure of funds, (3) containing personal attacks or derogatory characterizations, (4) outside the purview, (5) not pertinent or inappropriate for action by the National Convention or (6) unclear and undocumented. Deficient resolutions, once corrected, in order to be reconsidered, need to be resubmitted to the National Convention or National Executive Committee as provided in the National Constitution & By-Laws.