

Female Legends and Challengermode launch esports league for women

A European esports league for women is being launched in the games League of Legends and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. It is the gaming platform Challengermode and the non-profit esports organization Female Legends who joins forces to launch Womens Esports League (WEL), starting in early 2019. The goal? That the league won't be needed in the future.

The competitive environment for women in esports is often very hard and unforgiving. The focus is often on gender rather than performance, and many times women receive hatred and harassment. The goal with the league is to create a safe place for women to develop, where they can compete without having people focusing on their gender.

- Challengermode's main focus is to make esports available to everyone. We do this through various league systems, for example national leagues, leagues for schools and more. Creating the conditions for young women to play, socialize and compete in a hate free and equal environment is a natural step for us. - Johan Bengtsson, Head of Sales and Partnership, Challengermode

The league is filling a gap where women can compete and develop together, without having to worry about bad treatment. Since there are no physical conditions for men and women not to compete together, the goal is that the league in the future should not be needed. This presupposes that the culture and jargon in esports becomes more inclusive, welcoming everyone to participate in mixed leagues and tournaments.

- We are constantly working to make esports more inclusive and equal. Just as with our esports community, we have the same goal for this league, that we in the future see no need for it to exist. We want everyone to be able to compete together on equal terms, without harassment and hate" says Olivia Mattsson, responsible for the tournaments at Female Legends.

The league starts in early 2019, but before that two prequalifications will be conducted for placement in the different divisions. During the first season the prize pool will be SEK 50,000 (5000 EUR) but the ambition is to gradually increase for each season as the league grows.

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