

WHAT IS ROCKET LEAGUE ?

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www.pegi.info

Rocket League is a videogame that bridges the gap between car racing, sport matches, and gladiator fights. To put it simply, it's rocket-powered cars playing an intense game of football. These customisable vehicles (ranging from souped-up racers to famous vehicles like the Batmobile) are called 'battle-cars'. Players use their battle-cars to perform tricks, trigger explosions, and activate 'boosts' that help them hit the ball and score.

This game has a PEGI rating of 3 and is popular with children, young people, and adults. Rocket League is playable on Windows, PlayStation, Xbox, and the Nintendo Switch. Cross-platform play is also available, which means gamers can play this game with friends who own different consoles. There is also a mobile version called 'Rocket League Sideswipe'.



This free online game can be played on almost any console – it has nearly 6 million players per day! However, as it is played primarily online, children and young people could be exposed to various risks.








PERSUASIVE DESIGN

Games like Rocket League are designed to keep your child hooked. It's designed to look fun in an explosive, attention-grabbing way with bright colours, cool music, pop culture icons, and a simple directive to appeal to a wide age range and gaming capability. This could mean that leaving the platform or taking breaks could be difficult for a child or young person.



TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING THE YOUNG GAMER IN YOUR HOME SAFER

-  Get involved! Don't be afraid to make your own account and play Rocket League to see how it works and understand what the child in your care is playing. You can set clear boundaries on screen time limits within your household.
-  Explain good sportsmanship to your child. If necessary, remind them that the main point of videogames like Rocket League is to have fun. Encourage resilience by using phrases like 'Good Game!' or actions like high fives, regardless of the game's outcome.
-  There is live, unmoderated text chat that happens between players. Show children in your care how to mute their chat settings and report problematic players. This will help make the environment safer for your child, as well as prevent strangers from contacting them.
-  Advise children to never share any personal information with other players, even friends, like the names of any clubs they attend.
-  Make sure children in your care know to ask for your permission before purchasing anything while gaming. Suggest using pocket money as a way for them to learn the value of money.



BULLYING AND TROLLING

Rocket League has a reputation for being a 'toxic environment' for gamers. There are multiple reports of rude players filling text chats with inappropriate and offensive language, and some have even begun to use the Quick Chat feature to spam other players with sarcastic messages (i.e. sending "Nice shot!" when a player misses).



EMOTIONAL REACTIVITY

As with any competitive game, especially one that involves teamwork, there is a chance that a bad match could frustrate and upset a child or young person playing the game. This may be harder for younger players to release, and could impact their offline mood or behaviour through outbursts, sulking, or fixation.



PARENTAL CONTROLS

Rocket League does not currently have any parental controls, though they have announced future plans to integrate them into the game. Parental controls can instead be added through the platform the game is played on. This makes it trickier to access for an individual game, but does ensure the settings are in place for other games.



SPENDING

Epic Games is known for advertising lucrative 'package deals' that include special items avid gamers will want to have. For gamers playing Rocket League, the temptation to purchase is always present, especially if they play alongside other gamers who have bought premium items.



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