

DREAMHACK

ESL Gaming Announces Return of the Northern League of Legends Championship

Northern Europe's Top League of Legends Tournament Will Return in January 2021

STOCKHOLM/COLOGNE/NEW YORK — [ESL Gaming](#) today announced the return of the [Northern League of Legends Championship](#) (NLC) in 2021, beginning with the start of the Spring Split on January 19, 2021. The Spring Split will feature a total of 1 million SEK in prize money and support to the participating teams.

NLC launched earlier this year as the new Northern European Tournament in Riot Games' highly-popular, competitive, and fast-paced, action-strategy game, operated by ESL Gaming through the DreamHack brand. The inaugural season, which was completed in August 2020, was won by Fnatic Rising as they defeated the Norwegian team Riddle Esports in a thrilling grand final. Both teams have now returned to fight for the title and the chance to compete in the European Masters alongside the top teams from other European League of Legends leagues.

2021 NLC Dates

- **January 19, 2021:** The NLC 2021 Spring Split begins with a group stage spanning across five weeks of competition.
 - All participating teams will play two games per week, with live broadcasts available Tuesday through Thursday at 7 pm CET each day.
- **March 2-21 2021:** Four teams from each group will advance to playoffs, March 2-21 2021.
- **March 22-24, 2021:** The relegation series, where the top two teams from the Telia Esports Series Masters are set to face off with the two lowest ranked teams from the NLC.
 - The two winning teams of the relegation series will secure their spots in the NLC 2021 Summer Split.

The NLC is supported by a competitive ecosystem built on Telia Esports Series national leagues in Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden as well as the ESL Gaming-operated UKLC in the UK and Ireland, and the Iceland Open.

The NLC ecosystem allows highly-talented, competitive players from across the region to flourish on home soil and creates a pathway for amateur players to join the professional ranks. It also gives League of Legends fans an opportunity to get behind the best players the region has to offer, engaging with local tournaments and broadcasts.

The Northern League of Legends Championship is the official League of Legends esports organization for the Nordics, UK and Ireland. It is part of the official European Regional League circuit and connects to the European Masters. Full details about the NLC is available on [nlc.gg](#).

NLC Social

- Facebook Page: [NLCid](#)
- Twitter: [@NLCid](#)
- Instagram: [@NLCid](#)
- Twitch: [NLCid](#)

ABOUT ESL GAMING

ESL Gaming is the world's largest esports and gaming lifestyle company. Since 1994, the company has been shaping the industry and leading esports and gaming innovation on a global scale across the most popular video games with numerous online and offline esports competitions, and through premier gaming lifestyle festivals. The company operates high-profile, branded international leagues and tournaments under the ESL Pro Tour, including ESL One, Intel® Extreme Masters, DreamHack Masters, ESL Pro League, and other preeminent, stadium-size tournaments. ESL Gaming also produces and hosts DreamHack Open tournaments, ESL National Championships, grassroots amateur cups, matchmaking systems, and DreamHack's gaming lifestyle festivals — which feature everything gaming under one roof. ESL Gaming is part of MTG, the leading international digital entertainment group. More information is available at [about.eslgaming.com](#).

ABOUT LEAGUE OF LEGENDS ESPORTS LEAGUES

[League of Legends](#) is a premier global sport with over a dozen professional esports leagues, 113 professional teams, and over 850 salaried athletes worldwide, overseen and operated by Riot Games. League of Legends esports games are broadcast live to millions of fans in 18 different languages across the globe, with viewership of the regular season averaging 50 million hours-watched live, week-over-week worldwide.