



## World's Top Call of Duty Teams Converge Today in Los Angeles to Kick-off Third Annual Call of Duty Championship, Presented by Xbox

*32 Professional Teams From Around the Globe Compete for \$1 Million Playing Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare*

*The Call of Duty Championship, presented by Xbox Will be Livestreamed Worldwide on Xbox Live, [CallofDuty.com](http://CallofDuty.com), MLG.tv*

*Tournament's Final Match Livestream Starts Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. (PDT)*

*Professional Football Players Golden Tate and Demaryius Thomas Lead All-Star Teams in Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare Celebrity Pro Am Exhibition for Call of Duty Endowment*

SANTA MONICA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- It's time to determine who's the best *Call of Duty*® team in the world with the start of the third annual **Call of Duty® Championship, presented by Xbox**, the biggest eSports first person action tournament of the year. Beginning today through Sunday, in Los Angeles, Activision Publishing, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Activision Blizzard (Nasdaq: [ATVI](http://ATVI)) and development studio Sledgehammer Games, in partnership with Xbox, welcome 32 of the most accomplished *Call of Duty®: Advanced Warfare* multiplayer professional teams from around the world to compete head-to-head on Xbox One, the all-in one games and entertainment system from Microsoft, for the honor of being named the "Call of Duty World Champions," and their share of the tournament's \$1 million total prize purse.

Fans can tune-in to every thrilling, adrenaline-pumping moment through livestreamed coverage on Xbox Live, [CallofDuty.com](http://CallofDuty.com), and at [MLG.tv](http://MLG.tv), as well as select editorial partners worldwide. Culminating on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the tournament's final match livestream starts at 2:00 p.m. (PDT) on the Xbox Live Dashboard (in participating regions).

Fans tuning into the **Call of Duty Championship, presented by Xbox** livestream on Sunday will also see the world premiere of live gameplay from the upcoming **Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare Ascendance** DLC pack and a new trailer for **Infected**, the next episode of Exo Zombies. **Ascendance** is the definitive DLC package, with its four new, thrilling multiplayer maps, the formidable OHM directed energy light machine gun/shotgun hybrid, the OHM Werewolf custom variant, the all-new Exo Grapple ability playlist that introduces the Exo Grapple ability to multiplayer, and **Infected**, the latest installment of Exo Zombies. **Ascendance** will be available first on Xbox Live on March 31.

"We have an amazing Call of Duty community. From those who like to just have fun playing with their friends, to those who like to compete at the highest level at the Call of Duty Championship. It's a testament to our development teams that they can create an experience, which is so fun for everyone to play and watch," said Rob Kostich, senior vice president, Call of Duty, Activision Publishing, Inc. "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare takes center stage this weekend, as the top players from around the globe showcase their incredible skill. The best four-player teams are here to compete head-to-head in intense objective-based game modes all weekend long, and we can't wait to see all the action and see who takes it all."

These 32 teams from 5 continents and 11 countries around the world have trained extensively over the past several months playing *Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare*, winning their respective regional competitions in qualifying events conducted by the professional competitive gaming organizations of Major League Gaming (MLG), Gfinity, and the Australian Cyber League (ACL). Teams like Exile5.T1 Dotters from Australia, European Champions, TCM Gaming from the UK and SSOF Gaming from Brazil, will compete against such notable teams from North America as Optic Gaming, Team EnVy and Team Kaliber.

The **Call of Duty Championship, presented by Xbox** begins with round-robin style pool play among eight groups of four teams. The top two teams from each group will advance to a 16-team double elimination bracket, where the team that places first will take home \$400,000 of the tournament's \$1 million dollar total prize pool. The remaining seven teams will each take home prizes ranging from \$200,000 for second place to \$25,000 for eighth place. Further details on the 2015 **Call of Duty Championship, presented by Xbox**, including full rules and regulations, **Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare** maps and modes for the tournament, livestream information, prize distribution and more are available at <https://CallofDuty.com/esports>.

In addition to the hotly-anticipated tournament competition, professional football players Golden Tate and Demaryius Thomas will each lead a team made up of a professional eSports player, an internet personality and a fan picked right from the audience, in an exhibition grudge match for the Call of Duty™ Endowment. The teams will go head-to-head playing new maps from the upcoming **Ascendance** DLC pack. The winning team will have a \$100,000 donation made in their name to the Endowment and its continued effort in helping veterans return to the workforce.

**Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare** is available for Xbox One, the all-in-one games and entertainment system from Microsoft, and the Xbox 360 games and entertainment system from Microsoft, and is rated "M" (Mature - Blood and Gore, Drug Reference, Intense Violence and Strong Language - content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older) by the ESRB. For more information, please visit [www.CallofDuty.com/advancedwarfare](http://www.CallofDuty.com/advancedwarfare), [www.facebook.com/CallofDuty](https://www.facebook.com/CallofDuty), or follow on Twitter [@SHGames](https://twitter.com/SHGames).

### **About Major League Gaming (MLG)**

MLG is the leader in eSports delivering premium gaming content to viewers through its streaming platform - MLG.tv and promoting eSports globally through premier competition. MLG.tv is one of the fastest growing broadcast networks worldwide reaching 20 million highly-engaged fans each month via web, mobile, connected TVs, gaming consoles and social media. MLG pioneered the eSports industry as the longest-running competitive gaming league in North America and through Gamebattles, the largest cross platform online gaming tournament system with 9 million registered users. For more information: [www.mlg.tv](http://www.mlg.tv).

### **About Gfinity**

Formed by gamers with the backing of successful investors, Gfinity was created to help push eSports within the UK to a professional level, to raise awareness and to provide an arena for gamers to showcase their talent. Gfinity was launched as a company in early 2013 and plans were immediately set in motion to deliver events unlike any that had been seen in European eSports before it. For more information on Gfinity, please visit <http://www.gfinity.net/>, and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/Gfinity) for the latest updates.

### **About Australian Cyber League**

The Australian Cyber League (ACL) established Australia's first and only national circuit for gaming. Founded in 2006, ACL operates the most prestigious live gaming events for competitive titles across both console and PC platforms. Known for top quality production, ACL has been pioneering the broadcast practices of eSports in Australia, delivering engaging livestreamed content from events into the homes of gaming fans.

### **About Activision Publishing, Inc.**

Headquartered in Santa Monica, California, Activision Publishing, Inc. is a leading global producer and publisher of interactive entertainment. Activision maintains operations throughout the world. More information about Activision and its products can be found on the company's website, [www.activision.com](http://www.activision.com) or by following @Activision.

### **About the Call of Duty Endowment**

The Call of Duty Endowment is a non-profit, public benefit corporation conceived by Bobby Kotick, CEO of Activision Blizzard. The Endowment supports organizations that provide job placement services to veterans. Since its founding, the Endowment has donated over \$11 million to place more than 9,000 veterans into good jobs. For more information about the Call of Duty Endowment, please visit [www.callofdutyendowment.org](http://www.callofdutyendowment.org).

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