

Speedgaming Commentary Guidelines, Tips and Hints

Pre-race Setup

- A relatively good quality microphone. No static while you are speaking and it easily picks up your voice without cutting out mid sentence
- Headphones so your mic doesn't pick up game audio or your co-commentators
- Your discord set up with either push to talk or push to mute with about a 250 ms delay to prevent cutoffs
 - Background audio can happen at any time, by using push to talk you reduce the chance of it coming through on restream
 - Push to talk also gives you co commentator a signal that you want to say something by the microphone indicator in discord
- A knowledge of the game being run on stream
 - It doesn't necessarily have to be encyclopedic knowledge of the game mode run, but there is an expectation that you will be familiar with the goal and strategies.
- When you sign up to commentate a race you are agreeing that you are available for the entire scheduled broadcast time. If you are not certain that you will be available advise a volunteer/admin that you will need your sign up removed.

Before The Race

- In order to get an invite for the commentary discord you'll need to be in a server with our Bot. Speedgaming hosted tournaments usually have a bot in their discord, but the best way to guarantee an invite is to join our public Discord
 - <https://discord.gg/SpeedGaming>
- Confirm with the runners how they pronounce their screen names as well as their preferred pronouns
- Open the Commentary control links that the bot sent you in the same message with the commentary discord invite
- The Commentary stream is in the LIVE ON-AIR discord channel broadcast by our "restream" bot - once you click "watch", you will be moved to the LIVE ON-AIR area and anything you say will be broadcast to twitch
 - Please wait in SETUP until the setup helper says you are ok to move to LIVE ON-AIR
 - The Commentary stream is a few seconds ahead of the Twitch stream, do not watch the actual Twitch Stream
 - The commentary stream occasionally has some audio distortion, please ignore it, it will go away in a few seconds, and it does not reflect the audio on the actual twitch stream
- In the SETUP area of the commentary discord chat with your co commentator to warm up your voice and give our setup helper a sample to balance your audio
 - This also gives you a chat to get to know your co-commentator if you've never commed with them before

- Ask each other about your experience with the game, who prefers to do color commentary vs. play by play and who wants to lead off the intros

During The Race

- You will get a second discord message from the bot once the setup helper switches the layout to the LIVE format. This is your cue to move yourself up into LIVE ON AIR
 - As long as you are in this channel anything you say will be broadcast on the SpeedGaming channel
- SpeedGaming is a family friendly network - no cursing, no lewd or explicit content.
 - **Absolutely NO racist, homophobic, transphobic, abelist, sexual, or gender based slurs.**
 - Please avoid references to intoxication by drugs or alcohol.
 - Avoid the use of the word “sucide” for intentional death warp, please be careful with using words that are not part of the game’s mechanics and language as these can be confusing for new viewers.
 - Avoid inside jokes and meme responses that those outside the community may not know
- People come to SpeedGaming as a break from the real world, please keep references to current events to a minimum
 - Real life news and tragedies distract from the race and the runners
 - SpeedGaming VODs can be available on youtube years after the race has occurred - keep in mind certain references can quickly become dated.
- Be respectful to the runners and your co commentators - this may seem like common sense but it can be easy to accidentally use phrasing that you’d use in casual discussions. Some things to keep in mind
 - Discriminatory language is not permitted and insulting runners, co comms, volunteers, staff members, or viewers may result in an immediate ban from commentating
 - Do not accuse runners of cheating, even as a joke.
- Avoid talking about races that are occurring at the same time as viewers may be intending to watch these races later back. A good rule of thumb is to avoid talking about results that are in the same stage of the tournament unless they have a direct impact on the current race.
 - This includes talking about off stream runners, particularly in randomizers where other progression may have already been found.
- Keep in mind that the runners are the stars of the show, talk about what they are doing, explain any glitches or tricks they are doing, talk about what they’re doing well and what needs improvement
 - Sometimes a personal anecdote about a situation the runners are in is applicable, but keep it on topic
- The !r command in chat will post the runners twitch links - encourage everyone to follow the runners, the !c command will post your co comm and tracker twitch links as well.

- Make the commentary a conversation with your co-commentator - ask each other questions about how the runners are doing, how they're feeling and what they should be focusing on
- Interact with twitch chat in a positive way - answer questions that they bring up and let them know about cool or interesting things to watch for

After The Race

- When a runner has finished on stream either you or a tracker can press "done" on the commentator controls to mark them as a finisher on stream and send them a post-race interview invite.
- Congratulate the runner on their race and ask for their thoughts about the run.
- Ask them any questions that might have come up during the run, like how they dealt with a particularly difficult section, or how they recovered after a death
- Once the other racer(s) have finished or forfeited, you can send them invites as well. Be sure to congratulate them and give them as much attention as the winner if possible.
- If the episode is running long, SpeedGaming staff or volunteers may ask you to wrap up early, and a full interview with all finishers may not be possible. Please still be certain to thank the runners and plug their twitch links.
- Once you sign off, either you or the tracker can press "episode finished" to end the episode and close the stream