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PS4: Age ratings and parental controls

This article will help you to find out about age ratings and parental controls for PlayStation 4 games, PlayStation Mobile games, films and online play.

There are six things you need to learn about as a parent:

1. [Age Ratings for Video Games in your country](#) so that you only buy games that are appropriate for your children
2. [Age Ratings for PlayStation®Mobile in your country](#) so that you know whether your children can use the app
3. [Age Ratings for Films in your country](#) so that you know which films your children can watch on Video Unlimited
4. [PlayStation®4 System Parental controls](#) so that you're able to control what your children can access from the PS4 system
5. [PlayStation®Network Parental controls](#) so that you can control what your children can access online and set up sub-accounts for each child
6. [Some important Safety Tips](#) to help you get started and monitor your child's activity on PS4 and online

By checking age ratings and using the parental controls, you can help make sure your child is not exposed to inappropriate content and behaviour online. Take control and make your child's PlayStation experience fun and safe in just a few simple steps.

Age ratings

Many games and films are suitable for all ages, but you should always check the rating and descriptors before buying PS4 products from a shop or allowing your child to download PS4 content from PlayStation Store.

How age ratings work

Most PS4 content is rated by an independent ratings body. This is because PS4 games and films may contain content like violence, nudity or graphic sexual images, which may only be suitable for people above a certain age.

Age ratings are usually given as a number, which tells you the youngest age the content is suitable for. A game or film with a 12 rating has content which is suitable only for people aged 12 years and over, and a game or film with an 18 rating is suitable for adults only.

Some age rating systems also display small pictures called descriptors. These show the types of content appearing in the product which may concern parents or carers, for example, bad language or violence. The higher the age rating of the product, the stronger this content will be. Depending on the product, there may be more than one descriptor.

Descriptors will also tell you if a game can be played online against other players.

Learn about specific age ratings for products available for your PS4 below.

Age ratings for video games

Age ratings for games have nothing to do with the difficulty or playability of the game. The age ratings that apply in your country are listed below.

The following applies to Europe (except Germany, the Middle East, India and Africa)

Pan-European Games Information (PEGI) The PEGI age ratings are:



In Portugal they are:



The PEGI rating system also displays small pictures called **descriptors**. These show the types of content appearing in the product which may concern parents or carers.

The PEGI descriptors are:

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For further information, visit www.pegi.info.

Germany

Unterhaltungssoftware Selbstkontrolle (USK)

In German, the USK ratings are:



For further information, visit <http://www.usk.de/>.

Russia

In Russia, the PCBP age ratings apply, they are:



Australia and New Zealand

Classification Board (Australia) and Office For Film And Literature Classification (New Zealand)

The age ratings in Australia and New Zealand are:

Australia



New Zealand



- A "G" game is suitable for everyone.
- A "PG" game is suitable for children, but parental guidance is recommended.
- An "M" game is recommended for mature audiences.

These ratings are a guide only. A game rated "M" or under will have the Australian Classification Board rating symbol in New Zealand. Otherwise, it will display one of the New Zealand rating symbols above.

The rating will also have descriptions of the type of content appearing in each game, such as "MILD COARSE LANGUAGE" or "MILD VIOLENCE".

For further information, visit <http://www.classification.gov.au> (for Australia) or <http://www.censorship.govt.nz> (for New Zealand).

Age ratings for PlayStation Mobile

Many PlayStation Mobile applications (not available in all countries) will have PEGI age ratings. Others will have these advisory age ratings:



This rating system also displays small pictures called descriptors. These show the types of content appearing in the product which may concern parents or carers.

The PlayStation Mobile descriptors are:

						
Violence/ Crime	Strong Language	Fear	Sex/ Romance	Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco	Gambling	Online

Age ratings for films

These are the age ratings that apply for Video Unlimited (not available in all countries).

Australia



France



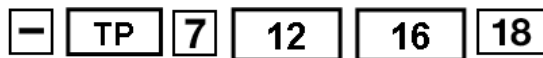
Germany



Italy



Spain



United Kingdom



Parental controls

Use parental controls to manage your child's experience when using the PS4 system and going online.

How parental controls work on PS4

There are two types of parental controls:

- **PS4 system parental controls**
These help make sure your child can only play or view games, non-game apps and films suitable for their age
- **Sony Entertainment Network controls**
These help manage your child's online activity.

Set both types of parental controls before you let your child use the PS4 system for the first time. You can temporarily override the settings at any time to allow an older child or an adult to watch or play.

Your child can enjoy products for the PS4 system without ever going online. But many of the products offer online features, and some will not work without them. If you want your child to be able to use online features, make sure they use a Sony Entertainment Network sub account with the appropriate parental controls set up.

Advise your child how to stay safe online and talk to them about their experiences.

PS4 system parental controls

To switch off or change the parental controls, you will need a four-digit passcode. When you set the parental controls for the first time, use the default passcode 0000.

Change your passcode immediately by simply selecting **"Settings"** from the **Function Area** and then selecting **"Parental Controls"**. Choose **"Restrict use of PS4 features"** and finally select **"Change passcode"**.

Do not share the passcode with your child.

Content control for games, PlayStation Mobile and films

Games or films you buy on disc or from PlayStation Store may not be appropriate for everyone in your household. The PS4 system controls use age ratings to help prevent access to content that is not suitable for children, including

- games
- applications
- films

It is not possible to set different parental controls for each user of the PS4 system, so always set the parental controls to suit the youngest child in your home. You can adjust them temporarily at any time to allow viewing by an adult or an older child, but remember to reset them to ensure your youngest child only sees content appropriate for their age.

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Games

To make sure your child only has access to suitably rated game content, simply select **“Settings” from the Function Area and then choose “Parental Controls”, followed by “Restrict use of PS4 features” and then “Application”**. The default control is 9, which equates to content that is suitable for people aged 18 and over (16 in New Zealand). Change it to suit the age of the youngest child using the PS4 system in your home. See below for guidance on how the parental control setting numbers relate to different age groups.

Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa

Player's Age	Under 3	3-6	7-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	2	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating						

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 5. This means that your child will be able to play games age rated 12 and below.

Portugal

Player's Age	Under 4	4-5	6-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	2	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating						

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 5. This means that your child will be able to play games age rated 12 and below.

Germany

Player's Age	Under 6	6-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating					

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 5. This means that your child will be able to play games age rated 12 and below.

Russian Federation

Player's Age	Under 6	6-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating					

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 5. This means that your child will be able to play

games age rated 12 and below.

Australia

Player's Age	Under 8	8-14	15-17	15-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating					

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 3. This means that your child will be able to play games age rated PG and below.

New Zealand

Player's Age	Under 8	8-12	13-15	16 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating				

The Australian Classification Board advises that a PG game is not recommended for playing by persons under 15 without guidance from parents or guardians.

In many cases, the Australian age ratings for games are used in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Office of Film & Literature Classification states that M is recommended for mature audiences 16 years and over. So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 7. This means that your child will be able to play PS4 games age rated Restricted 13 and below.

Applications for PlayStation Mobile

You can make sure your child only has access to applications with a suitable age rating for PlayStation Mobile products (not available in all countries) – simply choose **“Settings” in the Function Area** and then choose **“Parental Controls”**, followed by **“Restrict use of PS4 features”** and then **“Application”**.

For ALL COUNTRIES

Player's Age	Under 3	3-6	7-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	2	3	5	7	9
Highest appropriate game age rating						

So if your child is 13, set the parental control on your console to level 5. This means that your child will be able to play games age rated 12 and below.

Films

You can set parental controls to make sure your child only has access to suitably rated film content on PS4 (not available in all countries).

To set parental controls for films on Blu-Ray Disc simply choose **“Settings” in the Function Area** then **“Parental Controls”**, then **“Restrict use of PS4 features”** and then **“Blu-ray Disc”**,

To set parental controls for films on DVD simply choose **“Settings” in the Function Area** then **“Parental Controls”**, then **“Restrict use of PS4 features”** and then **“DVD”**.

The default setting will allow all DVDs and Blu-ray Discs to play until it is changed.

To set parental controls for film content downloaded from the PS4 video service in your country, simply choose **“Settings” in the Function Area** then **“Parental Controls”**, then **“Restrict use of PS4 features”** and then **“Application”**. See below for guidance on how the parental control setting numbers relate to different age groups.

For AUSTRALIA

Viewer's Age	Under 8	8-14	15-17	15-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	7	9	10

Highest appropriate game age rating					
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The Australian Classification Board advises that a PG game is not recommended for playing by persons under 15 without guidance from parents or guardians.

France

Viewer's Age	Under 10	10-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	4	5	8	10
Highest appropriate game age rating	U				

Germany

Viewer's Age	Under 6	6-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	8	10
Highest appropriate game age rating					

Italy

Viewer's Age	Under 14	14-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	6	10
Highest appropriate game age rating			

Spain

Viewer's Age	Under 7	7-11	12-15	16-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	8	10
Highest appropriate game age rating					

United Kingdom

Viewer's Age	Under 8	8-11	12-14	15-17	18 and over
PS4 parental control setting	1	3	5	7	10
Highest appropriate game age rating					

Internet browser

You can restrict access to the Internet Browser to prevent your child using the internet through your PS4. This will not prevent launch of some applications which use the internet.

To restrict access, just select "Settings" in the Function Area and then choose "Parental Controls" followed by "Restrict use of PS4 features" and finally "Internet Browser".

PlayStation Network parental controls

Many PS4 games, apps and other types of content offer online features. To use these, you may need a Sony Entertainment Network account.

There are two types of Sony Entertainment Network account:

- Master account for a user of 18 years and over.
- Sub account for a user who is under 18.

Always create a sub account for your child so you can supervise their activities, as well as set appropriate controls, such as spending limits.

You will need to create a master account first, and then create the sub account. Make sure each person using your PS4

system has their own account with settings appropriate for their age.

When you first use your PS4 system you will be prompted to create a Sony Entertainment Network account. To do this, go to **“Settings” in the Function Area, then choose “PlayStation®Network” followed by “Sign in to PSN”**. You can choose to do this later if you prefer.

Always enter an accurate date of birth for your child.

When you enter your child's date of birth, you will be prompted to create a master account for yourself and then a sub account for your child.

Follow the instructions to set the parental controls (described below).

If you already have a master account and want to create a sub account for your child, or you want to adjust the parental controls on their sub account, simply select: **“Settings” in the Function Area and then choose “Parental Controls” followed by “Restrict Use of PS4 Features” and then “Sub Account Management”**.

Alternatively, you can create an account on a PC at account.sonyentertainmentnetwork.com (playstation.com/registration) by choosing the “Create Account” option.

Sub accounts are always associated with a master account. The master account holder controls the sub account's settings, including the parental controls.

If your child is chatting, sharing or buying online, teach them these safety tips:

- Always tell the truth about your age online.
- Make sure you know who you are talking to. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.
- Remember you can be recorded on a webcam.
- Keep your personal information private (name, age, address, phone number, school). Don't put your personal information in an online username.
- Be polite.
- Only share photos that are appropriate. Would you show them to your parents or teacher?
- Only share photos with people you can trust. Photos can easily be shared on the internet without you knowing.
- Block people who upset you or make you feel uncomfortable. Talk to an adult about it.
- Don't buy anything without your parent's permission.

Sub account parental controls

PlayStation Network automatically prevents a sub account holder from seeing or buying content on PlayStation Store that has an age rating not suitable for them. It also stops them going online to play a game with an unsuitable age rating. The other important parental controls available for sub accounts must be set by the parent. Consider whether these controls are appropriate for your child. You can edit them at any time.

What the parent can do	Explanation	How to set the controls
Make it safer for the child to use the internet.	Activate the PS4 system's web filtering software. This can help prevent access to dangerous or harmful websites. (1)	Press the OPTIONS button while using the Internet browser, and then select [Settings] > [Security] > [Only available in Japan].
Prevent online chat and user-generated media.	Prevent your child from using text chat, voice chat, video chat and other messaging with other PlayStation Network users within games, apps or via the PS4 system software. A child will still be able to: a) send and receive uneditable, pre-determined text messages created by a game or app; b) create and see other users' in-game character names, designs and clan titles; c) use communication services via the internet browser unless specifically disabled. Please use the grief reporting system to report offensive or inappropriate behaviour or content. Prevent your child from posting or viewing user-generated content (including photos, videos, drawings, and content imported from outside sources) with other PS4 system users. User-generated media includes content created or imported by users in games, apps and PS4 system software. This will not prevent video capture of your child's online gameplay. These controls may not prevent your child accessing certain PS4 system applications, and do not prevent use of PlayStation®Network group messaging to send and receive friend requests and game invites.	Go to: “Settings” in the Function Area, then choose “Parental Controls” followed by “PSN Sub Account Management” When prompted, enter the passcode for the master account. The default setting is to block chat and user-generated media and to set a spending limit of 0.
Prevent access to content available on PlayStation Store based on age.	Prevent your child from seeing or downloading any content from PlayStation Store which is not suitable for their age. When your child first registers for PlayStation Network, a check is made between the age rating of the content and the age of the child. This control is automatic in some regions. Once content has been downloaded from PlayStation Store to the PS4 system, children may still be able to access the content if the parental control level on the PS4 system is not set.	
Set a	Your child's sub account can spend funds from your master account's Sony Entertainment Network wallet. See Terms of Service at eu.playstation.com/legal for	

spending limit for PlayStation Store.	more information. You can set the maximum amount your child can spend each month on PlayStation Store. (2)	
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(1) May be subject to an extra charge and not available at launch of the PS4 system.

(2) PlayStation Store is only available in certain countries and regions and in certain languages. Also, the types of content and services offered by PlayStation Store vary by country and region. Contact customer support in your country or region for details.

Important safety tips

If your PS4 is used by both children and adults, we recommend following these tips to make sure a child cannot play, view or purchase content unsuitable for their age, or make purchases you have not approved.

- Every time you switch on your PS4, the log in screen will give you the opportunity to create a "New User". Register a user account on the PS4 for each member of your household. That account can then be linked to that user's Sony Entertainment Network (SEN) account. In the case of your child, that should be the SEN Sub-Account you have set up for them. This helps to ensure your child always uses the PS4 with the parental controls you have set for them.
- When the PS4 system is switched on, it automatically displays each PS4 user account. Make sure you do not switch on the "Log In to PS4 Automatically" function ((Settings) in the Function Area [Login Settings]). This function will log any user straight to your PS4 user account whenever the PS4 system is switched on. This ensures your child can only use the SEN Sub-Account you have set up for them.
- The PS4 system automatically signs you in to your SEN account when you log in. Set your PS4 to ask for a passcode at log-in to prevent children using a Sony Network Entertainment master account. To do this, go to: **"Settings" in the Function Area > "Login Settings" > "Passcode Management"**.
- Ensure your child uses only the PS4 user and SEN Sub-Account you have created them by preventing them from registering as a new user or a guest on the PS4. Go to **"Settings" in the Function Area > "Parental Controls" > "Restrict Use of PS4 Features" > "Select [New User] and Log In to PS4" > "Do not allow"**.
- The PS4 system requires a password at checkout for all purchases on PlayStation®Store. Ensure you do not switch off that function: **"Settings" in the Function Area > "PSN" > "Account Information" > "Wallet Menu" > "Purchase Settings"**.

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