StreamGearLab

First Stream Checklist

Page 1 of 2: set up and test. Do the boring checks early so the live part is fun.

One week before: set up

- [ ] Install OBS Studio from obsproject.com. Run the Auto-Configuration Wizard (Tools menu).
- [ ] Pick your platform. Connect it in Settings → Stream.
- [ ] Choose a bitrate that fits your upload (about 75% of your worst speed test).
- [ ] Build the four scenes below. Give each a hotkey (Settings → Hotkeys).
- [ ] Add Noise Suppression to your mic (right-click mic → Filters).
- [ ] Record a 2-minute test. Check voice, game sound and picture.

The four scenes

Scene	What's in it	Mic
Starting Soon	Text card, optional music, countdown	Muted
Main	Game or screen capture, small webcam, alerts on top	On
Just Chatting	Large webcam, chat box	On
BRB / Ending	Static card, “thanks for watching”	Muted

The day before: test everything

- [ ] Test stream (YouTube: Private/Unlisted. Twitch: short test at a quiet hour). Watch on your phone over mobile data.
- [ ] Audio: speech in the upper yellow, just touching the start of the red. Game lower in the yellow. Music and alerts in the green.
- [ ] OBS Stats dock: no dropped or skipped frames climbing.
- [ ] Title, category and tags set. Schedule posted.
- [ ] Past broadcasts (VODs) turned on in platform settings.

Free tool: streamgearlab.com/tools/bitrate-calculator/ gives you a safe bitrate for your upload speed.

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Page 2 of 2: go live, then review. Pick one fix per stream.

30 minutes before: go-live routine

- [ ] Restart the PC. Open only OBS, the game and chat.
- [ ] Ethernet plugged in. Downloads, cloud backups and game updates paused.
- [ ] Do Not Disturb / Focus on. Close windows with email, stream key or personal info.
- [ ] 10-second mic check with a local recording.
- [ ] Water nearby. Starting Soon scene showing before you click Start Streaming.

During the stream

- [ ] Talk even when chat is empty. Explain what you're doing and why.
- [ ] Switch scenes with hotkeys. Don't edit sources live.
- [ ] Add stream markers at good moments (Twitch) so highlights are easy to find.
- [ ] End on purpose: Ending scene → thank people → Stop Streaming.

After: review and fix one thing

Check	What to look for	Where to fix it	Notes
Audio	Voice too quiet against the game, background noise	Audio Mixer, filters	
Video	Blocky motion, dropped frames	Output bitrate, resolution	
Pacing	Long silent stretches	A rough plan of topics	
Discovery	Did the title say what the stream is?	Title and category	

My one fix for next stream

Going for Twitch Affiliate? Log each stream in streamgearlab.com/tools/twitch-affiliate-tracker/