

# Boycott starts as Call of Duty removes Nickmercs skin for anti-Pride comment

Dean Takahashi  
@deantak

June 10, 2023 10:30 AM



Nickmercs has 15 million followers as a celebrity streamer.  
Image Credit: photo credit Justin LeCesne of MFAM, INC

Missed the GamesBeat Summit excitement? Don't worry! Tune in now to catch all of the live and virtual sessions [here](#).

Some fans have started boycotting Call of Duty after Activision removed the virtual skin of popular streamer Nickmercs. The publisher removed his skin bundle after he tweeted about a Pride incident that was interpreted as anti-LGBTQ+.

Want must read news straight to your inbox?

Sign up for GB Daily

Subscribe

[Nickmercs, \(Nick Kolcheff\) a celebrity streamer with 15 million followers, got his own skin](#) in Warzone’s Season 3.5 launch on June 1.

The controversial tweet was reply to esports commentator Chris Puckett, who was commenting on a brawl between pro-LGBTQ+ and anti-LGBTQ+ activists. The fight started over a Pride Month controversy at a California school board hearing.

“Americans are in a sad place right now,” Puckett wrote regarding the brawl footage. “Leave Our Kids Alone” t-shirts taking swings at pro-LGBTQ+ activists. “Let people love who they love and live your own life.”

“They should leave little children alone,” Kolcheff replied, “That’s the real issue.”

**Puckett** #CDL2023 · Jun 7, 2023

@MLGPuckett · [Follow](#)

This happened 4 blocks from my Overwatch League apartment.

Americans are in a sad place right now.  
Let people love who they love and live your own life.

**Brennan Murphy** @brenonade

Anti-LGBT protestors attack Pro-LGBT demonstrators outside of a Glendale, CA schoolboard meeting.

The schoolboard is voting on recognizing June as Pride month.

**FaZe Nickmercs**

@NICKMERCs · [Follow](#)

They should leave little children alone. That’s the real issue.

9:32 AM · Jun 7, 2023

83.3K Reply Share

[Read 5.9K replies](#)

There were comments both in favor and against the removal. [Dr. Disrespect](#), another popular streamer with millions of followers, said he would uninstall Call of Duty in response to Activision removing the skin. Dr. Disrespect, who used to work

at Call of Duty developer Sledgehammer Games, has had his own tangles with controversy over the years, and his company is making its own shooter game as well.

Activision removed of the Nickmercs bundle from both Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 and Warzone 2. The company added, “We are focused on celebrating Pride with our employees and our community.”

In a [livestream](#), Nickmercs said it “wasn’t an anti-gay tweet.” He said the video bothered him as he didn’t think it was a “thing for teachers to talk about.” As new parents, he said that he and his wife “want to be the ones to talk to our kid about things like that.”

ADVERTISEMENT

Nickmercs is one of gaming’s most recognizable streaming personalities. He entertains a passionate audience of followers. He had no qualms about being outspoken and lobbing some motivational grenades at Activision’s Warzone 2 developers. Nickmercs noted he has been playing competitive Apex Legends more recently as he didn’t feel like Warzone was keeping up on the competitive tournament front.

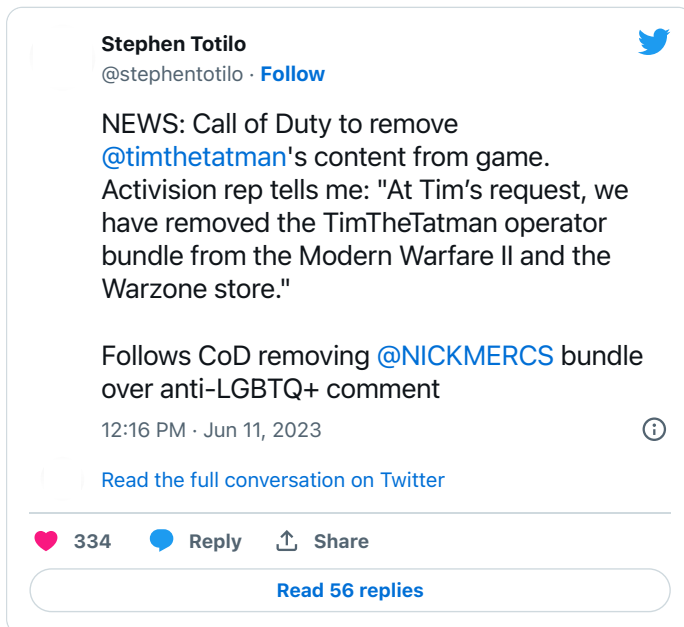
It’s not a light matter for Activision to remove the skin for one streamer, as Nickmercs and TimTheTatMan were the only ones given skins so far (see update below). Nickmercs built a reputation for loud and funny streams where he showed amazing skill at the game. He has played Warzone on stream for over 2,500 hours and has recorded 108,000 hours of viewership for the title. His stream peaked at 371,000 concurrent viewers during a 2022 new map reveal stream — the most ever for the franchise. He also won the first-ever Warzone 2 match during Activision’s reveal.

*Updated June 11 12:35* – TimtheTatMan has requested Activision to remove his own operator bundle in response to the controversy.

ADVERTISEMENT



Reports confirm that Activision has honored this request and TimtheTatman's operator bundle has been removed from Call of Duty.



**GamesBeat's creed** when covering the game industry is "where passion meets business." What does this mean? We want to tell you how the news matters to you -- not just as a decision-maker at a game studio, but also as a fan of games. Whether you read our articles, listen to our podcasts, or watch our videos, GamesBeat will help you learn about the industry and enjoy engaging with it. [Discover our Briefings.](#)

# GamesBeat

[Press Releases](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Share a News Tip](#)

[Contribute to DataDecisionMakers](#)

[Careers](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

© 2023 VentureBeat. All rights reserved.