

Speaking as someone who has been gaming since I was only four years old there is only one change I would recommend when it comes to amending how games are classified. That would be what is permissible for an R18+ classification, as it currently stands it's a joke compared to what can be allowed for an R18+ film.

In R18+ films not only is graphic violence permitted but so are sexual themes and drug use where as for games, we've seen games be refused classification on the most flimsy of technicalities. Like Saints Row 4 which was refused classification due to a non interactive story sequence where the characters did fictional drugs made by space aliens, never mind the fact that the second game allowed the player to smoke joints and bongs and was released with an MA15+ no problem. Or the fact that Hotline Miami 2 and the rerelease of Kingdom Come Deliverance were refused classification due to rape sequences, where either it was revealed to be fake or the perpetrator was stopped in time. Despite being made for a mature/adult audience without kids considered in any capacity or are trying to depict historical fact through narrative.

What's more is that in this digital age various games that publishers wouldn't touch can now be released independently, games that exceed the R18+ rating in its current form. Games such as Agony or Lust From Darkness/Beyond, which due to their subject matter and themes explore topics like sex in a purposefully grotesque and at times horrifying manner and this is without bringing up the near infinite number of Japanese visual novel games that can go an almost infinite degree beyond good taste. Which have become more and more readily available through online distribution and niche publishers more than happy to provide official English translations for non Japanese fans.

Ultimately my one recommendation with all of this presented would simply be this, expand the R18+ classification to also include themes and intensity that are not currently allowed but are permissible in other media like film. And to quote a politician whose name escapes me, keep the RC reserved for titles that are so extreme that they wouldn't have passed R18+ even with the expansion, the type of stuff that wouldn't be permitted on store shelves under any circumstance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my recommendation.

Sincerely, Nicholas Trewartha