

## TRANSCRIPT

**So, you want to work in esports – Has your industry changed much in the last 5/10 years and if so, how?**

**LEYLA SABET:**

The Esports industry has changed massively and really rapidly. In 2024, it was actually worth more than the music industry and Hollywood combined. I think COVID played a huge role in helping it grow so quickly with more people watching and engaging. Last year, the prize pool for the Esports World Cup in Riyadh was \$70 million, and it's amazing to see how far it's come from the early days. In the 1970s, the winners of the Spacewar competition won an annual magazine subscription. So it's great to see how far it's come.

There's also been a huge shift in conversations about player well-being, both mental and physical, which shows how much the industry is maturing. What used to be seen as fun gaming is now grown into a legitimate professional industry with a huge ecosystem. And it's only growing