



2017 ARMED FORCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. COMPETITION RULES:

a. Current ASA/USA Softball Rules, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).

b. When the player enters the playing area (actual field of play, not including dugout) with a non-approved bat (any bat not provided by host), the player shall be ejected from the game and all games remaining in tournament. Team bats may be used for infield prior to the game but must be removed from the field of play prior to the first pitch. ASA approved warm-up bats and devises will be provided by the host. All bats will remain on the field of play.

c. Home-Run Rule: The batter and any runners will NOT run the bases on home runs (over the fence). Penalty, first such occurrence, the batter shall be declared out and all runners will return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. Second team occurrence, the batter shall be declared out and all runners will return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch, player is ejected for the remainder of the game.

2. GAME BALL: IAW ASA/USA Softball Rules. Ball to be used is to be publicized by the host service 60 days prior to the Armed Forces Championship. Balls must adhere to ASA/USA Softball specifications (compression and CORE).

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT: Triple round robin.

4. DRAW: As determined by established annual draw.

5. FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: Final team standings are determined by each team's game win record.

6. TIE-BREAKER POLICY: Breaking a tie for first or second place at the conclusion of round-robin play is determined by the following in order:

a. Head-to-Head record between the two tied teams.

b. If three teams are tied for either first or second places, the following tie-breaking policy applies:

(1) Coin toss to determine bye positioning (team with odd coin receives bye).

(2) Two teams play single elimination game, with the winner then immediately playing another single elimination game with team receiving bye.

7. FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL:

a. IAW current IAW ASA/USA Softball Rules. Shoes with metal cleats are not allowed in Armed Forces Softball competition.

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b. The host installation will announce specific ball to be used no later than 60 days prior to the championship.

c. A 3-person officiating system will be utilized provided by Armed Forces Sports through IAW ASA/USA Softball.

d. Bats must adhere to IAW ASA/USA Softball specifications. Participants can bring and use their own bats if they pass the ASA/USA Softball bat test. The host Service must have an ASA/USA Softball bat tester on site. All bats will be inspected and tested by the UIC. If the bat passes, a tamper proof sticker will be placed on it. All bats passing the inspection and test will be collected and stored by the Host Service Tournament Director and only brought out for teams when they are scheduled to play. Officials reserve the right to retest any bat at any time during the tournament. At the conclusion of the game, the bats will be collected and secured until they are needed again.

e. Uniforms. All players shall wear the same competitive uniform, which may include either shorts or pants. Teams may elect to wear shorts or pants, but all players shall be uniform (all shorts or all pants).

f. Host Project Officer shall obtain experienced scorers and statisticians through the local officials association/sources. Local rates will be paid by hosting Service to these individuals.

8. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

a. Day One

Teams Arrive (Travel Day)

Team Practice Sessions (tournament bats visibly unpacked and readily available for each Service)

1830 Organizational Meeting

1930 Informal Ice Breaker*

*Authorized team members must attend the event in their Service polo shirt, coordinated slacks, and appropriate footwear (exceptions may be made dependent on host site letter of instruction). Guests may attend with pre-coordination with the host site and Service representative. Final decision will be based on availability. Guests will assume costs associated with attending the ice breaker. Skits are not authorized.

b. Day Two

0800 Team Photos

Opening Ceremony Rehearsal (Optional)

0830 Opening Ceremony (Optional) – However, the National Anthem must be played prior the opening game played if a ceremony is not conducted. All five Service flags must be displayed if flags are posted.

(HOME TEAM ON THE RIGHT)

Game #1	0900	(M)	ARMY	vs	NAVY
Game #2	Post Game #1	(W)	ARMY	vs	NAVY
Game #3	1200	(M)	USMC	vs	USAF
Game #4	Post Game #3	(W)	USMC	vs	USAF
Game #5	1500	(M)	USMC	vs	ARMY
Game #6	Post Game #5	(W)	USMC	vs	ARMY

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	Game #7	1800	(M)	USAF	vs	NAVY
	Game #8	Post Game #7	(W)	USAF	vs	NAVY
c. <u>Day Three</u>	Game #9	0800	(W)	NAVY	vs	USMC
	Game #10	Post Game #9	(M)	NAVY	vs	USMC
	Game #11	1100	(W)	ARMY	vs	USAF
	Game #12	Post Game #11	(M)	ARMY	vs	USAF
	Game #13	1400	(W)	NAVY	vs	ARMY
	Game #14	Post Game #13	(M)	NAVY	vs	ARMY
	Game #15	1700	(W)	USAF	vs	USMC
	Game #16	Post Game #15	(M)	USAF	vs	USMC
d. <u>Day Four</u>	Game #17	0800	(M)	NAVY	vs	USAF
	Game #18	Post Game #17	(W)	NAVY	vs	USAF
	Game #19	1100	(M)	ARMY	vs	USMC
	Game #20	Post Game #19	(W)	ARMY	vs	USMC
	Game #21	1400	(M)	USAF	vs	ARMY
	Game #22	Post Game #21	(W)	USAF	vs	ARMY
	Game #23	1700	(M)	USMC	vs	NAVY
	Game #24	Post Game #23	(W)	USMC	vs	NAVY
e. <u>Day Five</u>	Game #25	0800	(W)	USMC	vs	USAF*
	Game #26	Post Game #25	(M)	USMC	vs	USAF *
	Game #27	1100	(W)	USAF	vs	NAVY *
	Game #28	Post Game #27	(M)	USAF	vs	NAVY *
	Game #29	1400	(W)	NAVY	vs	ARMY *
	Game #30	Post Game #29	(M)	NAVY	vs	ARMY *
f. <u>Day Six</u>	Game #31	0800	(M)	NAVY	vs	USMC *
	Game #32	Post Game #31	(W)	NAVY	vs	USMC *
	Game #33	1100	(M)	ARMY	vs	USAF *
	Game #34	Post Game #33	(W)	ARMY	vs	USAF *
	Game #35	1400	(M)	ARMY	vs	USMC *
	Game #36	Post Game #35	(W)	ARMY	vs	USMC *

* FLIP FOR HOME TEAM

US Armed Forces Team Selection Committee immediately following the last game and prior to the closing ceremony.

f. Day Seven Teams Depart

9. ADVERSE WEATHER SCHEDULE: The schedule may be adjusted as follows due to extreme hot climates at southern tier locations: 0800 first set of games; 1700 second set of games; third set of games 20 minutes after the conclusion of the second set. Service representatives shall determine alternative solutions/schedules during adverse weather conditions.

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10. AWARDS:

a. Individual: Each member of the winning and runner-up teams (to include the team trainer and OIC) receive individual awards.

b. Team: No team trophy is presented.

c. All-Tournament Team:

a. The All-tournament team is announced prior to the announcement of the 15 players selected to advance to higher-level competition. The Host Project Officer will select and purchase a special "All-Tournament" memento.

b. See selection process in paragraph 11 for All-Tournament Team selection procedures.

c. Women: The "All Tournament" team is selected of 4 infielders, 4 outfielders, 3 utility.

d. Men: The "All Tournament" team is selected of 5 infielders, 3 outfielders, 3 utility.

11. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP:

Roster not to exceed 19 individuals*:

15 Players

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer/Physician*

1 OIC

TOTAL: 19

* Medical personnel listed on roster must be trained medical providers and properly certified/licensed. Teams are not authorized to substitute this position with an additional coach or statistician. Personnel failing to provide appropriate credentials (if challenged) shall be deemed unauthorized and removed from the bench.

Note: Rosters must be submitted NLT four days prior to championship report date. Only the above personnel are authorized in the designated Service dugout area.

12. SELECTION PROCESS - HIGHER LEVEL AND ALL-TOURNAMENT:

a. Athlete Selection Process.

(1) The AFSWG members, or designated representatives, at the site of the Armed Forces Championship are responsible for the selection of the All-Tournament Team and the U.S. Armed Forces Team for higher-level competition.

(2) Selection meeting attendance is limited to the Service Representative, and the Head and Assistant Coaches, and OIC's. Each Service is limited to one spokesperson. The host Service Representative shall chair the selection meeting.

(3) The initial selection for the All-Tournament Team and the Armed Forces Team shall be conducted as a paper ballot (appendix D), both submitted simultaneously by each Service

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Representative to the selection meeting chair at the beginning of the selection meeting. Submitted ballots are final. Ties shall be resolved through discussion and vote.

(4) Participants selected to the All-Tournament Team shall automatically be selected to the Armed Forces Team unless unavailable. The most competent athletes, regardless of Service affiliation, shall be selected to complete the final Armed Forces Team roster.

(5) When higher-level competition does not immediately follow the Armed Forces championship, based on non-availability, Services may elect to send up to three (3) additional athletes to the Armed Forces training camp.

b. Coach Selection Policy: The Head Coach for the Armed Forces Team shall be the winning Head Coach of the Armed Forces Championship (subject to review by the Service Representatives at the Championship). This coach shall select his/her Assistant Coach from the pool of coaches that participated in the championship (subject to review by the Service Representatives at the championship). If the winning Head Coach is not available, then the second place team Head Coach shall be the Head Coach of the Armed Forces team. This individual shall also select his/her Assistant Coach from the pool of coaches who participated in their respective Armed Forces Championship (subject to review by the Service Representatives at the Championship). If neither the winning nor second place Head Coaches are available to advance to higher level competition, the AFSWG shall vote to select a Head Coach from the remaining pool of available coaches who participated in the championship. Priority shall be given to Head Coaches. If replacement coaches cannot be identified within 24 hours preceding the announcement of the team delegation, then the Armed Forces team shall not advance to higher level competition.

c. During the Athlete Selection Process, Service representatives shall reserve the right to not select top quality candidates based on behavior, grooming standards, or availability. The host Service will not make any additions or deletions to the selected Armed Forces Team without coordinating with the Working Group Member of the other three Services.

13. TEAM COMPOSITION – NATIONALS:

15 Players
1 Coach
1 Asst Coach
1 Certified Athletic Trainer*
1 Team Captain
TOTAL: 19

* Medical personnel listed on roster must be trained medical providers and properly certified/licensed. Teams are not authorized to substitute this position with an additional coach or statistician.

14. FORMS AND ROSTERS:

a. All final rosters must be turned in to the Host Project Officer at the Organizational Meeting. Rosters for the Armed Forces Championship will be finalized at this time. Teams are not authorized to compete at the Armed Forces Championship until the final roster is submitted.

b. All athletes and coaches shall complete and sign the Armed Forces Sports Higher Advancement Form (appendix B) for consideration of selection to the Armed Forces Team. All

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Higher Advancement Forms must be submitted by the Officer in Charge of the respective Service at or before the organizational meeting at the Armed Forces Championship. Failure to do so shall disqualify athletes from advancing to higher level competition.

c. All athletes, coaches and staff from each Service must sign the Armed Forces Sports Participant Code of Conduct (appendix C) in order to participate at the Armed Forces Championship. The Code of Conduct shall be submitted at the Organizational Meeting. If a training camp to higher level competition is conducted without the conduct of an Armed Forces Championship, then Team Captains shall have all participants sign the Code of Conduct immediately upon arrival and prior to any official activity. If an Armed Forces Championship or training camp is not conducted prior to , the Team Captain shall collect the Code of Conduct forms electronically prior to the delegation's departure to higher level competition. Failure to do so shall disqualify athletes from competing at the Armed Forces Championship and advancing to higher level competition.

d. Team Captains and Coaches shall sign their respective LOI (appendix F).

15. ALCOHOL POLICY: There will be no alcohol consumption at the sports venue by personnel involved in the Armed Forces Sports competition, including sports staff, until all competition for the day has been completed to include the award ceremony on the final day if the awards banquet immediately follows the event. The venue is defined as the playing area, venue parking lot, and the assigned eating/spectator area. This policy will not apply if the awards banquet or ceremony is conducted as a separate event at a later time. However, more restrictive installation policies in regards to alcohol will take precedence. Violation of this policy shall result in immediate suspension from the remaining championship/event, disqualification from higher-level competition and selection to the All-Tournament Team, and shall be subject to further disciplinary actions by the AFSWG.

16. ICE-BREAKER SOCIAL. Authorized team members must attend the event in their Service polo or logo shirt, coordinated slacks, and appropriate footwear (exceptions may be made dependent on host site letter of instruction). Guests may attend with pre-coordination with the host site and Service representative. Final decision will be based on availability. Guests will assume costs associated with attending the ice breaker

a. The Ice-Breaker Social is an official function and shall be conducted in accordance with local base policies and all participants are expected to conduct themselves in the highest professional manner. Informal activities such as skits, hazing and other activities that include offensive language/behavior are not authorized.

17. HANDLING OF RULE VIOLATIONS: If there is a violation of the SOP or specific sport rule, the AFS Representative or in their absence, the project officer, will address the respective Service Representative to resolve the issue. Service Representative will resolve the violation before the Service competes in the next game. All code of conduct violations shall be handled according to the Armed Forces SOP (Paragraph 8.b.(4)(e)).