



## **2023 ARMED FORCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. COMPETITION RULES: Current International Rugby Board (IRB) law book for seven-a-side play as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).
2. GAME BALL: Ball must adhere to current USA Rugby Rules. Hosting Service shall publish the most current ball-type within the Letter of Instruction (LOI).
3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT:
  - a. Men: Single round robin, followed by championship match.
  - b. Women: Single round robin, followed by championship match.
4. DRAW: As determined by the tournament director.
5. FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: Based on results of championship match for first and second place, followed by the results of pool play for third to fifth place.
6. DURATION OF MATCHES AND TIE-BREAKER POLICY:
  - a. Round Robin Matches: Played in two, 7-minute halves with a one minute halftime break.
  - b. Tie Breaking procedures, in order, following Round-Robin Play: Head-to-head record of teams involved; margin of points for and against all teams; margin of converted tries; total points; total tries; coin toss.
  - c. Championship Matches: Played in 7-minute halves, with a one-minute halftime break.
  - d. Tie-Breaker for Championship Matches: After a 1-minute interval, play 5- minute overtime periods with teams changing ends after each overtime period, without an interval until first score determines winner.
  - e. Drawn Matches: Drawn matches in the Round Robin competition shall be declared a tie.
7. FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL:
  - a. IAW current USA Rugby Rules. All footwear (boots), including those with alloy safety studs, must be in compliance with current USA Rugby Rules.
  - b. If a player is ejected, that player is ineligible for the remaining matches of the championship and the overall roster is reduced by one. This player is now a non-participant, and cannot be on the sidelines, and will not be considered for the All-Tournament Team.
  - c. Should a player be injured, which prevents them from continuing play, reserve player(s) on the roster, shall be added to the active player roster. To ensure fair play, the designated tournament medical officer or designated Armed Forces Medical Officer would certify that the injured player(s) could not continue to play due to injury.

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d. Players must retain the same jersey number throughout the tournament.

e. For championships held in conjunction with a civilian event:

1) After the Armed Forces Championship pool, any player not listed on a team's final 13 are eligible to be in a replacement pool for the tournament bracket, subject to the tournament rules and procedures.

2) Should a player become injured after the Team Check In, the player may be replaced from the approved replacement pool, provided he is certified as injured by the Medical Manager.

3) If a participating team dismisses a player (for any reason) after the Team Check-in, the player may be replaced from the approved replacement pool.

4) The Team Manager must submit a match roster of seven players and up to five replacements for the squad by not later than 20 minutes prior to each match. Rosters will be provided to the Team Manager at the Coaches and Managers Meeting as well as on match day.

8. PROTESTS: Protests on rules or eligibility are handled by the protest committee. The protest committee consisting of Service representatives and Tournament Director will only accept protests when they are submitted in accordance with the specific tournament rules. Protests must be resolved before a contest can continue.

9. OFFICIATING PROBLEMS: Incidents or issues related to an official at an event will be addressed with the head official immediately. If not addressed immediately, Services should inform the AFSCS about problems occurred with official(s) within 30 days after the conclusion of the championship. When the championship is conducted in conjunction within a civilian tournament, officiating issues will be address in accordance with the tournament rules/guidelines.

### 10. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (As determined by the Host Organizers):

- a. Day One      Teams Arrive  
Team Practice Sessions (if teams are available)  
Organizational Meeting  
Opening Ceremony Walk-Through (one rep from each team if required)  
Team Check-In

*Note: Authorized team members must attend Organizational Meeting and Team Check-In in their Service polo shirt, coordinated slacks, and appropriate footwear.*

- b. Days Two      Competition Begins

- c. Day Three      Competition Continues

- d. Day Four      Competition Continues

Team Awards Ceremony

All-Tournament Team selection meeting

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Awards Ceremony - Service teams are required to wear Service warm-ups or competitive uniforms at the awards ceremony. Individual athletes who do not comply will not receive awards, and if selected, will be removed from the Armed Forces team. If the awards ceremony is conducted as a separate function in conjunction with the Ice-Breaker Social, then all Service members must comply with Ice-Breaker Dress Policy.

e. Day Five Teams Depart

### 11. AWARDS:

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

b. Team: No team trophy is presented.

c. All-Tournament: An All-Tournament team is selected of the best seven (7) players of the tournament regardless of position. The Host Project Officer will select and purchase a special "All Star" memento to present to each member of the All-Tournament team.

### 12. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP AND HIGHER LEVEL:

Roster not to exceed 19 individuals\*

13 Players

2 Reserve Players

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer/Physician\*

1 OIC/Team Manager

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 bench area.

### 13. 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.

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2) Selection meeting attendance is limited to the Service Representative and the Service Head Coach. Each Service is authorized one spokesperson during the meeting. 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 E), both submitted and signed simultaneously by each Service Representative to the selection meeting chair at the beginning of the selection meeting. Signed submitted ballots are final. Selection Meeting Chairs shall not accept unsigned ballot forms. 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 team sports competition does not immediately follow the Armed Forces championship, based on non-availability, Services may elect to send up to three (3) additional athletes per Service to the Armed Forces training camp from the available pool of those who participated at that year's Armed Forces Championship.

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.

### 14. TEAM COMPOSITION – CISM:

As follows, or as dictated by host country invitation:

13 Players

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer/Physician\*

1 Team Captain

1 Chief of Mission

1 IRB Referee

TOTAL: 19

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### 15. FORMS AND ROSTERS:

a. All final rosters must be turned in to the Host Project Officer and the Armed Forces Sports representative 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. Once finalized, the Service team is required to send the electronic roster to the Armed Forces Sports representative prior to the start of competition.

b. All athletes and coaches shall complete and sign the Armed Forces Sports Higher Advancement Form (appendix C) for consideration of selection to the Armed Forces Team. All 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 D) 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, Coaches and Chiefs of Mission shall sign their respective LOI (appendix G/I).

e. Athletes advancing to higher level competition must sign the anti-doping declaration form (appendix L).

f. All forms are available on the Armed Forces Sports Website at:  
[www.armedforcessports.defense.gov](http://www.armedforcessports.defense.gov)

16. 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 regarding 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 administrative actions by the AFSWG.

17. TOBACCO POLICY: All competitors and staff shall refrain from the use of tobacco related products, to include cigarettes, vaping, chewing tobacco, and other smokeless forms at the competition site. Use of these products shall comply with local installation policies and shall only occur in designated areas.

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18. 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 installation 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.

19. 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)).

20. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: All Armed Forces Sports shall comply with the safety procedures prescribed by USA Rugby. Service Branches are encouraged to bring their own medical personnel with them to the competition.