



## **2023 ARMED FORCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. COMPETITION RULES: Current USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR), dependent upon whether the Armed Forces teams are advancing to CISM or National competition, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).
2. GAME BALL: As determined by the higher level competition. Hosting Service shall publish the most current ball-type within the Letter of Instruction (LOI).
3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT:
  - a. Four (4) Teams: Double round-robin play for seeding. Top two teams play in the Championship Game. Third and fourth teams play the consolation game. Three of five set wins in a match constitute a win.
  - b. Three (3) Teams: Triple round-robin. Three of five set wins in a match constitute a win.
  - c. One-minute "technical" time outs at 13 points of each set, regardless of whether either team has already used a "regular" time out. The 13 points "technical" time out will only be used in the first through fourth sets, since the fifth set is only 15 points long.
  - d. Warm-up protocol per USA Volleyball.
4. DRAW: As determined by established annual draw.
5. FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: Final team standings are determined by each team's match 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 AND PERSONNEL: IAW current USA Volleyball DCR. Host Project Officer shall obtain experienced table officials (scoreboard operators and statistician) through the local officials association. Local rates will be paid by hosting Service to these individuals. Official scoring referee provide by Armed Forces Sports through USA Volleyball as part of the officiating crew.
8. PROTESTS: Protests on rules or eligibility are handled by the protest committee. The protest committee consisting of Service representatives and Chief of Officials will only

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accept protests when they are submitted in accordance with USA Volleyball 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.

10. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: The Host installation will determine game-match times. Established times must be consistent each day, and must be set to draw maximum fan participation. Times below are a recommended template.

- a. Day One      Teams Arrive (Travel Day)  
Team Practice Sessions  
  
Organizational Meeting  
Ice- Breaker Social
- b. Day Two      Team Photos  
  
Opening Ceremony (Optional) - However, the National must be played prior to the opening match. All six Service flags must be displayed if Service flags are posted. If all Service flags are not available, then the American flag and host Service flag shall be displayed.
- c. Day Two      (Four Teams)  
  
Match 1      USAF vs Navy  
Match 2      Army vs USMC  
Match 3      USMC vs USAF  
Match 4      Navy vs Army  
  
(Three Teams)  
  
Match #1      Team 1 vs Team 2  
Match #2      Team 3 vs Team 1  
Match #3      Team 3 vs Team 2
- d. Day Three      (Four Teams)  
  
Match 5      USMC vs Navy  
Match 6      USAF vs Army  
Match 7      USMC vs Army  
Match 8      Navy vs USAF  
  
(Three Teams)  
  
Match #4      Team 1 vs Team 3  
Match #5      Team 2 vs Team 3  
Match #6      Team 2 vs Team 1

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### e. Day Four (Four Teams)

Match 9      Army vs Navy  
Match 10     USAF vs USMC  
Match 11     Army vs USAF  
Match 12     Navy vs USMC

#### (Three Teams)

Match #7      Team 3 vs Team 2  
Match #8      Team 1 vs Team 2  
Match #9      Team 3 vs Team 1

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

Awards Ceremony - (Immediately following the final game) 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.

### f. Day Five (Four Teams)

CONSOLATION MATCH – Seed 4 vs Seed 3

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH – Seed 2 vs Seed 1

Selection Meeting (Time) – Or as determined at organization meeting.

Awards Ceremony - (Immediately following the final game) 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.

#### (Three Teams)

Teams Depart

### g. Day Six (Four Teams)

Teams Depart

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### 11. AWARDS:

a. Individual: Each member of the winning and runner-up teams (to include the entire team composition) receives individual awards.

b. Team: No team trophy is presented.

c. All-Tournament: A six player "All-Tournament" Team will be selected. The team will include at least 1 setter, 1 middle, and 1 defense specialist. The remaining three will be determined based on best players. This team is announced prior to the announcement of the 12 players, 2 coaches, trainer, and Team Captain selected to advance to higher-level competition. The Host Project Officer will select and purchase a special "All-Tournament" memento to present to each member of the "All-Tournament" Team.

### 12. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP:

Roster not to exceed 16 individuals:

12 Players (The designated "libero" is one of the 12 players)

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer/Physician\*

1 OIC

TOTAL: 16

\* 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.

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.

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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 invitation:

12 Players  
1 Coaches  
1 Asst Coaches  
1 Certified Athletic Trainer  
2 FIVA Referees  
1 Combined Sports Committee Member  
1 Team Captain  
1 Chief of Mission  
TOTALS: 20

*Number of Officials to be taken depends on the request by Host Country in their official invite.*

*\* 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.*

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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 Volleyball. Service Branches are encouraged to bring their own medical personnel with them to the competition.