



2024 ARMED FORCES SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

1. COMPETITION RULES: Current Federation International De Football Association (FIFA)/International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).
2. GAME BALL: IAW with current FIFA official match ball. Hosting Service shall publish the most current ball-type within the Letter of Instruction (LOI).
3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT: Single round-robin. Top two teams advance to the championship match. Third and fourth place teams compete in the consolation match. All matches must result in a winner.
 - a. Round Robin matches which end in a tie at the conclusion of regulation will be decided by two overtime periods of 15 minutes each with implementation of the “Golden Goal” (first goal scored ends the match). If the tie remains, kicks from the mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game shall determine the winner.
 - b. Championship and Consolation Matches which end in a tie at the conclusion of regulation will be decided by two full overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If the tie remains, kicks from the mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game shall determine the winner.
4. DRAW: As determined by established annual draw.
5. FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: Based on results of championship and consolation matches.
6. TIE-BREAKER POLICY: Breaking a tie at the conclusion of round-robin play is determined by the following in order listed:
 - a. Greatest number of points obtained in all round-robin matches;
 - b. Goal difference in all round-robin matches;
 - c. Greatest number of goals scored in all round-robin matches.
7. SUBSTITUTIONS: FIFA substitution rules will apply:
 - a. The number of substitutes, up to a maximum of five, which may be used
 - b. Maximum of three substitution opportunities. Substitutions at half-time do not count as one of the three opportunities.
 - c. Extra Time substitution rules will apply:
 - 1) If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time
 - 2) Teams have one additional substitute and one additional substitution opportunity in extra time.

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3) Substitutions may also be made in the period between full-time and the start of extra time, and at half-time in extra time – these do not count as used substitution opportunities

d. Return substitutions not permitted.

8. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

a. Two “Yellow Cards” (accumulative for all round-robin matches) – Individual is suspended for the next scheduled match after the second yellow card. “Yellow Cards” reset to zero for the Championship and Consolation Matches, with the exception of the following:

1) When two “Yellow Cards” are issued to a player for unsporting behavior – “commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offense” or “shows a lack of respect for the game;” the player is out for the next scheduled match to include the championship/consolation match.

b. Two “Yellow Cards” accumulative in the same match – Individual is sent off during the match being played and is automatically suspended for the next scheduled match.

c. One “Red Card” – Individual is sent off during the match being played and is automatically suspended for the next scheduled match.

d. “Red Card” issued for “serious foul play” is sent off during the match being played and is automatically suspended for the next scheduled match. The Service Representatives on-site and the head referee shall review the offense to determine additional match suspensions.

e. “Red Card” issued for “violent conduct” shall result in suspension from the remainder of the tournament and may result in additional sanctions as determined by the Armed Forces Sports Working Group.

f. Players sent off and suspended players are not permitted in the team bench area and are not permitted to engage referees or other players from within the spectator area. Players engaging with referees after suspension may result in additional sanctions as determined by the Service Representatives on-site and/or by the Armed Forces Sports Working Group.

9. UNIFORMS:

a. The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and the match officials. Each goalkeeper must wear colors that are distinguishable from the other players and the match officials. If the two goalkeepers’ jerseys are the same color and neither has another jersey, the referee allows the match to be played. Team uniforms must have player numbers.

b. All players’ and substitutes’ jersey numbers must remain the same throughout the tournament.

c. Home teams shall have priority to declare uniform colors. Both teams shall declare their uniform colors at the organizational meeting.

d. Uniforms for the Championship and Consolation Matches will be determined by the higher seeded team from the round-robin having priority.

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- 10. TEAM CAPTAINS (Players): Service teams will designate only one (1) team captain, who will wear a captain's band while on the playing field. If the team captain is substituted, then they will transfer the captain's band to another player.
- 11. MEDICAL SITUATION: The treatment of injuries will be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 12. INCLEMENT WEATHER/MATCH STOPPAGE: In the event of match stoppage (e.g. inclement weather), the match shall resume where it last left off. Ball position, players, time, and penalties shall be noted and carried over to the re-start of the match.
- 13. FACILITY AND PERSONNEL: IAW current FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 14. PROTESTS: Protests on rules or eligibility are handled by the protest committee. The protest committee consisting of Service representatives and Chief of Referees will only accept protests when they are submitted in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Protests must be submitted in writing using the "Protest Form" by 9:00am local time to the Armed Forces Sports representative onsite the following morning of the match in question and must be resolved before the next scheduled match.
- 15. 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.
- 16. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: The Host installation will determine match times. Established times must be consistent each day and must be set to draw maximum fan participation.

- a. Day One Teams Arrive
 Team Practice Sessions
 Organizational Meeting
 Ice- Breaker Social

- b. Day Two Team Photos
 Opening Ceremony (Optional) - However, the National Anthem 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.

 Round Robin Match 1: USAF * vs USMC
 Round Robin Match 2: Navy* vs Army**

 * Note: Home teams are listed on the left
 **Note: Second match each day will start 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first match.

- c. Day three Rest day

- d. Day Four Round Robin Match 3: USMC vs Army
 Round Robin Match 4: USAF vs Navy

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- e. Day Five Rest Day
- f. Day Six Round Robin Match 5: Navy vs USMC
Round Robin Match 6: USAF vs Army
- g. Day Seven Rest Day
Selection Meeting (Time) – Or as determined at organization meeting.
- h. Day Eight CONSOLATION MATCH: Seed 3 vs Seed 4

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH: Seed 1 vs Seed 2

Awards Ceremony - (Immediately following the final match) 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.
- i. Day Nine Teams Depart

17. ADVERSE WEATHER SCHEDULE: Service representatives shall determine alternative solutions and schedules during adverse weather conditions. Resumption of play shall be in accordance with paragraph (12).

18. AWARDS:

- a. Individual: Each member of the winning and runner-up teams (to include the coaches and staff) receives individual awards.
- b. Team: No team trophy is presented.
- c. All-Tournament: An 11-player "All-Tournament" team is selected for the tournament. A minimum of 2 forwards, 2 midfielders, 2 defensemen, and 1 goalie must be selected. The remaining players will be decided on best players. This team is announced prior to the announcement of the 18 players 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.

19. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP:

Roster not to exceed 26 individuals:

18 Players

1 Coach

2 Asst Coach

2 Certified Athletic Trainer/Physician/Medical Provider*

1 ad libitum

1 OIC

TOTAL: 26

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* 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.

20. 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 Armed Forces Sports Representative shall chair the selection meeting. If the Armed Forces Sports Representative is not in attendance, then the host Service shall chair the selection meeting. All discussion within the meeting shall remain confidential. Only selections of athletes shall be released at the designated awards ceremony.

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 made by AFS representative on-site after objective discussion.

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 the 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

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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.

21. TYPICAL TEAM COMPOSITION – CISM Men's World Championship:

As follows or as dictated by host country invitation:

21 Players

1 Coach

1 Assistant Coach

2 Certified Athletic Trainers/Physicians*

1 Team Captain

1 FIFA Official

1 Assistant FIFA Official

28 TOTAL

** 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.*

22. FORMS AND ROSTERS:

a. All final rosters and code of conduct forms are due by the end of the organization meeting and shall be submitted electronically. 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, higher level competition, and CISM competition. 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).

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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

23. ALCOHOL POLICY: There will be no alcohol consumption at the sports venue by personnel involved in the Armed Forces Sports competition, higher level competition and CISM 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. 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.

24. 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.

25. ICE-BREAKER SOCIAL.

a. Ice-breaker social shall be conducted at all Armed Forces Championships. Food/beverages are optional depending on the availability of funding/authorizations. If the event is conducted outside of a military installation, then the ice-breaker social shall be optional.

b. 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.

c. 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.

26. 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 match. All code of conduct violations shall be handled according to the Armed Forces SOP (Paragraph 8.b.(4)(e)).

27. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: All Armed Forces Sports shall comply with the safety procedures prescribed by U.S. Soccer Federation. Service Branches are encouraged to bring their own medical personnel with them to the competition.