



2026 ARMED FORCES ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **COMPETITION RULES**. Current professional (Tier 1) rule set based on applicable game title, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).
2. **GAME EQUIPMENT**. Modified game controllers, keyboards and mice are not permitted with custom modification ability for macros. Hosting service shall publish required equipment for each team within the Letter of Instructions (LOI) at least 60 days prior to the championship.
3. **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**. Current professional (Tier 1) rule set based on applicable game titles. Format and structure will differ depending on the game title selected by host service.
4. **DRAW**: As determined by established annual draw.
5. **FINAL TEAM STANDINGS**. Based on results of championship and consolation matches.
6. **TIE-BREAKER POLICY**. The following procedures, in order, will be used to break any ties at the conclusion of round-robin play:
 - a. Head-to-Head record.
 - b. Match win percentage.
 - c. Game win percentage.
7. **FACILITY AND PERSONNEL**. IAW current game title (Tier 1) ruleset. Host Project Officer shall obtain appropriate facility to facilitate practice/setup for each team depending on selected game title.
8. **PROTESTS**. Protests on rules or eligibility are handled by the protest committee. The protest committee consisting of Service representatives. Protests must be resolved before a contest can continue.
9. **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.
 - a. Day One Teams Arrive
 Team Practice Sessions (if teams are available)
 - b. Day Two Team Photos/Media
 Team Practice Sessions (if teams are available)
 Organizational Meeting
 Ice- Breaker Social (or as determined by host Service)
 - c. Day Three Opening Ceremony (Optional) - However, all Service flags to include the Space Force and Coast Guard flags shall be displayed or posted with colors. If all Service flags are not available, then only the American flag and host Service flag shall be displayed.

2026 ARMED FORCES ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Double-round robin/Swiss tournament depending on game title

d. Day Four Double-elimination bracket to determine placement

 CONSOLATION Game – Seed 4 vs Seed 3

 CHAMPIONSHIP Game – Seed 2 vs Seed 1

e. Day Five Teams Depart

10. AWARDS.

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

b. Team. Rotating Team Trophy presented to winning team.

11. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP.

Roster not to exceed 7 individuals:

4 Players*
1 Coach**
1 ad libitum
1 Service Rep
TOTAL: 7

*Player Size subject to change based off selected game title.

**If Host service provides professional coaches for player experience this will not count towards this position.

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

12. FORMS AND ROSTERS.

a. All final rosters and code of conduct forms shall be submitted in accordance with the deadlines established in the LOI for each respective sport and shall be submitted electronically to the Armed Forces Sports representative. Failure to provide rosters will result in the Service disqualified from participating in the Armed Forces Championship.

b. All athletes and coaches shall complete and sign the Armed Forces Sports Higher Advancement Form (appendix C) electronically 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. Teams advancing to higher-level competitions shall not exceed the number of allocations specified for each sport per appendix (B). 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

2026 ARMED FORCES ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship, higher level competition, and CISM events. The Code of Conduct shall be submitted at the start of the Organizational Meeting, or electronically prior to 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), if applicable.

f. All eligible participants advancing to higher-level competition must complete country/theater clearance trainings per the Foreign Clearance Guide, with Service representative submitting the completed spreadsheet to AFSCS prior to the start of the organization meeting.

g. All forms are available on the Armed Forces Sports Website at:
www.armedforcessports.defense.gov

13. **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.

14. **TOBACCO POLICY**. All competitors and staff shall refrain from the use of tobacco related products, including 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.

15. **ICEBREAKER 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.

2026 ARMED FORCES ESPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

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.

16. **HANDLING OF RULE VIOLATIONS**. If there is a violation of the SOP, code of conduct or specific sport rules, 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)(f)).

17. **SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**. All Armed Forces Sports shall comply with the safety procedures prescribed by the host Service.