



2026 ARMED FORCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP

1. COMPETITION RULES. Current World Athletics Rules, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Committee (AFSC), if applicable. The Armed Forces Championship is conducted in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon. The Armed Forces Marathon Championship consists of only those rosters/teams officially submitted by the respective Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force sports offices. This competition does not include other military personnel (U.S. and international) that have registered and competed on their own.

2. COURSE DISTANCES. 26.2 miles

3. SCORING AND FINAL TEAM STANDING. Men and women team scores will be separated. The winning men and women team is determined by USA Track & Field's displacement scoring system. This system adds the place number finish of team's official scorers, with place numbers affixed through the Armed Forces event, not the overall Marine Corps Marathon event. The winning men's team is determined by adding the displacement finishers of the top four of the team's six men. The winning women's team is determined by adding the displacement finishers of the top two of the team's four women. The lowest displacement score shall determine the winning teams.

4. TIE-BREAKER POLICY. Placement of first non-scorer for each team (Either the fifth male or the third female). Should one of the tied Services have only the minimum number of athletes, then the tiebreaker shall be based on the aggregate times of the "scoring runners" (E.g. total time of the four scoring men or the two scoring women).

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS. Times and dates of events may change as determined by the race organizers.

- a. Day One Teams Arrive
- b. Day Two Press Conference
 Organizational Meeting
 Registration
 Course Review
 Armed Forces Race Meeting
 Ice Breaker
- c. Day Three Opening Ceremony (As determined by the Marine Corps Marathon Race Director)
 Team Photos
- d. Day Four Competition Commences

Awards Ceremony - (Time as determined by Race Director and announced in the LOI) Service teams will wear Service warm-ups or competitive uniforms at the awards ceremony. Individual athletes who do not comply will not receive awards or be selected to 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

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with Ice-Breaker Dress Policy. Footwear shall be at the discretion of the attending Service

- e. Day Five Teams Depart

6. AWARDS.

a. Individual. Awards are given to the top three finishers in each division.

b. Team Award. Each member of the winning and runner-up teams (to include the coaches, team trainer and OIC) receives individual awards.

7. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP.

6 Men
4 Women
1 Ad Libitum
1 Coach/OIC
TOTAL: 12

Note: Rosters must be submitted NLT four days prior to championship report date. Team points and awards will only be awarded to official Service team members.

8. TEAM COMPOSITION – CISM. As follows or as dictated by host country invitation:

4 Men
4 Women
1 Coach
1 Chief of Mission
1 Team Captain
TOTAL: 11

9. SELECTION PROCESS – CISM.

a. Selections for the U.S. Armed Forces Team shall be made by application. Service members must apply through their respective sport offices and forwarded to the Marine Corps Sports office. Applications shall include events, times and results over the last two years. Applications are due by the prescribed deadline once established. The AFSWG shall establish a selection panel for final athlete selections for CISM.

b. Coaching Selection.

1) The proponent Service is responsible for leading the coaching selection process. The coach selection process shall include soliciting applications from among qualified candidates from the Service branches.

2) The proponent Service shall outline application deadlines, criteria, and selection timelines. Service sport directors are required to comply with all deadlines for coach consideration.

3) The proponent Service shall select the coaching staff with ratification by the AFSWG.

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c. Chief of Mission and Team Captain/Ad Libitum Selection. The designated proponent Service is responsible for the selection of the Chief of Mission and Team Captain/Ad Libitum roles in accordance with paragraphs 8.d.7) and 8.d.8) of the Armed Forces Sports Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

10. 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 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

11. 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.

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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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

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.

14. 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)).

15. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. All Armed Forces Sports shall comply with the safety procedures prescribed by USA Track and Field rules. Service Branches are encouraged to bring their own medical personnel with them to the competition.