



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

1. **COMPETITION RULES**. Current World Triathlon Rules, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC), if applicable. Drafting is Legal.
2. **COURSE DISTANCES**. Olympic Distance: 1500M swim; 40K bike; and 10k run.
3. **SCORING AND FINAL TEAM STANDING**. Men and women team scores shall be separated. The winning men and women open team is determined by the displacement scoring system. This system adds the place number finish of team's official scorers. The winning men's team is determined by adding the displacement finishers of the top five (5) of the team's seven (7) Men's Open participants. The winning women's team is determined by adding the displacement finishers of the top three (3) of the team's five (5) Women's Open participants. Athletes that declare to compete in the Masters Division shall not be included in the Open Team competition and will not be included in the displacement scoring system.
4. **TIE-BREAKER POLICY**. Placement of first non-scoring member for each team (Either the sixth Men's Open finisher or the fourth place Women's Open finisher). 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 participants" (E.g. total time of the five scoring men or the three scoring women).
5. **FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL**.
 - a. Personal advertising is not allowed on service competition uniforms. Only approved sponsorship logos are authorized by the respective Service branch and shall appear equally on all uniforms of that Service branch.
 - b. The Host project Officer is authorized to open the Armed Forces Triathlon Championship to other military members, as course conditions allow and must be conducted in separate waves. Non-Armed Forces Championship riders cannot draft along Armed Forces Championship riders due to safety. Only personnel listed on the official roster shall score for team and individual results.
 - c. Equipment shall comply with World Triathlon guidelines for draft-legal competitions.
6. **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 accept protests when they are submitted in accordance with USA Triathlon and World Triathlon rules. Protests must be resolved before a contest can continue.
7. **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.

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8. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.** The host installation will determine game times. Established times must be consistent each day and must be set to draw maximum fan participation.

- a. Day One Teams Arrive
Training Day – Lifeguard required.
- b. Day Two Team Photo
Course Review/Rules Meeting
Bike Inspection
Informal Icebreaker
Training Day – Lifeguard required.
- c. Day Three Bike Repair/Assistance
Team Training
Training Day – Lifeguard required.
- d. Day Four 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.

Transition Area Open
Competition Commences

Awards Ceremony - (Immediately following the final game) 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 with Ice-Breaker Dress Policy. Footwear shall be at the discretion of the attending Service Representatives.
- e. Day Five Teams Depart

9. 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.

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10. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP.

7 Men Open
2 Men Masters (40 and older)
5 Women Open
2 Women Masters (35 and older)
1 OIC
1 Ad Libitum
1 Coach
TOTAL: 19

Note: Rosters must be submitted NLT four days prior to championship report date. Only the above personnel (not including reserve players) are authorized in the designated bench areas.

11. 2026 TEAM COMPOSITION – CISM.

(As dictated by host country invitation)

6 Men Competitors (Open)
6 Women Competitors (Open)
3 Men Competitors (Masters)
2 Women Competitors (Masters)
1 Certified Athletic Trainer
1 International referee
1 Chief of Mission
1 Coach
1 Team Captain
TOTAL: 22

12. SELECTION PROCESS – CISM.

- a. Open Competitors are determined by top six men and top six women Open finishers at the Armed Forces Championship.
- b. Masters competitors are determined by the top three men and top two women finishers at the Armed Forces Championship. Masters shall also be considered from the AFC Open category based on their respective age.
- c. In the event an Armed Forces Championship is not conducted prior to the CISM Championship, then the U.S. Armed Forces Triathlon team shall be selected by application. Service members shall submit their applications to their respective Service sports office. The proponent Service shall receive all applications and forward them to the selection committee. All applications are prioritized on the following criteria:

- 1) Fastest times achieved at Olympic Distance events within the last 18-months;
- 2) Draft-legal experience;
- 3) International race experience;
- 4) ITU points earned within the last 18-months

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b. Coaching Selection.

1) The Head Coach for the Armed Forces Team shall be the overall winning Head Coach of the Men's and Women's Armed Forces Championship (subject to review by the Service Representatives at the Championship).

2) If separate Services win the championship either in the men's or women's division, the proponent Service for higher level competition shall select the coach from the pool of coaches among the participating Services (subject to review and approval by the AFSWG).

3) If the invitation authorizes a second coaching position, then the following applies if the AFSWG authorizes a second coach:

a) If separate Services win the championship either in the men's or women's division, the winning coach of their respective team shall coach at the CISM Championship. For example: Army wins Men's division, they coach the men at CISM. Navy wins Women's Division, they coach the women.

b) If one Service wins both Men's and Women's divisions, then the proponent Service for higher level competition shall select the coaching staff from the pool of coaches among the participating Services and shall determine the coaching strategy for the CISM Championship (subject to review and approval by the AFSWG).

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).

13. 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

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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

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **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.

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17. **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)).

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