



Armed Forces Sports
Revised: 27 Oct 08

2009 ARMED FORCES MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **COMPETITION RULES:**

A. Current ASA Rules, as amended by the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC).

B. When the player enters the playing area (actual field of play, not including dugout) with a non-approved bat (any bat not provided by host), the player shall be ejected from the game and all games remaining in tournament. Team bats may be used for infield prior to the game but must be removed from the field of play prior to the first pitch. ASA approved warm-up bats and devises will be provided by the host. All bats will remain on the field of play.

C. Home-Run Rule: The batter and any runners will NOT run the bases on home runs (over the fence). Penalty, first such occurrence, the batter shall be declared out and all runners will return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. Second team occurrence, the batter shall be declared out and all runners will return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch, player is ejected for the remainder of the game.

2. **TOURNAMENT FORMAT:** Triple round-robin.

3. **SCORING:** IAW current ASA Rules.

4. **DRAW:** As determined by AFSC (Game schedule in paragraph 7 is based on 2009 draw).

5. **TIE-BREAKER POLICY:** Breaking a tie at the conclusion of round-robin play is determined by:

A. Head-to-Head record.

B. Run differential between tied teams.

C. Total runs accumulated in all games played.

D. A single playoff game for first place will be played.

Note: Policy must be applied in order listed.

6. **FACILITY, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL:** IAW current ASA Rules. Shoes with metal cleats are not allowed in Armed Forces Softball competition. Balls must adhere to ASA specifications and match that of what is being used at the ASA National Championship. A 3-person officiating system will be utilized. Balls and Bats must adhere to ASA specifications.

The only legal bats of the tournament will be provided by the host installation (based on recommendations by the participating Service teams). The host installation will announce ball to be used no later than 60 days prior to the championship. The recommendations for bats must be received by the host Service Sports Office no later than the first Monday following the 4th of July Holiday. Based on this input, actual Armed Forces bats will be announced by the host Service Sports Office no later than the second Monday following the 4th of July Holiday. The host installation will maintain the inventory of bats to be used at the Armed Forces Championship. These bats will be the only legal bats at the championship (will have distinctive markings for umpire control). The host installation will purchase up to 12 bats, with each Service guaranteed their top three recommendations to be used at the Armed Forces Championships. Additional bats may be added if the service coordinates with the host service and forwards the desired bats within the established time period. Host service will announce all bats to be used 20 calendar days prior to the Championship.

7. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- Day One Teams Arrive
 - Team Practice Sessions (tournament bats visibly unpacked and readily available for each Service.)
 - Organizational Meeting
 - Informal Ice Breaker

Note: Team members attending the Informal Ice Breaker Social are required to wear their service polo shirt with slacks (color determined by Service). Male personnel cannot wear earrings

- Day Two Team Photos
 - Opening Ceremony Rehearsal (Optional)
 - 0900 Opening Ceremony (Optional) – However, the National Anthem must be played prior the opening game played if a ceremony is not conducted. All five Service flags must be displayed if flags are posted.

(HOME TEAM ON THE RIGHT)

- 1000 Game 1 (M) USA vs. USN
- 1130 Game 2 (W) USA vs. USN
- 1300 Game 3 (M) USMC vs. USAF
- 1430 Game 4 (W) USMC vs. USAF
- 1600 Game 5 (M) USN vs. USMC
- 1730 Game 6 (W) USN vs. USMC
- 1900 Game 7 (M) USAF vs. USA
- 2030 Game 8 (W) USAF vs. USA

Day Three

(HOME TEAM ON THE RIGHT)

0800	Game 9 (M) USMC vs. USA
0930	Game 10 (W) USMC vs. USA
1100	Game 11 (M) USN vs. USAF
1230	Game 12 (W) USN vs. USAF
1400	Game 13 (M) USA vs. USAF
1530	Game 14 (W) USA vs. USAF
1700	Game 15 (M) USMC vs. USN
1830	Game 16 (W) USMC vs. USN
2000	Game 17 (M) USAF vs. USN
2130	Game 18 (W) USAF vs. USN

Day Four

(HOME TEAM ON THE RIGHT)

0800	Game 19 (M) USA vs. USMC
0930	Game 20 (W) USA vs. USMC
1100	Game 21 (M) USAF vs. USMC
1230	Game 22 (W) USAF vs. USMC
1400	Game 23 (M) USN vs. USA
1530	Game 24 (W) USN vs. USA

*(HOME TEAM DETERMINED BY COIN TOSS PRIOR TO GAME)

1700	*Game 25 (M) USAF vs. USN
1830	*Game 26 (W) USAF vs. USN
2000	*Game 27 (M) USA vs. USMC
2130	*Game 28 (W) USA vs. USMC

Day Five

0800	*Game 29 (M) USAF vs. USMC
0930	*Game 30 (W) USAF vs. USMC
1100	*Game 31 (M) USN vs. USA
1230	*Game 32 (W) USN vs. USA
1400-1600	All Tournament-Armed Forces Team Selection Meeting
1600	*Game 33 (M) USA vs. USAF
1730	*Game 34 (W) USA vs. USAF
1900	*Game 35 (M) USMC vs. USN
2030	*Game 36 (W) USMC vs. USN

Awards Ceremony - (Immediately following the final game) Service teams are required to wear like-Service issued team apparel 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 in conjunction with the Informal Ice Breaker, then all Service Members must comply with Ice Breaker dress policy.

Day Six

Teams Depart

8. ADVERSE WEATHER SCHEDULE: The schedule may be adjusted as follows due to extreme hot climates at southern tier locations: 0800 first set of games; 1700 second set of games; third set of games 20 minutes after the conclusion of the second set. Saturday and Sunday will be used for make-up games in case of inclement weather.

9. AWARDS:

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

B. Team: No team trophy is presented.

C. All-Tournament: An "All Star" team is selected of the best 11 players (by position) of the tournament. This team is announced prior to the announcement of the 15 players selected to advance to higher-level competition. The Host Project Officer will select and purchase a special "All-Tournament" memento and present to each member of the "All-Tournament" team. All-tournament team members are also awarded bats. Order of selection will be determined by final tabulation of votes, with final batting averages used to break ties (highest batting average will have the first choice of selecting their bat, followed by descending order).

10. TEAM COMPOSITION - ARMED FORCES CHAMPIONSHIP:

Roster not to exceed 19 individuals:

15 Players

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer

1 OIC

*Note – Only the above personnel are authorized in the designated Service dugout area.

11. SELECTION PROCESS - HIGHER LEVEL AND ALL-TOURNAMENT:

Selection meeting attendance is limited to the Service Representative, the head coach, assistant coach, and the OIC. Each Service will be limited to one spokesperson. The initial selection for the All-Tournament Team and the Armed Forces Team will be conducted as a paper ballot, submitted simultaneously by each Service Representative and the Chief of Officials to the host Project Officer at the beginning of the selection meeting. Submitted ballots are final. Ties will be resolved through discussion and vote.

Most competent athletes, regardless of Service affiliation, will be selected. Service representatives reserve the right to not select top quality candidates based on behavior, grooming standards, or availability.

Coach Selection Policy: The Head Coach for the Armed Forces Team will be the winning Head Coach of the Armed Forces Championship. The individual will 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 will be the Head Coach of the Armed Forces team. This individual will also select his-her Assist Coach from the pool of coaches who participated in the championship (subject to review by the Service Representatives at the Championship). If neither the winning nor second place Head Coaches are not available to advance to higher level competition, the AFSWG will vote to select a Head Coach from the remaining pool of available coaches who participated in the championship. Priority will 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 will not advance to higher level competition.

12. TEAM COMPOSITION – NATIONALS:

As follows or as dictated by host invitation:

15 Players

1 Coach

1 Asst Coach

1 Certified Athletic Trainer

1 Team Captain

TOTAL: **19**

13. FORMS AND ROSTERS: All Higher Level Advancement forms and Service Team Rosters for the Armed Forces Championship must be turned into the Host Project Officer at the Organizational Meeting.

14. 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. The venue is defined as the playing area and the assigned seating/spectator area. More restrictive installation policies in regards to alcohol will take precedence.