

MEMORANDUM FOR AREA SPORTS COORDINATORS (ASC)  
ATHLETIC AND RECREATION (A&R) PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Fort Liberty Sports Program, 2024 Commander's Cup Softball League/Tournament

1. Reference Army Regulation 215-1, Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities, 24 September 2010.

2. Purpose. To provide policies and procedures to assist ASCs and A&R personnel with the implementation of the Fort Liberty 2024 Commander's Cup Softball League/Tournament.

3. General.

a. 2024 Commander's Cup Softball League:

(1) All units, commands or activities assigned to Fort Liberty are eligible to participate. Play begins 28 May – 23 August. To enter, units must submit a team roster to the Sports Office, bldg. 190, 3725 Rock Merritt Ave, Pope Army Airfield. Team entry deadline is 17 May 2024. Registration after deadline, up to 6 June 2024, will be accommodated however, teams will have an abbreviated league schedule.

(2) Commander's Cup softball post tournament (double elimination) will be around 5-16 August 2024.

b. Player eligibility.

(1) All active-duty military personnel assigned or attached to units at Fort Liberty are eligible to participate. All eligible personnel will participate with their assigned unit and if required verification will be conducted via assignment orders confirmed by unit Commander.

(2) 1-Game Player Addition Form: If a player is new to the unit and not included on the original roster, player will be allowed to play one game. Afterwards, one game, an updated roster must be submitted before any further participation. Roster must be signed by the commander.

(3) If a protest results from the alleged use of an illegal player during league competition, and the protest is upheld, the offending team will forfeit the game in question. If a protest is upheld on a second eligibility offense during league competition, the team will be eliminated from further softball competition during the season. If a protest results from the alleged use of an ineligible player during the post tournament, and the protest is upheld, the offending team will be eliminated from the tournament.

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(4) For all games, team members ***must have*** their military identification (ID) card. All participants ID cards will be checked and compared to the current rosters on hand prior to every game to confirm player eligibility. Players who fail to present their military ID card will not be allowed to participate.

c. Protests.

(1) Misapplication of rules and player eligibility will be the only grounds for protests. Judgment calls are final and not subject to protest.

(a) Protests involving a rule misapplication must be lodged at the time of the apparent discrepancy and before play is continued. Any protest involving a misapplication of the rules that is not resolved at the game site, must be annotated in the official scorebook by either an umpire or the site supervisor.

(b) Eligibility protests must be brought to the attention of the umpires and the site supervisor prior to the conclusion of the game and be annotated in the official scorebook by an umpire or site supervisor. At that time, game officials and the site supervisor will gather all pertinent data from the player or players in question (check ID card and confirm name, rank, and SSN).

(c) Team coaches are responsible for ensuring that the protest application process is completed correctly.

(2) All protests will be reviewed by Intramural Sports staff and a final decision will be rendered on the first duty day following the game in question.

d. A team not present at the scheduled league or post tournament game time will forfeit the game.

e. It is the responsibility of all units participating in the intramural sports program to provide their own medical support.

4. 2024 Commander's Cup Softball League Play:

a. Unit organization. Units may merge prior to the start of league play provided they are in the same brigade or major subordinate command.

b. Team rosters.

(1) In order to participate, personnel must be identified on a properly completed roster. Noncompliance will result in forfeiture of the game.

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(2) Team rosters signed by the unit commander or First Sgt. must be submitted to the Sports office prior to league play. Rosters must include name, rank, unit, and team POC to include duty phone number and e-mail address. Additionally, team rosters must include a verification statement from the unit Commander or First Sgt. finalizing the roster. Rosters are unlimited therefore all potential players should be listed. Rosters update deadline is 28 June 2024 and considered frozen. After 14 June 2024, rosters will not be amended unless approved by the sports office due to mission or training. EXCEPTION: Personnel arriving to Ft. Liberty after 28 June 2024. Orders must be included as an attachment to the roster.

c. Once a player starts with a team, he/she must remain with that team during the season. This requirement is also applicable for those units which field two teams. Should a team fold, players may not join another team.

d. Personnel who are assigned to units which will not be organizing a team in the 2024 Commander's Cup Softball League/Tournament, and are desirous of participating, will be allowed to play with another team pending commander approval. They will be required to furnish a letter of release from their commander as well as a letter of acceptance from the gaining unit's commander. These letters must be filed with the Intramural Sports office prior to participation. The cut-off date for such action is 27 June 2024; requests submitted after this date will be disapproved. An example of required documentation is included in this MOI. PLEASE NOTE – TEAMS CANNOT ADD MORE THAN TWO PLAYERS WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER UNIT.

e. League competition will be slated to use a round robin format. Due to field exercises, weather complications, and other military commitments, it must be understood that a round robin schedule may not be attainable for all teams. Furthermore, in order to ensure that available teams have the opportunity to continue with uninterrupted play, inter-league games or additional league games with common opponents may be scheduled. As a result, league champions and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams will be determined by winning percentage. To qualify, league champions and second place teams must have played at least 75% of the average number of games played by each team.

(1) Not more than the first two games played against a common league opponent will be factored into a team's winning percentage.

(2) Inter-league games will not be factored into a team's winning percentage.

(3) It is understood that some teams may not play a balanced schedule (same number of games against common opponents).

f. Regarding game cancellation, units will be required to contact their respective league

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coordinator NLT than 1400 in the event that a military commitment will preclude them from playing on any scheduled date. Failure to comply will result in game forfeiture.

g. Units forfeiting two games during league play will be dropped from further competition.

5. 2024 Commander's Cup Softball Post Tournament play.

a. Prior to post tournament play, teams are responsible for ensuring that their most current team roster has been submitted to the Sports Office.

b. For any 1 tournament game, a team will be allowed 17 members, including coaches. If a team has more than 17 players/coaches, they will be told to remove extra players from the designated team area.

c. Cancellation and rescheduling of Post Tournament games.

(1) Unit POCs are responsible for submitting any dates that their team will not be available to compete due to mission or training. For units who comply, every effort will be made to accommodate their military contingency when formulating the tournament schedule. Rescheduling flexibility will be extremely limited and will require concurrence from all teams affected by any proposed rescheduling.

(2) Post level tournament games, with the exception of semifinal and championship games, not played because of military contingencies lasting longer than 24 hours will result in an automatic forfeit. To avoid a forfeit, a commander may substitute another team in cases where the original team will be unable to participate for periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

(3) For semifinal and championship games, every effort will be made to accommodate units which will be involved with a military contingency lasting longer than 24 hours.

d. Schedule of 2024 Commander's Cup Softball Post Tournament games will be published around 2 August 2024.

e. The top two regular season finishers from each league will automatically qualify for the post tournament. Each division league will also conduct a modified single elimination tournament to determine two additional post tournament qualifiers. All teams are required to participate in the league tournament unless notice is given, in writing, that the team is unavailable due to a military contingency.

6. Rules. Current USSSA rules and the following amendments will govern play.

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Info can be found at the following: <https://www.usssa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-rules-and-legal-info>

a. League games will have a 1-hour time limit; no inning will begin after 57 mins has elapsed from the start of the game. There will be no time limit for post tournament championship game(s).

b. Run Rule as follows: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings and 10-run rule after 5 innings will be in effect for all games except post tournament championship game(s). 12 runs max per inning.

c. Teams will be allowed to start or finish a game with eight players. Any team not having at least eight players at the start or conclusion of a game will forfeit. Teams that start a game with 8 or 9 players, will be allowed to add a ninth or tenth player (not an eleventh or a twelfth) to the batting order upon arrival. For teams which start a game with eight or nine players, an automatic out will not be recorded for the ninth or tenth position in the batting order. CLARIFICATION: USSSA rules allow for a twelfth hitter. Additionally, teams can employ pinch runners without substituting. When a non-substitution pinch runner is used, the player who made the last out will serve as the pinch runner.

d. In the event of any injury, ejection which results in the batting order being depleted an automatic out will be recorded in the batting position of the player or players who have left the game.

e. Line-ups are to be submitted to the official scorer NLT 15 minutes prior to game time. The home team will be responsible for maintaining the official scorebook. Failure to provide a scorekeeper will result in forfeiture of the game.

f. Softball bats must be 2019 – 2023 USSSA approved.

g. For all games (excluding the post tournament championship game), the home team will be determined by the toss of a coin. For the post championship game, the team which is undefeated will have their choice of being the home or visiting team.

h. There will be no practice on infields prior to the start of any game (post tournament or league).

i. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs by team members is prohibited before or during games.

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j. Any player or coach who is ejected from a league or post tournament game, will be suspended for one game; he/she will thus be ineligible to participate in the next game which his/her team plays. Should the same player be ejected from a league and/or post tournament game for a third time, that player will be suspended from his/her team's following three games. A fourth ejection during a league and/or post tournament game will result in the suspension for the remainder of the season. Any player involved with a physical altercation or who has physically threatened another player, umpire, or spectator shall be suspended for an indefinite period. Such an occurrence will be investigated by this headquarters and facts pertaining to the incident will be forwarded through the Garrison chain of command for a final determination on the length of the suspension.

7. Awards. Sports Office will provide league and post tournament team awards for first and second place teams.

8. Please contact the Sports Office for more details: 910-396-1217/910-396-1218