

AMIM-BGW-A

SUBJECT: Fort Bragg Sports Program, 2026 Commander's Cup Preseason Softball Tournament

2 December 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

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1. Reference. Army Regulation 215-1, 22 June 2010, Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities.

2. Purpose. To provide policies and procedures for the implementation of 2026 Commander's Cup Preseason Softball Tournament.

3. General.

a. Player eligibility.

(1) All Active Duty, spouses, dependents ages 18 and older, retirees and DOD cardholders. This excludes GS family members. Participants will be required to present their ID card prior to participating.

(2) If a protest results from the alleged use of an illegal player, and the protest is upheld, the offending team will be eliminated from the tournament.

(3) Once a player starts with a team, he/she must remain with that team during the entire tournament.

a. Tournament will begin ***May 4-15, 2026***, at Ritz-Epps Sports Complexes. Deadline for registration is 29 April 2026 at 1400. There is no entry fee.

b. Team rosters.

(1) All personnel must be identified on a team roster. Use of a non-listed player will be considered use of an illegal player.

(2) Team rosters ***MUST*** be submitted to the Fort Bragg Sports Office NLT 04 May 2025 at 1400. Team rosters are limited to 15 players including coaches.

a. All teams must be represented at the Coach's meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 1815 at the Towle Court (C-5032 Bastogne & Ardennes).

b. Protests. Misapplication of rules and player eligibility will be the only grounds for protests. Protests involving a rule misapplication must be lodged before play is continued. Judgment calls are final and not subject to protest.

c. The tournament will employ a double elimination format.

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4. Rules. 2025 USSSA rules and the following amendments will govern all play. Rules can be accessed at: <https://www.ussa.com/slowpitch/slowpitch-rules-and-legal-info>

a. Games will have a 1(one)-hour time limit; no inning will begin after 56-minutes have elapsed from the start of the game. There will be no time limit for the championship game. Time limit will be in effect for an "if" game. Game time is forfeit time.

b. Run Rules: A 20-run rule is in effect after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings and 10 after 5 innings.

c. Home Run limits: 6 home run limit per game. Every home run (meaning out the park home run), exceeding the limit will be an out. Inside the park home runs do not count towards the home run limits.

d. Teams will be allowed to start and/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.

(1) Should a team start a game with eight players, they will be allowed to add a ninth or a tenth player (not an eleventh or twelfth) to the batting order upon his/her arrival. For teams which start a game with eight or nine players, an automatic out(s) will be recorded for the ninth or tenth position in the batting order.

(2) In the event of any injury or ejection which results in the batting order being depleted from original number of players (thus a substitute player was not available to replace the injured or ejected player), 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.

f. For tournament purposes the home team will be team on top of the brackets and uniforms should represent status. For the purpose of establishing the first order of batting, a coin toss will determine first batting privileges, team winning coin toss can choose to bat or take field first, for all games except the first championship game. In that game, the undefeated team will have their choice of being the home or visiting team.

g. Softball bats must be 2025 USSSA approved.

h. There will be no practice on game fields prior to the start of any game.

i. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game, will be ineligible to participate in the next game which his team plays. Any player or coach who intentionally makes physical contact with an official or Sports representative, will be removed from tournament play, and subject to further UCMJ actions by their supporting command.

j. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs by team members or support staff is prohibited especially during games. Anyone seen partaking of alcoholic beverages during a game will be ineligible to participate for the remaining of play.

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k. A fouled third strike is an out. No courtesy fouls given.

4. Awards. Fort Bragg Sports will provide team awards for 1st place team and Runner-ups.

5. Please contact the sports office for more details at 910-396-1218 or 910-907-5906.