

AMIM-LIW-WR

SUBJECT: Fort Liberty Sports Program, 2024 Fort Liberty Coed Softball Program

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

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1. Reference. Army Regulation 215-1, 22 June 2011, Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities.

2. Purpose. To provide policies and procedures to assist ASCs and A&R personnel with the implementation of the 2024 Fort Bragg Coed Softball Program.

3. General.

a. 2024 Fort Liberty Coed Softball Program will be conducted 09 September 2024 - 31 October 2024 (depending on the number of teams), Pope Army Airfield Sports Complex. To enter, teams must submit an entry form (enclosed) and the \$80.00 league entry fee to the Leisure Travel Services office located in the mini-mall at Reilly and Normandy Streets. PLEASE NOTE: Team names must be in good taste and require the approval of Fort Bragg Sports and Fitness Branch staff. They must not contain profanity, sexual innuendo, inappropriate misspellings, or a play on words which are deemed disrespectful/offensive to any gender, religion, or ethnic background. Additionally, uniforms which are deemed offensive in any way will not be permitted and any cost for those uniforms will be the sole responsibility of the team. The deadline to be included on the initial schedule of games is 07 September 2024.

b. Games will be played on Monday-Friday evenings.

c. Player eligibility.

(1) All military/government ID card holders, ages 18 and older, are eligible to participate. This includes active duty personnel, family members, retirees, and DOD civilians.

(2) If a protest results from the alleged use of an illegal player and the protest is upheld, the offending team will forfeit the game in question.

(3) **Players may ONLY play for one team.**

(4) For all games, team members **MUST HAVE** their military identification (ID) card. All participants ID cards **WILL BE CHECKED** against the roster and the scorebook prior to every game to confirm

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player eligibility. Players who fail to present their military ID card **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.

d. Team rosters. All team members must be listed on the team roster. Rosters must include first and last names and team POC to include e-mail address and phone number. Each team **MUST** turn in a roster prior to their first game.

e. 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. All protests will be resolved at the time of the protest by game umpires.

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

a. Games will have a 1-hour time limit; no inning will begin after 1-hour has elapsed from the start of the game.

b. Game time is forfeit time.

c. The 10-run rule will be in effect after 5 innings and 20-run rule after 3 innings.

d. Teams will be allowed to start and/or finish a game with eight players (minimum of four women). Any team not having at least eight players at the start or conclusion of a game will forfeit.

e. Should a team start a game with eight players, they will be allowed to add a ninth and a tenth player to the batting order upon his/her arrival. **Five men will be allowed to play with four women; however six men will not be allowed to play with four women.** 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.

f. In the event of any injury or 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.

g. Line-ups are to be submitted to the official scorer NLT 10 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.

h. Players in the field will consist of five men and five women; There are no positional restrictions with regard to gender. Extra hitters will be allowed; however, the lineup must include one male extra hitter and one female extra hitter.

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i. 12-inch softballs will used for all play.

j. Male and female batters **MUST** alternate in the batting order.

k. When a male batter receives a base on balls or intentional walk, he will be awarded second base and the next female batter will have the option to walk or bat.

L. Teams are limited to six home runs (inside the park home runs are not included) per game. Any subsequent batted balls that are hit over the fence will be recorded as outs.

m. A protective pitching screen will be employed for all games under the following provisions:

(1) The pitcher will place the screen a reasonable distance in front of the pitching rubber with one edge of the screen inside the 24-inch pitching rubber.

(2) Upon release of the ball, the pitcher must step completely behind the screen before he/she can become a fielder. Failure to do so and then fielding the ball will result in a base hit with all baserunners advancing one base.

(3) Once the batter makes contact with the ball, the pitcher can then become a fielder and move out from behind the screen.

(4) Any batted ball which hits the pitching screen will be ruled as a strike (including those which result in a strike out).

(5) Any thrown ball which hits the pitching screen or any ball which hits the screen after caroming off a player will be remain in play.

n. Any player or coach who is ejected from a game, will be suspended for his/her next scheduled game. Should that player or coach be ejected a second time, that player or coach will be suspended for three games. A third ejection will result in removal from the program. Any player or coach who intentionally makes physical contact with an official or Sports Branch representative, will be subject to immediate suspension for an indefinite period. Such an occurrence will be investigated by this headquarters and facts pertaining to the incident will be forwarded to the Garrison Commander for review.

o. League competition will include a minimum of 10 games. A round robin format will be used; however, due to field exercises, weather complications, and other military commitments, it must be understood that a complete round robin or a balanced schedule may not be attainable for all teams. The league regular season champions will be determined by winning percentage.

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p. League competition will be followed by a single elimination tournament.

q. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs by team members is prohibited before or during games. Failure to comply with this will result in expulsion from the program.

5. League meeting. Teams must be represented at the league organizational meeting which is TBA.

6. Awards. The Sports and Fitness Branch will provide individual awards for the regular season champion and the first and second place teams for post season tournament play. Total number of awards provided to each team will not exceed 17.

7. Point of contact is Jay Jackson at 910-396-1218.
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