

2018 WSL All Forces Program Annex

All Forces:

1. The All Forces Men's Program shall feature three divisions: Gold Division, Silver Division, Bronze Division. Divisions may be combined for tournament play. If combined, an equalizer rule will be applied.
2. The All Forces Women's Program shall feature two division: Gold Division and Silver Division. Divisions may be combined for tournament play. If combined, an equalizer rule will be applied.
3. A Men's and Women's All Forces Team consists of players that are:
 - A. Armed Forces: Athletes that are Active Duty, Dependents (18 and over with a valid dependent ID), Reserves, National Guard, Retired, ROTC, Department of Defense (DoD) Civilians, DoD Contractors, players that possess a DD214 with an honorable discharge, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel currently employed by the Coast Guard or Border Patrol. Department of Defense Contractors must possess a Department of Defense Identification card or a common access card (CAC) with a green color bar and computer chip to participate. All Players must have a valid DoD or DHS Identification card or DD214 with State or Federal Picture ID on hand during competition. ID cards with an expired date will not be allowed to compete.
 - B. Police: Athletes that are Active and Retired Police Officers. Volunteers are eligible to play with a department heads written endorsement. Requests for volunteers must be submitted no later than the Monday prior to an event. Contact information from Department Head must be with the written (Email) request. The Term Police includes Officers at all levels of government employment from city/county to state and federal officers and special agents along with correctional officers, probation officers, and parole officers. All Players must have a valid State or Federal Picture ID on hand identifying themselves as Police. ID cards with an expired date will not be allowed to compete.
 - C. Fire: Athletes that are Active and Retired Firefighters. Volunteers are eligible to play with a department heads written endorsement. Requests for volunteers must be submitted no later than the Monday prior to an event. Contact information from Department Head must be with the written (Email) request. Fire includes Firefighters serving at the City, County, State, and Federal level and includes Urban and Suburban Structural Firefighter, Wildland Firefighters, Aircraft Firefighters, Shipboard Firefighters, Industrial Firefighters, Contract Firefighters and any person certified as a Firefighter serving in a city, county, state, or federal position. All Players must have a valid State or Federal Picture ID on hand identifying themselves as Firefighter. ID cards with an expired date will not be allowed to compete.

D. First Responder: Athletes that are Active and Retired First Responders not included in the above descriptions for Police or Fire. Paramedics, Rescue, and EMT personnel assigned to fire stations, emergency response facilities, and hospitals that provide onsite assistance to an emergency such as an accident, natural disaster, or terrorist attack. All Players must have a valid State or Federal Picture ID on hand identifying themselves as a First Responder. ID cards with an expired date will not be allowed to compete.

4. Players may only compete in one division of play during a tournament weekend. Specialty Divisions included during the National Championship weekend, are exempt from this rule and players may play in the specialty divisions along with their normal tournament team.

5. Player Eligibility:

a. All Armed Forces athletes on a Men's or Women's Gold rosters must provide a valid CAC, DoD, or DHS Card to participate. All Police, Fire, and First Responder athletes must provide a government ID that identifies them as either a Police Officer, Firefighter, or First Responder. A Men's or Women's Gold rosters can consist of any number of eligible players.

b. All Armed Forces athletes on a Men's or Women's Silver roster must provide a valid CAC, DoD, or DHS ID Card and show proof of residence or employment within the state they are representing. A Silver roster may only include athletes from ONE (1) state. For DD214 athletes a valid DD214 with honorable discharge and proof of residence within the state they are representing must be provided. For Retired and Dependent Armed Forces athletes, a valid Government ID card identifying them as such and proof of residence or employment within the state they are representing must be provided. All Police, Fire, and First Responder athletes must provide a government ID that identifies them as either a Police Officer, Firefighter, or First Responder and show proof of residence or employment within the state they are representing. A retired Athlete may play for the state they are currently living in, working in, or the state in which they retired from. Proof of retirement must be provided when playing for a state you currently do not reside or work in.

c. All Armed Forces athletes on a Men's Bronze roster must provide a valid CAC, DoD, or DHS ID Card and show proof of residency or employment from the county they are representing. DD214 athletes must provide a valid DD214 with honorable discharge and proof of residence within the county they are representing. For Retired and Dependent Armed Forces athletes, a valid government ID card and proof of residence or employment within the county they are representing must be provided. All Police, Fire, and First Responder athletes must provide a government ID that identifies them as either a Police Officer, Firefighter, or First Responder and show proof of residence or employment within the county they are representing. A retired Athlete may play for the county they are currently living in, working in, or

the county in which they retired from. Proof of retirement must be provided when playing for a county you currently do not reside or work in.

7. Players who competed on a Men's or Women's Silver or Bronze Division team but have been transferred to a base or unit that does not have a team may request a waiver from the WSL National All Forces Director to play for their former team within one calendar year as the change of station.

8. Teams in the Silver or Bronze Division that cannot provide player eligibility documents will be removed from that Division and placed in the Gold Division.

9. Teams must play in at least one WSL All Forces Tournament to compete in the WSL All Forces National Championship. A team can request an exception by providing a written request to the WSL All Forces National Director.

10. Pitching

a. Height for all divisions will be 4' from the ground to a maximum height of 10' from the ground with fakes, pauses, and jukes. After assuming the pitching position on the pitcher's plate, the pitcher must present the ball in front of his body (for at least one second) in either one or both hands before starting the delivery motions. Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch. After the pitcher presents the ball, he may make any windup or arm motions desired, either in front of his body, above his head or behind his back, including stops and pauses in these motions. The pitcher must deliver the ball underhanded at a slow rate of speed. If the pitcher throws overhand, sidearm, or any type of pitch that is not a deliberate underhanded motion, the pitch will be called illegal and will be a ball if the batter does not swing at the pitch. If the batter swings at the pitch, it is a live ball. Once the pitcher begins his delivery motions; the umpire shall not give a call or signal for "time" unless something unusual occurs. The pitched ball must be released within 5 seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batter's box.

b. Speed of the pitch and height of the pitched ball are left entirely to the judgment of the umpire. (NOTE: For sake of uniformity in decisions, any doubtful pitch should be ruled as an illegal pitch). The umpire shall warn a pitcher who delivers a pitch with EXCESSIVE SPEED that repeating such EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH will cause the pitcher's removal from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game. A pitch that does not arc the full 4 feet as required (flat level pitch) may not be an EXCESSIVE SPEED PITCH, but merely an illegal pitch and called a ball.

11. Home Run Rule

a. Men's & Women's Gold Division – 10

b. Men's & Women's Silver Division – 6

c. Men's Bronze Division – 3 then inning ending out

e. Any additional home run hit will be recorded as an out if not previously stated.

12. Mercy Run Rule

a. Qualifier, State, and NIT – 20 after 3, 15 after 4, 10 after 5

b. National Tournament – 25 after 3, 20 after 4, 15 after 5

13. Time Limit

a. A 55 minute time limit will be enforced in all pool play games.

b. A 75 minute time limit will be enforced for bracket games. Championship games will be played without time limit if park rules permit. Players will be encouraged to move quickly between innings. The head umpire may enforce a first batter out or award a first batter 1B if teams are taking too much time between innings. This is a judgment call of the on field umpire and cannot be appealed to the Tournament Director.

c. Time limits are subject to change at Directors discretion.

14. Equalizer

a. An equalizer will be used in all tournaments where divisions of play are announced and a specific division does not have enough teams to field its own tournament. A tournament announced as OPEN will be played under Gold Division rules and NO equalizer will be used.

b. The equalizer will consist of awarding the team of the lower division home team (if desired), 5 runs per division (Gold vs Silver = 5, Silver vs Bronze = 5, Gold vs Bronze = 10). The Home Run rule of the lower division will be used.

15. Altered or Unauthorized Equipment

a. Unauthorized equipment includes bats and balls that are not properly stamped. Altered bats or balls are unauthorized for use in any sanctioned event. If an altered bat is used, and identified by WSL, the athlete that used the bat will be suspended for life from all WSL All Forces Softball play. The coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season and must request in writing to be reinstated for the following season. All players on the team will be suspended for the remainder of the season and must request in writing to be reinstated for the following season.

b. Unauthorized Bat in play - once an official play has been started, that is the umpire has put the ball in play and the pitcher has stepped on the pitching rubber or in the pitching zone, when the umpire or opposing team identifies the unauthorized bat, that player and coach will be removed from play for the rest of that game and an out will be recorded. For example, a bat that does not have the 2012 1.20 stamp. A ball does not have to be struck by the unauthorized bat.

c. Unauthorized Ball in play - balls provided for play must be presented to the Umpire for inspection prior to entering the game. If an unauthorized ball enters the game, and the umpire determines malicious intent, the umpire can forfeit the game and award a win to the opposing team or the umpire can eject the opposing coach. If it is determined that a simple mistake was made, the umpire can simply have the ball removed from play and request a properly stamped ball be returned to play.

16. All playing rules not specifically covered in this rule section shall be governed by the official playing rules of WSL.