



## GUIDELINES FOR THE 2023 INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide rules and guidelines for play during 2023 Intramural Softball Season and Playoffs.
2. **DATES AND TIMES:** The 2023 Intramural Softball Season will begin on Monday, 1 May 2023. Games will be played at 1800, and 1900 on Monday, and Wednesday nights except for holidays through 9 August 2023. Additionally, there will not be games on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.
3. **LOCATION:** The season and playoffs will take place at the JBAB Giesboro Park Fields.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:** Active duty, Reservists, Dependent (16 & over), Retiree, DoD civilian employees and persons with a JBAB issued DBids ID with MWR Access are eligible to participate in the Intramural program. Each player must have a DoD issued Identification Card 100% ID check will be in effect.
5. **REGISTRATION:** Letters of Intent/Roster Forms are due no later than Friday 21 April 2022. Rosters are unlimited and are not locked until 75% of the season is played. Teams will not be added to the schedule without submitting a letter of intent/roster form. Note: Players must have played in two regular season games to be eligible to participate in the playoffs. Additionally, once a player plays one game with a team they are committed to that team.
6. **FORMAT:** During the season, the number of games and format will be determined based on the number of teams participating. Each team will be guaranteed to play each other at least once. During the playoffs, the top eight teams based on win/loss record will be entered into a double elimination tournament to determine the champions.
7. **RESPONSIBILITY:**
  - a. *Participating units/squadrons are responsible for the following:*
    - Providing the Sports Office with a letter of intent or roster and any mission requirements (signed by unit CO) that may conflict with the intramural season for the months during which softball games will be held.
    - Providing a coach to be present at the coaches' meeting.
  - b. *Coaches and team captains are responsible for the following:*
    - Being familiar with this LOI, rules, special provisions and schedules to ensure team members are informed and picking up and signing for this LOI.
    - Making arrangements for the use of fields and equipment for practices.
    - Keeping updated on rules, protests, forfeits, and schedule changes.
    - Keeping control of players' actions during scheduled contests and maintaining sportsmanship at all times.
  - c. *The Sports Operations is responsible for the following:*
    - Conducting the coaches' meeting.
    - Providing each participating unit with a copy of the Letter of Instruction, the league schedule and notifications of all revisions.
    - Keeping updated standings.

- Providing officials, scoresheets, and game balls for each contest.
- Notifying the coach, sports representatives of any revisions to league schedule, LOI, rescheduling of or postponement of games, etc.

**8. RULES AND GUIDELINES:** Games will be played under the USA Softball rules formally ASA Softball Rules/ Guidelines with the following modifications:

- **Games will start with one ball and one strike no courtesy.**
- All games have 55 minute time limits during the season and 65 minute time limit during the playoffs. No new inning will start after 50 minute and 60 minute for playoff bracket unless the inning ends in a Tie.
- There will be a 5min grace period for the 6PM game ONLY, however all teams should be ready to play 30 minutes prior to their scheduled start time. The Championship game will have no time or run rule limit all 7 innings will be played!
- Game ball will be 300 Compression, 52 Core, optic yellow color
- The Extra Hitter (EH) rule is in effect. Teams will be allowed 2 EH in the lineup.
- **A legal line-up consist of ten players.** Teams may start with nine players and an out will be recorded in the 10th position. The 10th position can be filled by any player on the roster at any time during the game. Two Extra Hitters (EHs) are allowed with a legal line-up (10 players) at the start of the game. If batting 12 anyone of the 12 can play defense; however, the batting order must remain the same.
- **Short-handed rule:** A team must start with a minimum of nine players and can drop down to eight with an out recorded in each vacant position. **However, if a team drops below eight players the game will be forfeited.**
- **Roster size is unlimited until the 2<sup>nd</sup> full week of June (week of June 12-16).**
- Players are only allowed to play on one team per season. The team you begin with is the team you finish with. Once your name is entered in the scorebook, you are a member of that team for the season.
- Mercy rule in effect for all games. Any team ahead 20 runs after 3 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings shall be declared the winner.
- Should the regulation period end in a tie, we will go to one pitch with the last batter out on second base.
- Only USA/ASA approved bats can be used in play. Any player caught using an illegal bat will be disqualified from that game.
- Teams are allotted one free intentional walk per game. Any intentional walks after that will result in the runner taking two bases.
- **Courtesy runners are permitted, one per inning and must be a player from the roster.**

**9. ADMINISTRATION:**

- A. Each team is allowed one forfeit without penalty. A second forfeit will lead to team being removed from the schedule.
- B. Protests and formal complaints may be formally submitted in writing for proper review and consideration. Protests will not be accepted on the basis of judgment calls made by the umpire as their decision is final.
- C. Jewelry of any kind may not be worn during play.
- D. Only molded rubber or nylon cleats are authorized. Metal tip cleats or spikes, boots, or bare feet are not allowed on the playing field.

- E. Judgment calls are not grounds for protest. Only valid protests concerning player eligibility and rule interpretations will be considered. All protests must be done at the time of the incident. Inform the umpire and the UIC that you are protesting. All protests will be settled on the spot before the game continues and will be decided by the UIC (Umpire in Charge).

#### **10. TIE BREAKERS:**

All regular season games that are tied will play one (1) extra inning using the International Tie Breaker Rule with one pitch. To start the inning the batter that is behind the leadoff batter will be placed on second base. (Example #5 is batting, #4 will be placed on second). Should the game still end in a tie both teams will split the points. At the end of league play to determine playoff seeding should a tie occur between two (2) or more teams at the end of the league action, the following will be used to break the deadlock:

1. Overall record
2. Head-to-head results
3. Most runs scored in head-to-head competition should the teams tied have played one another the same amount of times during the course of regular season play.
4. Coin flip among teams tied should neither method described above be sufficient.

During the playoffs extra inning(s) will be played until there is a winner using the International Tiebreaker one pitch rule.

#### **11. FORFEITS:**

- A. Game time is start time. This rule will be strictly enforced. Teams arriving up to five minutes late will have 5 minutes knocked off the front and back end of the game. Arriving ten minutes after scheduled start time game is a forfeit.
- B. Teams forfeiting **four (4) games** will be dropped from the league. A win will be given to all remaining teams to be played on the schedule. All games played prior to a team dropping from the league will stand as is.
- C. The score of a forfeited match will be 1-0.
- D. When there is a forfeit due to one team having less than the required number of players, the team having the required number of players may conduct a scrimmage game.

#### **12. DROPPED TEAMS:**

- A. All contests played with dropped teams will count. All games remaining against dropped units will be credited as automatic wins. Opponents do not have to show up for their scheduled activity with removed teams unless notified for a make-up contest.
- B. Any participant, whose unit drops from the league, can be placed on another team providing the team has completed one half or less of their schedule. IF THERE ARE NOT ANY REQUESTS ON FILE FOR PLAYERS FROM THE PLAYER'S POOL AT THIS TIME, then prospects still wishing to compete will be offered to teams beginning with the last place unit and then up until the top one third (1/3) of the league is reached. In other words, teams in the top 1/3 will NOT be offered players from dropped units during this procedure. Positions will be determined by league standings on the day the team was dropped from the program. PLAYERS REFUSING TO PLAY WITH THE TEAM THAT SELECTS THEM WILL NOT BE PLACED ON ANOTHER UNIT'S TEAM.

### **13. RESCHEDULING:**

- A. **When military commitments involve fifty (50) percent or more of squadron personnel, matches will not be rescheduled.** The Released Obligation 75% Rule: will be in effect. A “no game credit” will be given to each team.
- B. The Sports Office must be alerted in writing of valid requirements NLT (no later than) 24 hours prior to the unit’s scheduled match where possible; however, rescheduled games can be accepted by phone if it is before 1400 the day of the game as referees need to be notified. A letter signed by both the coach and the Commander will still have to be forwarded to the Sports Office NLT 1200 hours the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) working day after contacting the Sports Office.
- C. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a forfeit of the contest.
- D. Games will be rescheduled at the earliest possible opening.
- E. Play-off contests will only be rescheduled when base wide requirements preclude the participation in Intramural activities.

### **14. RAINOUTS (WEATHER) & SUSPENDED GAMES:**

- A. The Sports Office prior to 1500 will determine rainouts. At this point, and if indeterminate weather still exists, the referees will make the call. IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT, CALL the Fitness Center at (202)284-3034 or email [AF.JBAB.Sports@us.af.mil](mailto:AF.JBAB.Sports@us.af.mil).
- B. In the event of BLACK FLAG being issued after 1500, games will be cancelled for the night, and reschedule at the earliest convenience.
- C. If games are canceled prior to 1500 a cancellation email will be sent to the coaches.
- D. Suspended games will be afforded a reasonable waiting period before being cancelled. By reasonable, if it is apparent the inclement weather will pass, the referee will wait to resume or begin play. Any game started and then suspended for the night before the halfway point will be rescheduled from the point of interruption. Teams should ensure all relative information pertaining to the suspended game is on the scoresheet before leaving the playing area.

### **15. CONDUCT AND PARTICIPATION:**

- A. Physical violence will have no place in the JBAB Sports Program. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a three-game suspension. A second offense will lead to removal from the league. Appeals can be made. Repeated patterns of behavior may lead to overall expulsion from participation in any JBAB Sports Program
- B. Acts such as extreme unsportsmanlike conduct such as verbal abuse, threats or use of profanity will not be tolerated in the Sports program. The sports office will revoke the privilege to participate in further activities for those continuously disrupt the atmosphere presented by FSS for competitive and spirited competition.
- C. Players or coaches ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to a mandatory two game suspension on the first offense, a three-game suspension on the second offense and a one-year ban from participation on the third offense.
- D. Drinking of alcoholic beverages before or during scheduled games is strictly prohibited due to safety concerns. Determination of use of alcohol will be at the discretion of any JBAB Sports staff member or game umpire/official. Failure to comply will result in a two-game suspension for the first offense and a remainder of the season expulsion for a second offense. Appeals can be made. Repeated patterns of behavior may lead to overall ex- pulsion from participation in any JBAB Sports Program.
- E. The use of tobacco will not be tolerated within a respectable radius of JBAB Sports events in the interest of respect to others. Failure to comply will result in a warning after the

first offense, a one game suspension after the second offense, a three-game suspension after the third offense and a remainder of season expulsion after the fourth offense. Repeated patterns of behavior may lead to overall expulsion from participation in any JBAB Sports Program.

**16.AWARDS:**

- A. League Champions (For team with the best Win/Loss Record)
- B. Season Most Valuable Player
- C. Tournament Most Valuable Player
- D. Team Tournament Championship Trophy (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place)
- E. Individual Tournament Championship Trophy (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 15 maximum)

**17. MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. Any decision not covered in this publication will be left to the discretion of the Sports Office.
- B. Players without teams may sign up for the free agent list with the Sports Office at any time prior to the final two weeks of the season.
- C. On days in which the OPM operating status presents a closed, delayed, or liberal leave status, games will be rescheduled as it is convenient to place them within the schedule.
- D. On days in which the weather turns bad during the workday, field and road conditions as well as weather forecasts will be factors in determining the game status for that particular day. Correspondence will be attempted to everyone alerting them if the game will play. In this case, no news is good news and if you don't hear otherwise, we will continue as scheduled.
- E. In the event of lightning strikes games will be stopped and postponed for 15 minutes per strike.
- F. Game status will also be posted on [www.quickscores.com/JBAB](http://www.quickscores.com/JBAB) or can be obtained by calling (202) 284-3034.
- G. For further information, and registration, please contact the Sports Office at [AF.JBAB.Sports@us.af.mil](mailto:AF.JBAB.Sports@us.af.mil).