

**ADMINISTRATIVE & OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING
FORT BLISS – April Fool’s Softball Tournament 27 March – 29 March 2026**

REFERENCES: AR 215-1 Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities (24 September 2010)

2025/2026 USSSA Official Slow Pitch Playing Rules & By-Laws

WHAT: Fort Bliss – April Fool’s Softball Tournament

WHEN: 27 March – 29 March 26

WHERE: Omar Bradley Sports Complex 2968 Carter Rd.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE: Tournament will begin Friday March 27th at 1800 with the 10-grace period for 1800 game only & **ONLY** on Friday. Saturday will be at 8:00am and Sunday will begin at 9:00 am and play till games are complete.

Tournament format will be: **DOUBLE ELIMINATION**

ELIGIBILITY: Open to the public 18 years and older. Players must present ID prior to their scheduled games. Lack of proper ID will result in player being ineligible to play in tournament.

Team rosters will be limited to 15 players, and one non-playing coach. Rosters must be typed and turned into the Tournament Director prior to first scheduled game. The roster must consist of a team captain POC (email address, contact number), First/Last name of each player, and t-shirt size of each player.

Players cannot play with multiple teams. Once they play for a team, they cannot change teams. This will result in a forfeit for the second team.

REGISTRATION: **Registration:** Soto PFC or online through webtrac.mwr.army.mil

Tournament fee per team: \$350

All teams must be registered and paid by 11 March 2026. Teams can fill out registration forms at the Sports Office, located at Soto

Physical Fitness Center (20751 Constitution Ave.) or have registration forms e-mailed and returned to administrator anna.j.sutton.naf@army.mil by cutoff date. Registration includes a shirt. Top 2 teams will receive individual medals and a team trophy.

LEAGUE PLAY:

Play will be conducted in accordance with the 2025/2026 USSSA Rules unless otherwise covered by these by-laws:

- a. The duration of the game will be 55 minutes, with the inning in progress to be completed.
- b. Each batter will assume a one ball and one strike count and will be allowed one courtesy foul ball after two strikes.
- c. If the score is tied at the end of seven innings or 55 minutes, a tie-breaker rule will be put into effect as follows:
 - (1) The visiting team will place the last batter of the previous inning on second base and the game will continue from that point with the same batting order until three outs are made, and the inning is completed.
 - (2) The home team will use the same procedure as described above.
 - (3) The above procedure will be used for the remainder of the game until a winner is determined.
- d. A 20-run rule will be in effect after three innings, 15-run rule will be in effect after four innings and a 10-run rule will be in effect after five innings.
- e. Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the go ahead run while at bat during final inning.
- f. In the event of a homerun, the batter, and any runners, will not run the bases. This eliminates any appeal play.
- g. No runners will lead off the base they occupy, and no base stealing is allowed.
- h. Any player found to be using an illegal bat will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
- i. A team can start the game with a minimum of 9 players.

- j. The lineup or batting order can have up to 11 hitters and must finish the game with 11.
- k. The home run limitation is three.
- l. If a ball is batted fair or foul by the batter when either one or both feet are in contact with the ground completely outside of the batter's box, or when the foot is in contact with home plate, the batter is out.
- m. Each team will be provided with a scorebook at the beginning of the season. It is the responsibility of each team to keep the game records, with their own scorebook. The home team will keep the official book, unless they do not have enough personnel.
- n. Each team will be provided with lineup cards at the beginning of the season. It is the responsibility of each team to provide the lineups to the opposing team and to the umpire prior to the start for each game. In addition, all substitutes must be announced to the umpire and the opposing team.
- o. All players, coaches, bookkeepers must remain within the dugout during game play. Only exceptions are (1) the next batter on deck for the team at bat, and (2) players or coach occupying the designated coaching areas near 1st and 3rd base, for the team batting.

FORFEITS:

A forfeit will be declared if a team is not prepared to play at the scheduled time. Game time is forfeit time. Game time may be moved back based on the prior game.

Forfeiture of two games during league play will result in disqualification from the league play and the Championship Tournament. All remaining league games may be considered a win for the opposing teams. Disqualified players are then not eligible to participate with any other teams.

EQUIPMENT:

All bats must be USSSA approved. Softballs will be provided by MWR Sports.

Leg/arm braces must be wrapped in tape (No metal showing).

If a cap is worn, it will be worn properly. Military uniforms/boots are not allowed.

Sunglasses are not allowed to rest on the brim of caps while at bat or in the field of play.

No metal cleats or screw-ins of any kind. Rubber molded cleats are acceptable.

No jewelry is allowed. NO EXCEPTIONS

Face masks are recommended for all pitchers.

No bat weights/donuts allowed.

Teams and spectators are not allowed to use electronic communication devices to communicate with players during game.

PROTESTS:

A protest concerning **eligibility** must be submitted in writing to the League Director by games end. A ruling will be decided before the team's next scheduled game.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Swearing and abusive remarks: Whether directed towards opponents, team members, officials, fans or supervisors or indirect frustration about self-performance are behaviors which cast a negative atmosphere over intramural play and may lead to more serious problems. Officials may penalize such behavior and all cussing with an ejection.

The first unsportsmanlike conduct received by a player or coach may result in an ejection from the game and a warning being filed. The second ejection in the season will result in a meeting with the Sports Director for a possible suspension. The third ejection will result in an automatic ejection from the league.

Taunting will not be condoned. First occurrence – Team Warning. Second occurrence – Ejection.

A player, coach, spectator or the entire team may be asked to leave the playing area if displaying unsportsmanlike conduct. Any contest may be forfeited by the administrator or official of the activity when a team, a team participant, captain or coach exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct or disruptive behavior during the

contest. Team captains or coaches may be warned prior to forfeiting the contests. However, it will be at the discretion of the administrators to forfeit that contest if deemed necessary to avoid a violent confrontation. Players/Coaches ejected for a first offense may be suspended indefinitely from participating in sports activities, depending on the severity of the offense.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO:

Alcohol, smoking, vaping, or use of chewing tobacco is not permitted in the facility. Any player or coach under the influence of alcohol will not be permitted to enter the playing area. Smoking is only permitted at the designated smoking area and individuals smoking are responsible for properly disposing of their tobacco products.

AWARDS:

- (1) Team trophy for Champion and Runner Up
- (2) Individual team medals for champion and runner up
- (3) Most Valuable Player

PETS:

Pets are prohibited from being at the Omar Bradley Sports Complex IAW USAG 190-4 Sec. 1-10.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

During league play, the manager or coach is responsible for ensuring that:

- (1) All members of the team are familiar with the MOI.
- (2) The team is fully equipped and properly attired.
- (3) No illegal players participate in games.
- (5) Team roster is submitted prior to the first game.

LEAGUE

ADMINISTRATORS:

Anna Sutton / 744-5793

LEAGUE DIRECTOR:

Anna Sutton, 744-5793

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USAG Fort Bliss MWR