



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JOINT BASE GARRISON HEADQUARTERS, JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD  
1010 LIGGETT AVENUE, BOX 339500, MAIL STOP 1AA  
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA 98433-9500

REPLY TO

IMLM-MWR

01 April 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL JBLM SERVICE MEMBERS

SUBJECT: 2026 JBLM Fields of Friendly Strife Commander's Cup Softball League

1. **Purpose:** To provide the operational procedures for the Fields of Friendly Strife Commander's Cup Softball League.
2. **Objective of the Program:** To promote unit morale, Esprit de Corps, teamwork, physical fitness and to develop leadership and sportsmanship.
3. **Division Structure:** The 2026 JBLM Intramural Fields of Friendly Strife Commander's Cup Outdoor Soccer League will consist of two Divisions: Battalion/Squadron League and Company/Flight league, unless we do not have enough teams for both divisions. Teams may only compete in one division.
4. **Eligibility and Participation:**
  - a. Active duty military personnel, Army, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard, Navy, Reserve and National Guard service members that are assigned or attached to JBLM.
  - b. Team rosters will be unlimited. Teams may only have 14 players suited up for each game with one playing coach or 15 with one non-playing coach. **Unit Readiness Roster/HR Authorization Roster must be turned in with the LOI to the Intramural office by the suspense date 13 April 2026.** Rosters must be signed by the Commander or First Sergeant of the company/flight or battalion/squadron.
  - c. All players must play in 1 regular season game to be eligible to play in their league tournament and/or Commander's Cup Championship. No exception.
  - d. There are two leagues a Company/ Flight level League and a Battalion/ Squadron League. *Teams may only participate in one league and players may play on only one team.*
  - e. Players must play for their unit. In the event a unit does not have enough interested individuals to field a team, personnel from that particular unit may still participate by submitting a written request of release from the Commander or First Sergeant to the Intramural Coordinator. **The free agent may NOT play until this paperwork has been received by the Intramural Sports Office.** Each team is allotted a maximum two Free Agents. Any player caught playing on more than one team will be banned for the remainder of the season. Any team playing with unauthorized players (civilians or non-active duty) in the Commander's Cup league will be forfeited out for the rest of the season.



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5. **Rules of Play:** Play will be conducted in accordance with the 2026 USA Softball Official Rules with the following exceptions:

- a. Balls will be provided by MWR-Sports and substitutions will not be allowed.
  
- c. The duration of the game will be 55 minutes, with the inning in progress to be completed.
  
- d. Each batter will assume a one ball and one strike count, no courtesy foul ball after two strikes.
  
- e. A team may use one courtesy runner for a base runner per inning and they be used at any base. A courtesy runner may enter only between at-bats (not during an at-bat). Umpire shall prohibit request for courtesy runner to enter during at-bat. Should a courtesy runner be on base when his turn at bat arrives, the courtesy runner is declared out on the base then takes his turn at bat.
  
- f. 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 **(PLAYOFFS ONLY)**:
  - (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.
  
- g. A 20-run mercy 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. Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the run ahead limit while at bat. Whenever the visiting team reaches the limit in the fourth or fifth inning, the home team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.
  
- h. In the event of a homerun, the batter, and any runners, will not run the bases. There is 5 home run limit.
  
- i. Base stealing is not allowed.
  
- j. Must use ASA approved bat (dual stamp is acceptable) Bat must not appear on the ASA banned bat list.
  
- k. *Teams may bat 12 players in their lineup.*



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6. **Forfeits:** A forfeit will be declared if a team is not prepared to play at the scheduled time. Game time is forfeit time. *Exception: There will be a 10 minute grace period for the 1800 game only.*

a. In order to ensure timely notification for officials and opponents, all requests for reschedule/ canceled games must be submitted in writing prior to 1400 on the day of the scheduled game.

b. Forfeiture of two games during league play will result in disqualification. One "No Call No Show" forfeit will result in immediate disqualification, and the team will be removed from the league. All remaining games will be considered a win for opposing teams and the disqualified team will be ineligible for Commander's Cup Championship. Players are then not eligible to participate with any other teams.

c. A game may begin or finish with one less (9) than required to start (10). Rule 4- Section 1 -D of the 2026 USA Softball Official Rules.

7. **Equipment:**

a. Braces made of metal/hard plastic must be covered in soft padding. No watches will be worn.

b. Only tennis shoes and molded rubber cleats are acceptable.

c. Flat wedding bands/religious medals taped to the body/medical alert I.D. are allowed.

d. Appropriate athletic clothing will be worn. Slacks, jeans, jean cut-offs, cut-off shirts that expose excessive skin, and non-athletic shoes are prohibited.

e. Each pitcher will wear a face mask. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** The Intramural Sports Office will provide masks for check out at game time.

f. All players must have a jersey with a permanent number on the back readable by the score keeper.

8. **Sportsmanship:** Swearing and abusive remarks by anyone to include coaches, players and spectators is not allowed and will be penalized accordingly.

a. Team member, captain, coach, spectator or the entire team may be asked to leave the playing area if displaying unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language. Any contest may be forfeited by the official and/or supervisor of the activity when a team, a team participant, captain or coach exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct or disruptive behavior during the contest. Team



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captains or coaches may be warned prior to forfeiting the contests; however, it will be at the discretion of the officials to forfeit that contest if deemed necessary to avoid a violent confrontation.

9. **Drinking/Smoking/Chewing Tobacco/Sunflower Seeds/Pets:** Alcohol, smoking, chewing tobacco, sunflower seeds and pets are **NOT** permitted within the Lewis North Athletic Complex. Any player or coach under the influence of alcohol, smoking, using chewing tobacco or sunflower seeds will not be permitted to participate.

10. **Coaches Responsibilities:** During league play, the coach is responsible for ensuring that the conduct of the team is in accordance with these by-laws and the rules of good sportsmanship as well as all rules stated above.

11. **Postponement of Games:** Postponements will only be granted, *if necessary*, when unit duty commitments warrant. Notification must be submitted to the Intramural Office 24 hours prior to or after the scheduled game. Inclement weather postponements will be determined by the Sports Office Representative on site.

12. **Protests:** A protest concerning eligibility must be submitted to the Intramural Coordinator by 1300 hours the following duty day by email to: [merle.m.mclain.naf@army.mil](mailto:merle.m.mclain.naf@army.mil). Protest will include specific player being protested, situation, email, phone and POC for response. You must let the on-site sports specialist know of an illegal player as soon as it is known then send to coordinator after the game. Protest of the game itself must be based on a misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, protest of a judgment call is not allowed. Protest of the game is merely an attempt to clarify a rule.

13. **Coaches Meeting:** A coach's meeting will be held on 06 April 2026 at 1200 at the Lewis North Athletic Complex (LNAC) and at 1330 at McChord Fitness Center. A representative must be sent to one of the meetings, and players are encouraged.

14. **League Start:** The league will begin Monday 27 April 2026 at the LNAC Softball fields. The schedule will be Monday/Wednesday (Battalion/Squadron Level) and Tuesday/Thursday (Company/Flight Level). Game times are predicted to be 1800, 1900, and 2000 each game day. The regular season for both leagues will end on 04 June 2026 with a tournament for the top 16 teams on the following week (08-11 June 2026)..

15. **Deadline:** Sign-Up deadline to turn in filled out LOI and Unit Readiness Roster/HR Authorization Report is 13 April 2026 at 1500. Paperwork can be physically turned in or submitted through email to the Intramural Sports office.

16. **POC** is Deborah A. Pierce at 520-851-9404, Greg Hopper at 520-942-6953 and Merle McLain at 520-942-6947 or [jblmintramurals@army.mil](mailto:jblmintramurals@army.mil).



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MERLE M. MCLAIN  
INTRAMURAL SPORTS  
and ROAD RACE COORDINATOR