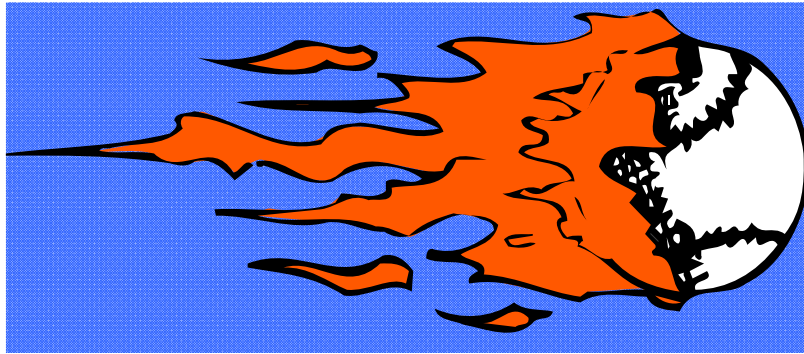


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# **Commando Softball Bylaws**

**Intramural / Over 30**



***2010 Hurlburt Field Sports***

<b><u>ELIGIBILITY</u></b> .....	3
TEAM MEMBERSHIP .....	3
COMBINING SQUADRONS .....	3
PLAYER POOL .....	3
<b><u>RULES</u></b> .....	4
<b><u>SPORTSMANSHIP</u></b> .....	6
COACHES AND PLAYERS .....	6
EJECTION'S .....	7
<b><u>SCHEDULES</u></b> .....	7
NOTIFICATION .....	7
POSTPONEMENTS .....	7
FORFEITS .....	8
<b><u>PROTEST</u></b> .....	8
GROUNDS .....	8
FILING A PROTEST .....	8
REVIEW OF PROTEST .....	8
<b><u>PLAYOFFS</u></b> .....	8
TYPE OF COMPETITION .....	8
PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY .....	8
PLAYOFF SEEDING&TIES AT THE END OF REGULAR SEASON PLAY .....	9
BASE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES .....	9
<b><u>AWARDS</u></b> .....	9
CEREMONY .....	9

### Purpose Statement

To provide secondary laws, so that athletes have the opportunity to participate in a fair league subordinate to the sections of:

Eligibility	Rules
Sportsmanship	Schedules
Protest	Playoffs
Base Championship Games	Awards

### Eligibility

### Team Membership

1. Active duty military, DOD Civilians, NAF Employees, and TDY personnel must play for the squadron that they are assigned to. Retirees may play for the squadron they retired from. Dependents must play for the squadron their sponsor is assigned to, be at least 18 years of age, completed high school, and possess a valid dependent ID card. Dependents of retirees are not allowed to play.
2. Individuals from other bases may not participate in Hurlburt programs if their base offers the same program.
3. Married spouses both eligible to participate but are in different squadrons may either play for their assigned units separately, or for their spouses unit jointly. This decision must be made prior to the start of a sport season, and is not reversible during any one season.
4. Anyone going PCA, changing units on Hurlburt, during a sport season may either continue the season with their original unit, or they may join their newly assigned unit. This must be done by the next game after the PCA occurred.

### Combining Squadrons

1. If a squadron fails to meet the minimal team players required, they have an option to combine (1) with another squadron's team within the squadrons group command, (2) then of choice, (3) or be appointed to one with the approval of the Sports Director. A written request from each of the combining units' sports representatives is required before the combining is official.
2. The deadline for combining is the same day the letter of intent is due.

### Player Pool

1. If a squadron drops out, does not combine, and has not entered a team into the league, members of that squadron may enter the Players Pool. If a team drops

from the league, the remaining players may enter the player's pool if that team has played less than half of their scheduled games.

2. The squadron's team coach or sports council representative must submit a letter of request or call the sports director in order to be placed in the Player's Pool. The player's Pool closes two weeks before the end of each season.
3. Squadron teams and members will be assigned in the order they are received, first to small squadrons, then to teams lowest in the standings. Teams losing players to TDY/PCS, etc. will also receive high consideration.

## Rules

1. Current year USSSA rules and Hurlburt Field Bylaws will govern league play. Amendments are only authorized by the Sports Director.
2. Each game will have a **(1) hour time limit**. In the event of a tie, the time limit will not be in effect. There will not be a time limit for the Base Championship game and "IF" game only. **There will be no 10 run rule in the Championship game**. A 5-minute grace period will be allowed after game time begins for teams to find at least the minimum number of players. Games may be delayed by weather up to (15) minutes after start of game time. After (15) minutes expires and weather conditions have not improved, then the game will be made up. If a game is interrupted by weather and cannot be finished, then it will be made up at a later date from the point game was stopped.
3. Teams may begin with a minimum of 9 players, and may add the tenth player at anytime during the game. Teams may have up to (12) players per game in the line-up (10 plus 2 extra batters). The extra batters must be entered into the book before the game begins.
4. If a team loses a player due to injury, recall, ejection etc.... The Home Plate umpire will indicate an out each time in the event a substitute cannot be produced.
5. Pitchers will be determined by the coach and will be deemed as proficient/experienced at the pitching position for the Over-30 and Intramural leagues due to safety reasons.
6. There is a list of USSSA/ASA approved bats at [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com) and [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com). Any player entering the batter's box is required to show their bat when requested by the umpire. If they do not wish to show the bat or it is discovered that the bat is not a legal bat, they will be ejected from the game and if during the playoffs, disqualified for the remainder of the playoffs.
7. Units entering more than one teams and one team must submit a roster for each of those teams to the Sports Director a week prior to the season to prevent their players from becoming ineligible.

8. Teams using any illegal or ineligible players will forfeit any and all games in which that illegal/ineligible player participated. No participants will be allowed to participate from any other squadrons that have teams and any other base. If the total number of games the team used an illegal/ineligible player totals five (5) or more, that team will be removed from the league immediately.
9. There will be **NO** stealing of any bases allowed in any game. There is no head-first sliding. **Head-first sliding will only be allowed on the natural motion of returning to a base after over-running it.** Otherwise, a player sliding head-first into any base will be called out. A second occurrence by the same player will result in their ejection from the game.
10. Providing the home team is leading, a 10 run rule will be in effect after 4 ½ innings of play, a 15 run rule after 3 ½ innings of play, and a 20 run rule after 2 ½ innings of play. This rule will be in effect during regular and post season play. However, there will be **No** time limit during the Championship and “IF” games **as well as No 10 run rule in the Championship game.**
11. The batter/runner may only touch the red portion of the double bag. If the white portion is touched and the defensive team appeals prior to the batter/runner returning to first, the runner can be called out. If a runner is forced to use the white portion of the bag, then the defensive player can be called for obstruction.
12. When the ball is in play and overthrown (beyond the boundary lines), or is blocked, then all runners will be awarded two bases. The award will be governed by the position of the runners when the ball left the fielder’s hand. Runners may return to touch a missed base or a base left too soon. If two runners are between the same bases, the award is based on the lead runner. Note: 98 rule change: while the ball is still in play, the runners may return to touch a missed base or one left too soon. However, once a dead ball is declared, all runners must maintain the last base occupied.
13. If a duty emergency arises such as a fire department call, and the team is playing, they will not be penalized for this. If both teams have had at least one time at bat, then the game will be suspended and resumed at the point when the game was suspended. If the first inning has not been completed, the game will be replayed in its entirety.
14. A courtesy runner will be allowed when the opposing team’s coach approves of the substitution. The allowed substitute can only be the last player recorded by the scorekeeper as making the last out.
15. There will be no practice on the infield portion of the field prior to the start of each game. No infield practicing or warm up pitches between innings. Players are not allowed to purposely deface any part of the field, to include chalked lines and batter’s boxes. An automatic out can be given for infractions.
16. Game protests can only be done when a rule violation is in question. ANY call by an official that can be deemed as a judgement call (i.e. ..Out of bounds, catch/drop, strikes, balls, out, etc.....), cannot be protested. Protests must be lodged and recorded in the official scorebook, or on the provided protest form.

17. Team practice requests will be limited to (1) per week (1) week at a time. Requests for practices can only be submitted in written form or e-mail by the coach/assistant only. A second practice can be requested after Wed 1200 of the same week, to give other teams the opportunity to request time.
18. Cancellations due to rain will be made by 1500. If cancellations have not been issued by 1500, then cancellations will be made on a game by game basis. During lightning warnings means no players will be allowed on the field at any time until the warning is cancelled. Players are to contact their coaches about cancellations. Coaches will be called about cancellations.
19. No metal cleats or items deemed unsafe will be allowed. No jewelry will be worn. Wedding bands and emergency brackets must be taped. Proper attire must be worn. **No portion of the military uniform will be accepted as appropriate attire for participation in any game.** Hats will be worn properly. No bandannas will be allowed. There will only be one new ball issued at the beginning of each game.
20. The dugout is an out of play area designated for players and coaches ONLY. There will be NO smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed in any way in or around the dugout area. This includes practice times. Teams must clean up their areas following their practice or game.
21. **NO PETS ALLOWED** anywhere in the sports complex area at any time from players or spectators. Coaches are responsible for passing this information to team members and family members.
22. Home team will be determined by the schedule. Home team will sit in the designated area at first base. Coin tosses for Home position will be done during post season playoffs with the exception of the Championship game. The team in the Championship winner's bracket will have Home status. The team coming from the losers bracket will have Home status in the "IF" game.

## Sportsmanship

### Coaches and Players

1. Coaches are responsible for controlling a team. Coaches are expected to arrive at least fifteen minutes early to the game. The first coach present will make sure their team is in the appropriate dugout.
2. Coaches will assist with officials in the event of warning's and ejections of a player / member of a team. They will maintain a policy of zero tolerance profanity towards officials, scorekeepers, players, or any incident pertaining to the game. Any one found under the influence of alcohol will not play in the game. Failure to do so may result in a forfeiture of the contest, and a possible disqualification from league play. (There Are No Exceptions).

## Ejection's

If a coach, player or any member of a team is ejected the scorekeeper will record the infraction in the scorebooks. The Sports Director will record the infraction, and carry out the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Ejection – The Sports Director will give the coach a (2) game suspension letter for the coach or player(S) ejected. The 2 game suspensions will be the next two games the ejected player/coach's team plays. This rule applies to regular season and playoff games.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ejection – The Sports Director, in coordination with the Fitness Director, will give the coach a 3-game suspension letter for the individuals(S) ejected. An official memorandum from the First Sergeant indicating acknowledgement of the player's actions and counsel must be received before returning to league play.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ejection – The Sports Director will give the coach a league disqualification letter for the individuals(S) ejected, with a courtesy copy sent to First Sergeants and Squadron Commanders.

Exception: Fighting is an automatic ejection from the league. There will be no exceptions to this rule. A fighting ejection may not be appealed.

## Schedules

### Notification

1. The Intramural Director will let coaches know when it is available for pick-up at coaches meetings or telephonically. The Intramural Director will use attendance sheets at meetings as a notification list, and a phone contact list indicating, the date, time, coach's name, and contact status ( Contacted, No Contact, Message With )
2. The coach and assistant coach are responsible for picking up and signing for the Pre Season Schedule, Regular Season Schedule, Post Season Schedule and Revised Schedules.
3. The coach and assistant coach are responsible for issuing copies to members of their team.

### Postponements

1. A team can only postpone a regular season game due to a duty or mission-related event that prevents that unit from fielding a team.
2. A letter submitted at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled game must be signed by a Squadron Commander, or First Sergeant stating that due to duty commitment (s), the squadron cannot field a team. The squadron must notify the Sports Director NLT 48 hours prior to the scheduled game/match to allow notification of the opposing team and the officials. If mission related event is last minute, then a letter must be sent in no later than 1200 noon the next business

day or it will be counted as a forfeit. Teams are encouraged to give early notification to allow the fitness center time to contact the other team scheduled to play.

3. If a team must **forfeit** a total of **2** games due to non-mission related events, the team will be released from the league if good justification is not given to the Sports Director.
4. Games **will not** be rescheduled for unit functions or any unregulated scheduled conflicts. (I.e. Commander Call, Change of Command, parties.... Etc.)

### Forfeits

1. **A (5) minute grace period following game time is forfeit time.** Any team that forfeits more than **2** games due to non-mission related events will be released from league play. All games that team played will be removed from the standings unless they have only one game left, then they will be given a loss for that last game.

## Protest

### Grounds

1. Rules and bylaws infractions are the **only** grounds for protest.

### Filing a Protest

1. A protest must be filed at the time of the infraction with the head official before the next play, and recorded in the official scorebook or protest form.
2. A written protest including the date, time, and circumstances involved in the protest must be submitted by the protesting team the next duty day after the game by no later than 12:00 pm to the Sports Director or the protest will not be considered.

### Review of Protest

1. The following procedures will take place.
  - The Sports Director will investigate the issue
  - Sports Director will inform the Fitness Director of the Protest and Findings.
  - Sports Director will recommend a decision to the Fitness Director.
  - Fitness Director will make a ruling or call upon an emergency Sports Council meeting for a ruling.

## Playoffs

### Type of Competition

A Double Elimination Tournament will determine a Base Champion.

### Playoff Eligibility

The top 50% of each division will make Base Championship Playoffs.

Ties at the End of Regular Season Play

1. Teams that are tied at the end of the regular season will be determined by head to head competition, then with statistics kept by computer (record, offensive scoring, defense points against).

Base Championship Games

1. The coaches are responsible for notifying Squadron Commanders, and First Sergeants of the time and date of the championship game. Squadron Commanders and First Sergeants presence are required for the Awards Ceremony. If one/both of them are not available a replacement is required.

**Awards**

The Ceremony

1. Each team will receive ( 1 ) team trophy and ( 12 ) individual awards.
2. In the absence of the Base Commander, the Wing Commander, or Intramural Director will present the awards. Teams are encouraged to invite their Commander or First Shirt to the Championship game.
3. There will not be a Divisional Playoffs and/or Awards for Divisions. Division play decides positioning for Base Championship playoffs.

//SIGNED//  
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Sports Director, Hurlburt Field

//SIGNED//  
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Fitness Director, Hurlburt Field