SUBJECT: Armed Forces Participation in National and International Sports Activities

(c) Section 717 of title 10, United States Code
(d) DoD 5500.7-R, “Joint Ethics Regulation,” current version

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction:

   a. Reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction in accordance with the authority in Reference (b) to establish policy, assign responsibilities, and prescribe procedures for the management and participation of Military Services personnel in Service sports competitions and in civilian national and international amateur sports competitions.

   b. Establishes the Senior Military Sports Advisor (SMSA), the Armed Forces Sports Council (AFSC), the AFSC Secretariat, and the AFSC Working Group.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction applies to OSD, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary.

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:
a. The Military Services shall be appropriately represented at International Military Sports Council (CISM) activities and in civilian national and international amateur sports competitions.

b. Pursuant to section 717 of title 10, United States Code (Reference (c)), Service members are permitted to train for, attend, and participate in civilian amateur competitions including the Pan-American Games, the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, and qualifying events and preparatory competition for those games. Service members may also train for, attend, and participate in other international amateur sports competitions, including qualifying events and preparations for those competitions, if the Secretary of State determines that the interests of the United States will be served by participation in those competitions.

c. Subject to the limits established in Reference (c) and the availability of funds, the Department of Defense may fund the cost to train Service members for the competitions referenced in paragraph 4.b, as well as their attendance at and participation in those competitions. Expenses incurred for such purposes may not exceed the limitation established in Reference (c).

d. When selected to represent the United States in nonmilitary national and international amateur sports competitions as part of a team that may include civilians, Service members, to the maximum extent feasible, shall be equipped, transported, and subsisted by the sponsoring agency (e.g., the United States Olympic Committee or national governing body (NGB)) responsible for the particular amateur sport in the same manner as the civilian members of the team.

e. Only those sporting events conducted or sanctioned by the AFSC may use the Armed Forces Sports logo, call the event an Armed Forces event (e.g., Armed Forces Boxing Championship), or otherwise use the term “Armed Forces” when describing the event.

f. All DoD personnel participating in national or international sports competitions are subject to the rules in DoD 5500.7-R (Reference (d), including, but not limited to, any awards received.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 1.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 2.

7. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the DoD Issuances Website at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives.
8. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Instruction is effective upon its publication to the DoD Issuances Website.

Clifford L. Stanley  
Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

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ENCLOSURE 1

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (PDUSD(P&R)). The PDUSD(P&R), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall provide guidance and oversight concerning the participation of Service members in Armed Forces, national and international amateur sports competitions.

2. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY (USD(P)). The USD(P), pursuant to Reference (c), shall consult with the Department of State (DoS) as to whether Service member participation in all international athletic sports competitions other than those specifically referred to in paragraph 4.b above the signature of this Instruction will serve the interests of the United States.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS (ASD(PA)). The ASD(PA) shall provide assistance to the AFSC to facilitate a free flow of news and information to the news media, the general public, and the Department of Defense concerning the participation of Service members in Armed Forces sports competitions and in civilian national and international amateur sports competitions.

4. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

   a. Develop comprehensive sports programs based on specific needs and mission requirements that provide the opportunity for qualified Service members to prepare for and compete in authorized national and international amateur sports competitions on a voluntary basis.

   b. Designate their respective Service Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Directors, or another representative, as a member of the AFSC.

   c. Initiate through the AFSC and the USD(P), request for DoS determination on participation in international sports competitions (excluding participation in the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games, and competitions and events of CISM or Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers that DoS has approved) and for obtaining necessary travel clearances.

5. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. The Secretary of the Army, in addition to the responsibilities in section 4 of this enclosure, shall provide administrative and logistical support to the AFSC Secretariat. This administrative and logistical support shall include staffing of the
AFSC Secretariat office to include office space, office equipment and supplies, and other services required in support of the operation and administration of the Armed Forces Sports Program. The Department of the Army shall exercise no independent program supervision in the execution of the operation and administration of the Armed Forces Sports Program, outside of its role as a member of the AFSC.
ENCLOSURE 2

PROCEDURES

1. The SMSA shall:
   a. Be a Service Personnel Chief (or his or her designated general or flag officer (G/FO)) assigned to a 4-year term (terminating at the completion of each Summer Olympiad) on a rotating basis in the following order: Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Navy.
   b. Make recommendations on requests from the AFSC to the USD(P) for participation in international sports competition and other international travel matters relating to the sports competitions requiring action from the OSD.
   c. Approve the selection of the CISM Chief of Delegation, who shall be an active duty G/FO.
   d. Refer all matters requiring OSD coordination to PDUSD(P&R).
   e. Submit comments to the USD(P&R) on legislative matters affecting military sports activities that are of interest to the ASD(PA) and the respective Services.
   f. Review AFSC minutes to ensure compliance with DoD polices before submission to USD(P&R).

2. The AFSC shall:
   a. Comprise the MWR Directors of each of the Services or their designated representatives. The Chair of the AFSC shall rotate every 2 years on October 1 between the Service MWR Directors or their designated representatives in the following order: Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army.
   b. Determine the quadrennial apportionment among the Services for funding Service member participation in civilian national and international amateur sports competitions pursuant to Reference (c); advise the PDUSD(P&R) of the apportionment and any changes to it.
   c. Initiate requests through the SMSA to the USD(P) for DoS determinations as to whether participation in international sports competitions not specifically listed in paragraph 4.b. above the signature of this Instruction is in the best interests of the United States.
   d. Maintain frequent contact with the ASD(PA) concerning Service member participation in the Armed Forces Sports Program and provide appropriate information to that office for media release.
e. Act for the Department of Defense on matters pertaining to sports events involving more than one Service.

f. Approve the annual Armed Forces Sports Program championships and monitor all Service efforts in support of national and international sports activities. The host Service is responsible for planning and conducting Armed Forces Sports Program championships.

g. Coordinate and maintain liaison with the appropriate sports organizations, federations, and NGBs on matters of mutual interest to the Military Departments and nominate Military Service representatives to those organizations, federations, and NGBs in compliance with Reference (d). Representatives may not participate in the day-to-day operations of the entity.

h. Nominate Service Representatives to:

   (1) Serve as DoD liaisons or representatives to the U.S. Olympic Committee, NGBs, and national and international sports organizations in cases where all the Services are not represented or when representation is limited by the national or international sports organization. The AFSC shall select a representative from among those recommended by the Services. (This provision does not preclude individual Service membership in sports organizations in support of the Services’ respective programs; however, AFSC prior approval is required).

   (2) Serve as the Military Services Chief of Delegation to CISM. The length of the appointment will be at the pleasure of the AFSC.

   (3) Serve as a CISM committee or commission member.

i. Meet quarterly or at the call of the Chair.

j. Determine funding support for Armed Forces Sports Programs as follows:

   (1) Specify the maximum funding that can be provided by each Service to support participation in international sports activities as authorized by Reference (c). The AFSC may allocate a part of such authorization for the conduct of joint specialized training and participation in international competitions.

   (2) Develop nonappropriated fund requirements for supplementary support to be considered by the Services.

3. The Office of the AFSC Secretariat shall:

   a. Receive direction from the AFSC in the discharge of AFSC responsibilities, primarily as staff administrator and coordinator.

   b. Serve as the executive office for the AFSC.

   c. Serve as the U.S. liaison to CISM.
d. Process travel clearances through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System to obtain country, theater, and special area clearances for Service members participating in CISM events.

e. Receive and process requests from foreign CISM Chiefs of Delegation for U.S. military coaching assistance.

f. Coordinate with the DoS and other governmental agencies and national sports organizations regarding sports tours and clinics in foreign countries that involve Service member participation.

g. Serve as a contact point for the Department of Defense and its components on matters pertaining to the Armed Forces Sports Program.

h. Refer AFSC matters requiring OSD coordination through the SMSA to the PDUSD(P&R).

i. Submit, through the SMSA to the PDUSD(P&R), comments on legislative matters affecting military sports activities that are of interest to the Department of Defense.

j. Publicize Service member participation in programs, including the Olympic Games, by providing informational material to the ASD(PA) and the respective Services.

k. Provide agenda, meeting minutes, reports, and other administrative support as may be required.

l. Transmit AFSC minutes to the SMSA for review to ensure compliance with DoD policy before submission to the PDUSD(P&R).

4. The AFSC Working Group shall perform such duties as directed by the AFSC. Each Service shall designate a representative to the AFSC Working Group. The Chair of the AFSC Working Group shall be from the same Service as the Chair of AFSC and shall serve the same 2-year term of office as the AFSC Chair. Both Chairs will rotate among the Services in the following order: Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army.
GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this Instruction.

**AFSC.** The governing body of the Armed Forces Sports Program, which is composed of the MWR Directors of the Military Services or their designated representatives.

**AFSC Working Group.** The staffing body of the AFSC, which is composed of MWR representatives from each Military Service.

**AFSC Secretariat.** The administrative support body of the AFSC.

**Armed Forces Sports Program.** Those actions and events, such as training or national qualifying events, occurring in preparation for, and the actual participation in, the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, CISM, or other international competition in amateur sports determined by the Secretary of State to be in the interests of the United States. It does not include installation (extramural and/or intramural), command, Service, or inter-Service competition or preparation, training, or qualifying for these competitions.

**CISM.** An international military sports organization composed of approximately 131 member nations, including the United States. The organization was established in 1948 to develop friendly relations among military athletes of member countries by encouraging participation in physical activities and sports events.

**CISM Chief of Delegation.** The single representative from each member country who establishes a national position on all CISM matters and is empowered to vote at the General Assembly.

**Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers.** An organization of Reserve Officers established in 1947 from among 13 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Alliance Nations to foster goodwill and sportsmanship through the participation in military competition.

**International Amateur Sports Competition.** Any civilian amateur sports competition between any athlete or athletes representing the United States, either individually or as part of a team, and any athlete or athletes representing any foreign country.

**SMSA.** The Service Personnel Chief (or his or her designated G/FO) who is responsible for the management and operation of the Armed Forces Sports Program and reports to the PDUSD(P&R).