

**BY ORDER OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

**HQ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY INSTRUCTION 36-3518**

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Personnel

**INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
PROGRAMS**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 36-35, *United States Air Force Academy*, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-3501, *Air Force Academy Operations*. This publication establishes policy and procedures for intercollegiate athletic programs and applies to all United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) personnel who participate or support intercollegiate athletic programs. This publication does not apply to the United States Air Force (USAF) Reserve, Air National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol members. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using an Air Force (AF) Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. The authorities to waive requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier 3 (T-3) number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority. The waiver authority for non-tiered requirements in this publication is the (USAFA/AD) Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with (IAW) Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This revision updates the Certifying Authority's information (Header), updates office symbols and titles throughout the publication, updates non-NCAA sports (**Table 1**), updates Sleep

Throughs ([paragraph 3.6.](#)), updates SAMI policy ([paragraph 3.8.2.](#)), updates team work clothing ([paragraph 5.2.](#)), Updates Team Dining Out ([paragraph 6.2.](#)), updates Team Dining Policy ([paragraph 7.](#)), updates Team Captain responsibilities ([paragraph 8.](#)), updates Major Training Event Deconfliction ([paragraph 9.](#)).

1. General.

1.1. Responsibility. The Directorate of Athletics (USAFA/AD) at the USAFA will, in conjunction with the Dean of Faculty (USAFA/DF) and Commandant of Cadets (USAFA/CW) provide the necessary instruction and experience to all cadets so they will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and responsibility essential to become leaders and officers of character in the USAF.

1.2. Philosophy. The Academy athletic programs are an integral part of the overall Academy character development and training curriculum. Academy intercollegiate athletic programs emphasize fair and honest competition, and develop the leadership characteristics of self-confidence, determination, physical courage, and a highly competitive attitude related to activities both on and off the playing fields. Furthermore, the Academy intercollegiate program is designed to supplement the leadership opportunities available to all cadets, while maintaining a proper perspective within the institutional framework to ensure academic success, which culminates in a commission as a second lieutenant in the USAF.

2. Athletic Team Rosters.

2.1. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Requirement. Athletic teams consist of cadets who have completed the necessary eligibility paperwork and are listed on an official team roster by the respective coach. Each team is listed under a particular season (see [Table 1.](#)). Eligibility paperwork includes the NCAA Student-Athlete Statement, NCAA Drug Testing Consent Form and the Mountain West Conference Historical Report.

Table 1. Team Seasons.

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football	Indoor Track*	Baseball
Cheer/Dance Team *#^	Basketball*	Outdoor Track*
Soccer*	Hockey	Lacrosse
Waterpolo	Rifle*	Tennis*^
Volleyball	Fencing*	Golf^
Cross Country*	Wrestling	Boxing#
Golf**	Swimming*	
Tennis *^	Diving*	
	Gymnastics*	
	Cheer/Dance Team*#^	
*Men's and Women's sports ^Split competitive season # Non-NCAA Sports Note: USAFA/AD will provide the Commandant of Cadets (USAFA/CW) with the start and stop dates of each team's primary season at the beginning of each academic year.		

2.2. **Mandatory Formation.** Cadets on team rosters will adhere to attendance at formations in accordance with the official Air Force Academy (USAFA) Schedule of Calls and appropriate excusals approved by the Academy Board and/or Scheduling Committee. Unless a higher priority activity is required, cadets on intercollegiate teams must attend scheduled practices and contests. Activity priorities may be referenced in USAFAI 36-3536, *Allocation of Cadet Time*.

2.3. **Intramural Participation.** While on intercollegiate athletic team rosters, cadets will not participate in intramurals unless specifically cleared by the coach. If a cadet (including team managers) is dropped from a team, the coach will inform the Directorate of Athletics' Scheduling and Grading Branch, Intercollegiate Compliance Branch, Intramural Branch, and the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) and/or Academy Military Trainer (AMT) within two academic days. The cadet must notify his or her AOC and the squadron chain of command (to include the squadron chief of athletics [SCOA] for intramural accountability) within two academic days of being dropped from a team. A dropped cadet is required to participate in squadron intramurals. The Directorate of Athletics' Intercollegiate Liaison Branch (USAFA/ADV) will distribute team rosters to AOCs on a regular basis to ensure accuracy.

2.4. **Manager Requirements.** Cadet intercollegiate team managers will be considered members of their athletic teams and their names will appear on the official roster of the team. Managers on athletic, conduct, aptitude, or honor probation will be removed from the team roster. Managers on academic probation will be referred to the appropriate team eligibility committee. If a cadet is converted from a player to a team manager, the coach will notify Scheduling and Grading Branch, Intercollegiate Compliance Branch, and the AOC and/or AMT of the change.

3. Athletic Scheduling. USAFA/AD will provide a list of each sport's primary season start and stop dates to the Commandant of Cadets (USAFA/CW) and Cadet Wing Commander (AFCW/CC) no later than the beginning of each academic year. The remaining weeks in the academic year for a particular sport are considered non-primary (i.e. practice and conditioning and/or weight training). Teams in their Primary Season are excused from Saturday Silver Weekend Training if practicing.

3.1. **USAFA Schedule of Calls (SOC).** Intercollegiate athletes will comply with the USAFA Schedule of Calls.

3.2. **Team Practice.** Scheduled intercollegiate practice is conducted in accordance with the USAFA SOC, Monday thru Saturday, and will not exceed the NCAA maximum weekly practice hour limitations. During this time, any scheduled intercollegiate practice takes precedence over regularly-scheduled military training and formations ([Table 2](#)). Practicing twice a day will be allowed on a case-by-case basis with approval from the USAFA/AD and USAFA Scheduling Committee.

3.3. **Military Formations.** All intercollegiate athletes are required to attend all military formations that occur outside the excusal time granted by the USAFA Schedule of Calls (SOC) or an approved Scheduling Committee Action (SCA). Unless excused by an approved SCA, cadet athletes will not miss M-5.

Table 2. Athletic Team Attendance at Formations.

ACTIVITY	EXCUSAL
Monday through Friday (parades, retreat)	All scheduled intercollegiate practices and competition IAW USAFA SOC and/or SCA
Silver Weekends (Friday)	All scheduled intercollegiate practices and competition IAW USAFA SOC and/or SCA
Silver Weekends (Saturday)	Primary season practices and SCA for competitions
Blue Weekends (To include discretionary training)	All scheduled intercollegiate practices and competitions.
Mandatory Meal Formations	Comply with scheduling committee action or Schedule of Calls.
Academics	As authorized by USAFAI 36-3536 and approved by the USAFA Scheduling Committee.
Major Training Events (e.g., Recognition)	As agreed upon by the Commandant and USAFA/AD as documented in governing SCA(s) and or NOTAM

3.4. Cadet Athletes are excused from all formation, meal, meeting, or appointments 7 ½ hours prior to the contest start time, or the block of time approved by the SOC or specific SCA.

3.4.1. Cadet athletes who have a team meal scheduled and do not have SCA approval to miss the Noon Meal Formation will participate in the Noon Meal Formation. Athletes will march with their squadron or flight and remain with the Cadet Wing until they are excused by Wing Staff. Wing Staff will generally excuse cadets 10 minutes after the command “Wing Take Seats.”

3.5. Military Physical Training. I Intercollegiate athletes will not take part in military physical training activities the day before or the day of a scheduled contest. Since mandatory meal formations and marching are not physical training, all cadets without SCA will be present, to include athletes.

3.6. “Sleep Throughs.” Except for cadets returning from an academy sponsored trip after Taps, there are no events that warrant a “sleep through” during the week. Per USAFAI 36-3536 teams that return after Taps will sign-in and resume attending mandatory activities not earlier than 8 hours after their return, e.g., classes, squadron details, Charge of Quarters (CQ), calling minutes, etc. Intercollegiate athletes must sign in NLT 1 hour after arriving at USAFA and the Team Captain will ensure all team members comply.

3.7. Team Meals. Team meals are mandatory military formations and cadets will show up on time in the uniform of the day or team travel attire as approved by USAFA/AD and the Commandant.

3.8. Scheduled Wing-Wide Military Training Weekends (e.g., Silver Weekends, Parades, Retreat).

3.8.1. Per the USAFA SOC, intercollegiate time takes precedence Monday through Saturday during training activities.

3.8.2. Teams in their primary season are excused from all scheduled wing-wide military training and/or activities for a scheduled intercollegiate practice or competition. Saturday Morning Inspection (SAMI). Cadets will accomplish a minimum of one graded SAMI per semester. Cadets participating in competitions during a SAMI are excused from the inspection. At a minimum, the room will be in AM inspections (AMI) condition. AOCs will ensure an environment that allows for adequate competition preparation (e.g., door closed to allow for rest prior to a competition). Cadets participating in coach-scheduled practice during a SAMI will ensure their room is in SAMI condition. The room may be graded in the cadet's absence if the SAMI period conflicts with the scheduled practice or competition time. When practical, coaches are encouraged to schedule practices outside the SAMI period. Cadets may make-up SAMIs in order to complete a minimum of one SAMI per semester or attempt to improve the objective segment of MPA.

3.8.3. Intercollegiate teams participating in varsity or junior varsity competitions on Silver Weekends will be excused from military training preparation and from military training (SAMIs, Operational Readiness Inspections [ORI], parades, etc.) from 12 hours prior to the start of their SCA excusal to 15 hours after sign-in from the competition.

3.9. Supplemental Wing-Wide Military Training Weekends (i.e., Blue Weekends). Teams will be excused from any cadet-directed group or supplemental military training and formations on Blue Weekends when they have scheduled intercollegiate practices or competitions (primary or non-primary season).

4. Eligibility.

4.1. Academic Requirements.

4.1.1. NCAA Requirements. Eligibility for competing in an intercollegiate athletic contest will, as a minimum, be in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the NCAA, see [Table 3](#). NCAA eligibility standards include both minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) criteria and satisfactory progress toward graduation.

4.1.1.1. Intercollegiate eligibility requirements will, at a minimum, adhere to NCAA requirements. Intercollegiate eligibility requirements are intentionally different and may not mirror requirements for club sport.

4.1.2. Ineligibility. A member of an intercollegiate squad whose cumulative GPA falls below the standards in [Table 3](#) at the time a new semester begins becomes ineligible for competition until the beginning of the next semester (if he or she meets the cumulative GPA requirement at that time).

Table 3. NCAA Intercollegiate Eligibility GPA Requirements.

Beginning of Semester	Cumulative GPA
3	1.80
4	1.80
5	1.90
6	1.90

7 and subsequent semesters	2.00
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4.1.3. Additional Standards. In addition to the NCAA standards in [Table 3](#), cadet athletes are ineligible with: Multiple F grades in the same semester, an F in a repeat course, Major's GPA less than a 2.00 during the first-class year, or a cumulative Military Performance Average (MPA) or Physical Education Average (PEA) below a 1.50.

4.2. Eligibility Committees. The eligibility committees for intercollegiate teams will determine a proper course of action for deficient cadet-athletes. The decision to retain deficient cadet-athletes on the team rests with the eligibility committee. [Cadet-athletes on honor probation may not represent the Academy during competitions.] Eligibility committee composition and procedures are covered in detail in USAFAI 36-3523, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*.

4.3. Athletic Probation. If a head coach elects to not have an athlete participate in reconditioning, they will provide the Directorate of Athletics' Fitness and Testing/Reconditioning Branch with a proposed workout plan to ensure the individual makes progress toward graduation requirements. Eligibility Committee Chairs will provide input regarding the progress of cadets on athletic probation in the published eligibility committee meeting minutes.

5. Team Attire.

5.1. Team Attire. Team attire will be referenced in *AFI 33-360, Chp 7, Para 7.1*.

5.1.1. Air Transportation. Short-sleeve blue shirts and athletic jackets is the standard attire for commercial air travel. For military air travel, flight suits, Airman Battle Uniforms, or team sweat suits are authorized. Teams traveling as part of a contingent will ensure they are uniform with the contingent. The head coach or Officer Representative (OR) may require modifications to the uniform based on weather conditions such as long-sleeve shirts and ties/tie tabs, service dress uniform, or no athletic jacket. Neither the Head Coach nor the Officer Representative (OR) can deviate from this guidance without approval of their Sports Administrator.

5.1.2. Ground Transportation. An approved team uniform may be worn. Coaches and ORs are responsible for ensuring the team uniform favorably represents the Academy and is worn by the entire team. The competition or game uniform may be worn if traveling directly to and from a local contest if no intermediate stops are planned or if facilities and/or locker rooms are not available. Team meals may be eaten at a public establishment as long as the meal is eaten as a team.

5.1.3. Civilian Clothing. When civilian clothing is required, it must be approved by the Sport Administrator. Athletes should wear attire that is appropriate and in good taste. Otherwise, team travel sweats will be worn by all team members while at away contests (e.g., to and from meals, hotels, contests, etc.).

5.1.4. Security. USAFA/AD, in coordination with the Commandant, can make changes to the uniform at their discretion based on security concerns.

5.2. Team Workout Clothing. Teams will be in the designated AD issued attire determined by the coach and must be in "Air Force Athletics" colors (blue, grey, white, black) with only Air Force Athletics' logos and/or team name. Members will not mix uniform types (USAFA

T-shirt and gray shorts, blue sweats under normal Physical Training Uniform, etc.). Cadet athletes will wear the issued USAFA Physical Training Uniform or UOD to and from practice during the duty day. (Practice is the last military duty for intercollegiate athletes.)

5.3. Team Issued Running Suit in Mitchell Hall. The team issued running suit is only allowed in Mitchell Hall when the team is departing on a bus trip and the wear of the running suit will not overlap with a scheduled wing wide formation or meal. In addition, this uniform combination will be coordinated with Mitchell Hall via USAFA/ADV and/or the Intercollegiate Logistics Branch when the team meal is set up.

6. Alcohol and Team Social Functions.

6.1. Alcohol Consumption. Cadets will not consume alcoholic beverages on team trips unless approved by the HQ USAFA/AD and the Commandant.

6.2. Team Dining Out. Teams are allowed one team dining out per month. Coaches will coordinate through USAFA/ADV no later than two days prior to the planned event to ensure there are no conflicts. Teams will comply with the blanket dining pass SCA. As a general guideline, the Dining Out SCA is not to be used on Silver Weekends. Teams using their Dining Out SCA must be accompanied by a Coach or Officer Representative.

7. Dining Hall Procedures.

7.1. Pre-Game and/or Post-Game Meals. Pre-game meals and/or box lunches will be coordinated through the USAFA/ADSL in accordance with (IAW) USAFAI 34-104, *Operating the Cadet Dining Facility*.

7.2. Practice and Meals. Every team shall ensure practices end with enough time for cadets to make the evening buffet meal. Intercollegiate time per the SOC includes time for the evening meal.

8. Team Captains.

8.1. Selection. USAFA/AD approves all team captains after approval recommendation is received from each team's Sport Administrator. A team captain is selected from the members of the in-coming First-Class cadets. Justification is required if someone other than a First-Class cadet is selected. Teams should strive to appoint one team captain. Team captains will be approved by the USAFA/AD and the list will be forwarded to the Dean and Commandant.

8.2. Cadet Rank. Team captains will wear rank in accordance with their assigned chain-of-command or staff duty position. The team captain has command authority over all respective team members for all actions pertinent to the team. Team captain insignia includes a silver lightning bolt centered above the rank on the individual's shoulder boards.

8.3. Responsibilities and Instructions.

8.3.1. Enforcement of Rules and Standards. The team captain is responsible to the head coach, the OR, and Commandant for the enforcement of all instructions and the observation of proper discipline by the team. Team captains also provide liaison between the coach and the team.

8.3.2. Travel Sign-In. Team members will sign-in to their squadron (be physically present) within 1 hour of the teams' arrival at USAFA. ORs should notify the Cadet

Wing Operations Center at 333-2910 and the specific sport supervisor when teams are considerably delayed for inclusion in the Wing Status Summary.

9. Training Event Deconfliction.

9.1. In order to allow for maximum four-class participation during major training events, USAFA/AD will attempt to avoid scheduling competitions that conflict with proposed event dates. However, this is very difficult to accomplish with limited completion dates during the year, USAFA AD will make every effort to maximize participation when possible. 9.2. USAFA/AD and Commandant coordination is required at the start of each academic year to anticipate training conflicts.

JENNIFER A. BLOCK, Col, USAF
Director of Athletics

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

AFI 36-3501, *Air Force Academy Operations*, 28 April 2008
 AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 1 December 2015
 AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008
 AFPD 36-35, *United States Air Force Academy*, 14 March 2018
 USAFAI 34-104, *Operating the Cadet Dining Facility*, 17 November 2011
 USAFAI 36-3536 *Allocation of Cadet Time*, 15 March 2017
 USAFAI 36-3523, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*, 22 February 2012

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF—Air Force
AFCW—Air Force Cadet Wing
AFCWMAN—Air Force Cadet Wing Manual
AFMAN—Air Force Manual
AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive
AMI—Morning Inspection
AMT—Academy Military Trainer
AOC—Air Officer Commanding
CQ—Charge of Quarters
GPA—Grade Point Average
IAW—In Accordance With
MPA—Military Performance Average
NCAA—National Collegiate Athletic Association
OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility
OR—Officer Representative
ORI—Operational Readiness Inspection
PEA—Physical Education Average
RDS—Record Disposition Schedule

SAMI—Saturday Morning Inspection

SCA—Scheduling Committee Action

SCOA—Squadron Chief of Athletics

SOC—Schedule of Calls

UOD—Uniform of the Day

USAF—United States Air Force

USAFA—United States Air Force Academy

USAF AI—United States Air Force Academy Instruction

Terms

Competitions—Competitions are defined as those with another NCAA school or outside organization previously approved by the USAFA Scheduling Committee. Scheduled intra-squad games and/or matches are also considered competitions.

NCAA—The governing body for USAFA participation in athletics at the collegiate level.

Non-Primary Season—The part of the academic year that does not include the primary season.

Primary Season—The primary (i.e., practice and competition) season for a particular sport is the approximate 5 months during the academic year that represents the most crucial training period for each sport. Some sports will have Primary Season dates in both the Fall and the Spring.

Scheduled Intercollegiate Practice—A scheduled intercollegiate practice is a mandatory coach-monitored practice. This coach may be a coach within the particular sport, weight-training coach, or conditioning coach. Any optional, individual, or “team captain” practice does not constitute a scheduled intercollegiate practice.

Team Dining Out—SCA approved pass for teams to dine at a restaurant of their choosing. These passes are limited to one per month.