

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2016 MIXED UNITED STATES BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

*Adopted by the Board of Directors
of the United States Bridge Federation*

Board of Directors of the United States Bridge Federation

International Team Trials Committee

USBF Credentials Committee

USBF Tournament Appeals Committee

Tournament Planning Committee

Grievance & Appeals Committee

USBF Recorder

Hospitality Committee

Vugraph Committee

**United States Mixed Bridge Championship Conditions of Contest
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2016 MUSBC
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I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

These Conditions of Contest may not be changed after commencement of play except for emergency changes.

The 2016 Mixed United States Bridge Championship (MUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to nominate the winning team as the USA Mixed representatives to compete in the 2016 World Bridge Games. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from September 3-17, 2016, in Wroclaw, Poland. Under current USBF procedures, if the USBF Board of Directors believes there is any reason not to nominate all of the players on the winning team to represent the USA, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for review. The Credentials Committee review shall be limited to the players' ethics, conduct, deportment and hygiene and shall not take into consideration their bridge ability. Normally, the USBF Board will only follow this procedure based on behavior at or after the Mixed USBC or information received after the Mixed USBC.

A team with a player who is later not invited or approved by the WBF and/or the USBF for any reason (such as residency, conduct, ethics, hygiene, etc.) may be disqualified.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Eligibility

Teams may consist of 4, 5, or 6 members, and may have a designated non-playing captain. Each pair must consist of one woman and one man.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by midnight EDT on Monday, June 27th, 2016. You must be logged in to the USBF site to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until midnight EST on Friday, July 1, 2016 if it improves the event format. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by sending an

email to the USBF Secretary) until July 7, 2016. Any team that is reduced to fewer than two men and two women players because players on the team have qualified for the Open, Women's, or Senior teams for the World Bridge Games may withdraw from the Mixed USBC and receive a refund of the event fee.

C. Fees.

Fees are an event entry fee of \$240 per team and session fees of \$150 per team per session (\$300 per day) for the face to face Semi-Final and Final stages of the event. No session fees are due for the online stages of the event, but each player is responsible for compensating his or her monitor if necessary. Payment of the event fee (\$240) is due by the guaranteed entry date. The event fee is refundable only if a team withdraws before the guaranteed entry date, or if a team that has entered the Mixed USBC is reduced to fewer than 2 men and 2 women because players qualified for the 2016 Open, Women's, or Senior team for the World Bridge Games.

D. Dates & Stages of the Event

The 2016 Mixed USBC will be held in three stages (unless 16 or fewer teams enter). The first stage will be an online Swiss teams held on Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10, 2016. The second stage will be an online KO held on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17 (the first match may be played earlier if both teams in a match agree). The third stage will be a face to face KO Semi-Final and Final held on August 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in Washington, DC.

E. Site and Hotel

The site for the Semi-Final and Final is the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

F. Schedule of Play

Online play will commence at 1:00 pm EDT on each day. Face to face play will commence at 10:00 am EDT each day.

G. Conditions of Contest

The event is governed by this document and by the USBF [General Conditions of Contest](#).

III. SEEDING

There will be no seeding for the first stage of the Mixed USBC, unless there are exactly 8 or 16 teams entered. For the KO stages, teams will be ranked in the order in which they finished in the first stage. The teams ranked 1 and 2 will be assigned to bracket positions 1 and 2. The teams ranked 3 and 4 will be randomly assigned to bracket positions 3 and 4. The teams ranked 5 & 6 will be randomly assigned to bracket positions 5 & 6. The remaining teams will be similarly assigned to bracket positions (teams 7 & 8 to positions 7 & 8, teams 9 & 10 to positions 9 & 10, etc).

If the first stage of the event is a Knockout, the teams will be ranked based on the Open (Vanderbilt/Spingold/Reisinger) seeding points of the men on the team and the Women's (Wagar) seeding points of the women on the team. The sum of the Open seeding points of the men will be divided by the number of men on the team and the sum of the Women's seeding points of the women will be divided by the number of women on the team. Those two averages will be added together to determine the seeding points of the team. The teams will then be assigned to bracket positions as set forth above.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

A. If fewer than 17 teams Enter

If 16 or fewer team enter the event, it will start with stage 2, an online Knockout or Round Robin to reduce the field to 4 teams.

1) If Exactly 8 Teams Enter

If exactly 8 or 16 teams enter, stage will be a Knockout to reduce the field to 4 teams. Stage 2 will be held on July 9 & 10. If exactly 8 teams enter, stage 2 will be a 90 board Knockout match, to be scheduled at the time preference of the teams, but if they cannot agree, then 60 boards on Saturday and 30 boards on Sunday, with each day's play starting at 1:00 pm EDT.

2) If Exactly 16 Teams Enter

If exactly 16 teams enter, the stage 2 will consist of two 60 board Knockout matches, with the first match scheduled at the time preference of the players (or on Saturday, July 9, starting at 1:00 EDT if the teams don't agree on a different time), and the second match scheduled on Sunday, July 10, starting at 1:00 EDT or at an earlier time agreed on by both teams.

3) If 9-15 or fewer than 8 Teams Enter

If fewer than 17 teams, but not exactly 8 or 16 teams, enter, the first stage of the event will be a complete Round Robin to reduce the field to 4 teams. The Round Robin will be played on July 9, 10 and (if needed to have reasonable length matches) July 17. The exact schedule of the Round Robin will be determined by the Mixed Team Conditions of Contest Committee.

B. If More than 16 Teams Enter

If there are more than 16 teams entered, the first stage of the event will be a Swiss Teams, played online on BBO on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 & 10. Matches will be 8 boards long and will be played straight through. **Time for 8 boards? Playbacks?** IMP scores will be converted to VPs as set forth in the [USBF Victory Point Scale for 8 board matches](#). Play each day will start at **1:00 EDT**. The second session each day will start at **7:00 EDT**.

The second stage of the event will be an online Knockout among the top 16 finishers in the first stage. Teams will be assigned to bracket position as set forth in section III above. Each match will be 60 boards long. The teams may schedule their first match at will, but it must be completed **by 10:00 pm EDT** on Saturday, July 16th. The second (Quarterfinal) match will be held on Sunday, July 17th. The first half will start at **1:00 pm EDT** and the second half will start at **6:00 pm EDT**. **Alternatively, the teams may schedule the times for this match, so long as it is completed by 10:00 pm EDT on Sunday, July 17th.**

The third stage of the event will be face to face Semi-Final and Final Knockout matches, played on August 1-3 in Washington, DC. Each match will be 90 boards long and will take 1-1/2 days. Play will start at 10:00 am each day. On August 1 and 3, the

second session will start at 3:45. On August 2, the second session will start at 4:30.

V. SPECIAL REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO ONLINE PLAY

1. Monitors

Each player must be monitored during play. For the first stage of the event, players may arrange to play at a local bridge club (normally the player will have to bring a computer and arrange for the internet connection) with a club official as monitor or may arrange for some other monitor who is an ACBL member in good standing at a bridge club or at a site other than a bridge club. The monitor will confirm to USBF that the player did not consult with another person at the site, talk on a cell phone, look at a text message on a cell phone during the session or have an instant message or email program or a bridge playing program active on his or her computer during the session.

For the second stage of the event, monitors must be ACBL recognized tournament directors or other equally qualified persons who are approved by the USBF Board of Directors.

2. Alerts

Each player will be responsible for self-alerting his or her bids to the opponents.

3. Review of Play

A 3 person expert Review Committee has been selected by the USBF Board/Mixed USBC Tournament Committee to review all hands played in the Event. This will take place during the event and at the conclusion of the event. The Review Committee will notify the USBF Board/Mixed USBC Tournament Committee if it believes that any player's or pair's actions during the Event demonstrate a pattern suggesting that a player may have had information other than that obtained from his hand and the bidding and play of the cards.

All participants must sign a release which will state that the Review Committee will make a determination of the facts and the USBF Board will take appropriate action, which can include

eliminating teams from the event. Such action shall be binding on every participant and is not appealable.

If a team is eliminated from the Event as a result of this review, scores against that team shall not be considered in determining the rank of the others teams in the Event.

No kibitzers, except those specially approved by the **USBF Board/Mixed USBC Tournament Committee** shall be allowed during the online stages of the Event.

VI. INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.

A. Interpretation of Conditions

On matters involving the interpretation of these conditions or treatments of matters not included in these conditions:

1. Prior to July 6th, the USBF Board shall make determinations.
2. From July 6th through the end of the event, the DIC shall make any necessary interpretations.

B. Headings for Convenience.

Headings are for convenience only and are not to be considered for purposes of interpreting the conditions.

C. Conditions Interpreted in Entirety.

These Conditions of Contest are to be interpreted in their entirety, which includes the USBF General Conditions of Contest. No section or appendix of these conditions shall be interpreted in such a manner as to render any other section or appendix to be meaningless.

D. Omissions.

The omission of a condition, restriction, rule, or regulation in one section or paragraph of the conditions which condition, restriction, rule, or regulation is expressly stated in another section of the conditions is deemed intentional.

Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF and ACBL policies, procedures, regulations and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge when ruling on any issues not expressly addressed in these conditions.