

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE
FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2011 UNITED STATES SENIOR BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

Board of Directors of the United States Bridge Federation

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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 2011 United States Senior Bridge Championship (USSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to nominate the winning team as USA I and the winner of the USA2 bracket as USA2 for the 2011 World Bridge Federation ("WBF") Senior Bowl, to be played in Eindhoven, Netherlands, October 15-29, 2011. 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 teams for the 2011 Senior Bowl, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for review. The Credential 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 USSBC or information received after the USSBC.

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. All playing members of a team must have been born on or before December 31, 1951.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by Friday, April 15, 2011. This shall be the final date for close of entries. One additional team may be added after that date for the convenience of the movement. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by changing the team roster on the USBF website) until May 23, 2011. Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification of its players for the Bermuda Bowl may withdraw from the USSBC and receive a refund of both the event fee and the advance payment of session fees.

C. Fees.

Fees are an event entry fee of \$360 per team and session fees of \$120 per team per session (\$240 per day). Payment of \$600 must accompany the registration of the team; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the first day of play. The event fee is refundable only if a team that has entered the USSBC qualifies for the Bermuda Bowl or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the Bermuda Bowl. The advance payment of session fees is refundable.

D. Dates

The 2011 USSBC will begin Monday June 6, 2011 and will, most likely, end on Saturday, June 11.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2011 USSBC is the Marriott Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI. Reserve by May 22nd to get the USBF room rate of \$115 single or double.

F. Captain's Meetings and Schedule of Play

Play will commence at 11 AM on each day with the further schedule to be determined by the DIC. There will be a Captain's Meeting at 10:30 AM on June 6th. Further Captain's meetings will be held at the discretion of the DIC.

III. SEEDING

The USSBC shall be seeded based on ACBL seeding points used for the Baze Senior Knockout, including masterpoints, which are adjusted in accordance with the ACBL's current formula. Resident's seeding points awarded (not earned) by the ACBL shall count toward a player's ACBL seeding point totals.

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the sum of the SP totals for each player (capped at 50) divided by the number of players on the team. In the event of a tie, the average SP without cap will be used to break the tie.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

A. General Structure

Except when the initial entry is 4 or 8 teams, the USSBC will start with a preliminary phase. With an entry between 5 and 12 teams, the preliminary phase will be a complete Round Robin among the teams. If 6, 7 or 9 teams enter, this will be a 2 day Round Robin to cut the field to 4. With other entry sizes this will be a one day Round Robin to cut the field to 8. After the initial Round Robin, the field will be reduced to 4 or 8 teams and the event will continue as a double elimination KO. If more than 12 teams enter, the field will be divided into two brackets and the initial stage will consist of a complete Round Robin within each bracket. The top 4 teams in each bracket will qualify for KO play. The format for each number of teams is set forth in Appendix C. The format is subject to revision after entry size is known.

B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

1. General Procedure

If 4, 8 or 16 teams enter the event, the teams will be ranked according to Average Seeding Points as determined under Section III above. The team with the highest Average Seeding Points will be seeded 1st. The team with the 2nd highest average will be seeded 2nd. The teams with the 3rd and 4th highest Average Seeding Points will be randomly drawn into seeds 3 and 4. Similarly teams 5/8, 9/12, and 13/16 will be randomly drawn.

2. If There is a Round Robin

If there is an initial Round Robin, the results of the qualifying teams in the Round Robin will be combined with their SP rank to determine seeding. At the conclusion of the Round Robin, each qualifying team's Round Robin rank will be added to the team's SP rank. These sums will then be ranked to determine seed order. In case of ties, the team with the higher SP ranking will be seeded higher. The brackets will then be drawn as above.

V. 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 June 5, the SITT Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.
2. From June 5 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.

1. 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.
2. Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF and ACBL policies, procedures or regulations, as well as the Laws of Duplicate Bridge when ruling on matters or issues not expressly addressed in these conditions.

APPENDIX A. SPECIFIC FORMATS

I. First Day Format

NOTE: USBF General Conditions of Contest cover scoring, play requirements, sequestering of final matches, and requirement that each player play against each other team when there are 2 matches between teams. There shall be no seating rights in any one day format, and the General Conditions of Contest procedures for blind lineup submission shall apply. With 6-15 teams, all losers advance to USA2 bracket

Entry	First Day(s) Format
6 Teams	Two complete one-day Round Robins, 11 board matches. The order of play on day 2 shall be the opposite of the order of play on day 1. Score is the sum of the VPs earned each day. Top 4 teams qualify for KO.
7 Teams	Two complete one-day Round Robins, 8 board matches. Each team will have a bye on each day. The order of play on day 2 shall be the opposite of the order of play on day 1. Top 4 teams qualify for KO
8 Teams	Immediate KO
9 Teams	Two complete one-day Round Robins, 6 board matches. Each team will have a bye on each day. The order of play on day 2 shall be the opposite of the order of play on day 1. Score is the sum of the VPs earned each day. Top 4 teams qualify for KO
10 Teams	One day complete Round Robin, 6 board matches. Top 8 qualify
11 Teams	One day complete Round Robin, 5-board matches. Each team will have a bye. Top 8 qualify
12 Teams	One day complete Round Robin, 5-board matches. Top 8 qualify
13-14 Teams	Field divided into 2 brackets. One day complete Round Robin within each bracket, 8 board matches. Top 4 teams in each bracket qualify
15 teams	Field divided into 2 brackets. One day complete Round Robin within each bracket, 7 board matches. Top 4 teams in each bracket qualify
16 teams	Immediate KO. Only Round of 8 losers advance to USA2 bracket.

II. KO Format

A. USA1 Bracket

The USA1 bracket shall consist of 2, 3 or 4 KO matches depending on the initial number of teams. If the USA1 bracket starts with 8 or 16 teams, the final match shall be 90 boards long and be played over one and one-half days. All other matches shall be 60 boards long.

B. USA2 Bracket

Unless there are 16 or more teams, all teams eliminated at any stage of the event will play in the USA2 Bracket. USA2 Bracket formats will be:

1. 6-9 Teams Enter Event

To be determined after entries close with 6-9 teams

2. 10-12 Teams Enter Event

- (a) During the USA1 Quarterfinal, the teams that are eliminated in the Round Robin reduce to 1. If 10 teams entered the event, the two Round Robin losers play a 60 board match to reduce to 1. If 11 teams entered the event, the 3 Round Robin losers play a 3-way match (30 boards per match) to reduce to 1. If 12 teams entered the event, the 4 Round Robin losers play a KO to reduce to 1; in this case, the teams are randomly assigned to bracket positions in the KO.
- (b) USA2 R16: During the USA1 Semifinal, the teams that are eliminated in the USA1 Quarterfinal and the one team remaining in the USA2 bracket reduce to 2. This phase is a 5 team Round Robin, with 4 14-board matches, played in 7-board halves using the “BAM” movement. USBF General Conditions of Contest provisions for balanced play apply.
- (c) USA2 Quarterfinal: During the first day of the USA1 Final, the teams that are eliminated in the USA1 Semifinal and the two teams remaining in the USA2 bracket play a 1-day match to reduce to 2. Pairings are as follows: the two USA1 semi-final losers are seeded 1 and 2; if either of the other two teams has played one of the USA1 semi-final losers, that team is paired with the other semi-final loser; otherwise the teams are paired randomly.
- (d) USA2 Semi-final: During the second day of the USA1 final and the remainder of that day, the two remaining USA2 teams play a 60 board match to reduce to 1.
- (e) USA2 Final: The losing USA1 finalist and the winner of the USA2 semi-final play a 60 board match to choose the USA2 team.