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**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2019 WOMEN'S UNITED STATES
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*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 & Technical & Advisory Committee
USBC Conventions Committee
USBF Credentials Committee
Tournament Appeals Coordinators
Tournament Appeals Committee Panel
Tournament Planning Committee
Grievance & Appeals Committee
USBF Recorder
Hospitality Committee
Vugraph Committee

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2019 WUSBC Conditions of Contest

I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

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

The 2019 Women's United States Bridge Championship (WUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning team as USA1 for the 2019 Venice Cup and the USA2 winning team as USA2 for the 2019 Venice Cup. The 2019 Venice Cup is scheduled to take place from October 19 – November 2 in China.

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 2019 Venice Cup, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for its 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 WUSBC or information received after the WUSBC.

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 should it win the USA1 or USA2 bracket of WUSBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Registration.

Teams enter the event by registering online on the USBF.org website at: http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_entries&task=entryform&event=63. To register, a player must be logged in to the USBF website.

1. Guaranteed Entry Date

To assure entry in the 2019 WUSBC, teams must enter on or before 11:59 EDT on Monday, April 15th, 2019.

Teams may add or subtract players as they wish, notifying USBF by email to the USBF Secretary, until May 9th, 2019. After May 9th, teams may apply to the Credentials Committee to change their team roster.

Late entries may be accepted until April 29th, but only if additional teams would improve the format of the event.

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B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

The 2019 WUSBC will start on Tuesday, May 14th, 2018 and most likely will end on Monday, May 20th, 2018.

1. Round Robin

If 5 to 10 teams enter the 2019 WUSBC, the first stage will be a Round Robin to select 2 or 4 teams for the USA1 bracket. Appendix A sets forth the format for the Round Robin. After entries close on April 15th, the USBF website will show the schedule of the event and the format for the Round Robin. If more than 10 teams enter the 2019 WUSBC, the WITTC Conditions of Contest committee will decide the format.

2. USA1 Semifinal

If the Round Robin selects 4 teams for USA1, the USA1 Semifinal will be a 1 day, 60 board, Knockout match on May 16th. If the Round Robin selects 2 teams for USA1, there will be no USA1 Semifinal

If exactly 4 teams enter the event, the Semifinal will be the first stage of the event and will be a 2 day, 120 board match. Teams will be seeded based on **????**. The team with the most seeding points will be seeded number 1, the team with the next-highest seeding points will be seeded number 2, the other two teams will be randomly assigned numbers 3 and 4.

3. USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal or Quarterfinal

The USA1 Final will be a 2 day, 120 board, Knockout match.

If there was a USA1 Semifinal, the losing Semifinalists will play a 2 day, 120 board, USA2 Semifinal at the same time as the USA1 Final.

If there was no USA1 Semifinal, the first stage of USA2 will be the Quarterfinal, which will be KO matches to reduce the USA2 teams to 3.

4. USA2 Semifinal if USA2 Started with a Quarterfinal

If the Round Robin selected 2 teams for USA1, the losing USA1 finalist and the 3 teams advancing from the USA2 Quarterfinal will play a 2 day, 120 board KO USA2 Semifinal. The losing USA1 finalist will be seeded 1, the team that finished third in the initial Round Robin, or the team that defeated the third place finisher in a KO match, will be seeded 2, the other 2 teams will be randomly assigned to 3 and 4.

5. USA2 Final

If the Round Robin selected 4 teams for USA1, the loser of the USA1 Final will play the winner of the USA2 Semifinal in a 2-day, 120 board, USA2 Final.

If the Round Robin selected 2 teams for USA1, the winners of the USA2 Semifinal matches will play a 2-day, 120 board, USA2 Final.

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C. Prepaid Entry and Fees.

Fees for the 2019 WUSBC are an event entry fee of \$360 per team and session fees of \$150 per team per session (\$300 per day). The advance entry fee for the event is \$960, consisting of the event fee and prepayment of session fees for the first two days of play. The event fee is normally not refundable after the entry closing date, but an appeal for a refund may be made to the USBF Board of Directors. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if the team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Site and Hotel Reservations.

The site of the 2019 WUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$136 per night and includes internet access. Reservation website & phone will be posted on usbf.org as soon as they are known.

E. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge or his or her designee (DIC) may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin and any subsequent stage. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention summary forms, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

F. Requirement to be an Active or Resident Member of USBF.

Players entering the WUSBC must be dues paying 2019 Active or Resident Members of the USBF.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues cover a calendar year.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues are \$50 (\$25 for players born after 1989, \$10 for players born after 1996), or \$150 when paid within two weeks after an event in which PPs were earned. Dues may be paid by sending a check made payable to the USBF to Stan Subeck, 106 Penn Court, Glenview IL 60026 or by using a credit card after logging into www.usbf.org.

III. ROUND ROBINS

A. Seeding and Format

There will be no seeding for any Round Robin. Pairings will follow a schedule published after the number of entrants is known. The order of play on the second day will be the opposite of that on the first day.

B. Tie Breaking

Ties for the last team to advance out of a RR will be broken as follows:

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- a) Total net IMPs in the final stage of the Round Robin (if there was a final stage with fewer teams than in the initial stage)
- b) Total net IMPs for the entire Round Robin
- c) IMPs against other tied teams;
- d) 4 board playoffs.

Ties in a KO match shall be broken by one or more additional 8-board segments.

Ties for seeding purposes shall be broken by a coin toss.

A team eliminated from a tie by a method of tie breaking shall not be considered in subsequent tie-breaks.

Any fraction of an IMP difference is sufficient to break a tie.

IV. SETTING THE BRACKET FOR KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

If the Round Robin selects 4 teams for USA1, the Round Robin winner will be seeded 1 and will select its USA1 Semifinal opponent from the teams that finished 3rd and 4th in the Round Robin.

If the Round Robin selects 2 teams for USA1 and the USA2 Quarterfinal is a KO, the team that finished third in the Round Robin will select its opponent from the teams that finished 6th, 7th, and 8th in the Round Robin. Then the team that finished fourth in the Round Robin will select its opponent from the remaining 6th, 7th, and 8th place finishers.

V. CARRYOVER

There will be no carryover from the Round Robin to any KO match, except that if a KO match other than the USA2 Finals ends in a tie, the team that won the Round Robin match will be the winner. If the teams tied their Round Robin match, a KO tie will be broken by additional boards.

VI. INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.

A. Tardiness

Play shall begin at the announced starting time. All pairs shall be prepared to commence play at the announced starting time. If a player arrives at the table more than 1 minute after the announced starting time, her team will be penalized 1VP (during Round Robin) or 3 IMPs (during knockout phases) if she is less than 5 minutes late, 2 VPs or 6 IMPs if she is between 5 and 10 minutes late, 3 VPs or 9 IMPs if she is between 10 and 15 minutes late, and an additional 1 VP or 3 IMPs for each subsequent 5 minutes, in addition to all other penalties for slow play and tardiness.

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Egregious tardiness will be referred to the USBF Conduct and Ethics Committee for possible disciplinary action.

B. Interpretation of Conditions

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

1. Prior to the end of the 2019 Spring NABC, the WITTC shall make determinations.
2. After the end of the 2019 Spring NABC but before entries close, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the WITTC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
3. After entries close, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

C. Headings for Convenience.

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

D. Conditions Interpreted in Entirety.

These Conditions of Contest are to be interpreted in their entirety and including 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.

E. 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 or 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.

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APPENDIX A. ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

A. Format

The Round Robin shall be played as two complete Round Robins among the teams entered in the WUSBC. The number of boards played in each match shall be the largest number possible such that no more than 60 boards are scheduled for a day. Matches will be scored at IMPs converted to VPs based on the VP scales set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. The VPs earned by each team on each day shall be added together to determine the team's total VPs for the event.

The Round Robin will not be seeded. The Director in Charge in consultation with the WITTC shall determine pairings for the Round Robin as soon as practicable after the number of teams in the event is known. The order of play on Day 2 shall be opposite from the order of play on day 1. The schedule of play will be posted on the USBF website as soon as it is known. See Section VI.B (Balanced Play Requirement) of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding special play requirement.

B. Number of Teams Selected

OPTION 1:

The Round Robin will select 2 teams for USA1 if there are 8 teams entered. The 3rd to 6th place teams will play in USA2

The Round Robin will select 4 teams for USA1 if there are 5-7 or 9-10 teams entered. Teams that finish below 4th will be eliminated.