
**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR
THE 2017 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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I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

These Conditions of Contest may not be changed after commencement of play except for emergency changes. The [General Conditions of Contest](#) for USBF events apply to this event but are subject to these Conditions of Contest.

The 2017 United States Bridge Championship (USBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning USA1 and USA2 teams as USA1 and USA2 for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from August 12-26, 2017, in Lyon, France.

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 Bermuda Bowl, 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 USBC or information received after the 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 should it win the 2017 USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

Beginning Friday, April 28, 2017, there will be a 2.0 day Complete Round Robin, followed by 2 day, 120 board, USA 1 Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches, with concurrent USA2 Round of 64, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Quarterfinal matches; after completion of the USA1 Final, there will be 2 day, 120 board USA2 Semi Final and Final matches. The 2017 USBC will end on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

B. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin stage, the R16 stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

III. BYES

The Nickell & Diamond teams have byes to the USA1 Quarterfinal. The Fleisher & Fireman teams have byes to the USA1 Round of 16. There are no other byes.

IV. USA 1 FORMAT

A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages

1) Quarterfinal

The Quarterfinal shall consist of eight teams.

2) Round of 16.

The Round of 16 shall consist of 12 teams. Ten teams will qualify for the Round of 16 from the Round Robin.

B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

The bracket is set before the start of the Round of 16. The bracket is determined by the byes earned in the Quarterfinal and the Round of 16, and the seeding order as determined by SPs of the surviving teams from the Round Robin (after adjustment for Round Robin performance) in accordance with the provisions in Subsection 1) below.

1) Seeding the Round of 16 - Seeding Points

All teams not receiving a bye into the Quarterfinal or Round of 16 shall be ranked by average Seeding Points (SPs). SPs shall be calculated as the sum of the following:

- a) ACBL Seeding Method One: ACBL seeding points, (a.k.a V/S/R points), including masterpoints given via the ACBL Masterpoint Log. Resident's seeding points awarded (not earned) by the ACBL shall count toward a player's ACBL seeding point totals.
- b) PPs earned by an individual (IPPs) during the Cycle. IPPs are the PPs earned by individual members of a team that the individual played on during the Cycle, but if that team contained Ineligible Players, IPPs are diluted by 25% if the team contained one Ineligible Player, 50% if the team contained 2 Ineligible Players and 75% if a team contained 3 Ineligible Players. No IPPs may be earned by players on a team with 4 or 5 Ineligible Players. The IPPs of a player shall be the sum of the IPPs earned during the cycle. IPPs are further limited as follows:

The first fifteen are counted fully
The second fifteen are discounted by half

The third fifteen are discounted by three-quarters
 No credit shall be earned for more than 45 PPs
 The maximum PPs for any player shall be 26.25.

- c) Round Robin Points earned for first thru fourth place in the Round Robin as follows:

# Days	2/2.5 days
1st place*	8
2nd place	8
3rd place	4
4th place	2

* Plus the team with the highest number of Victory Points has an option to reshuffle, described in section 2 below

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the SP totals for each player (capped at 65) divided by the number of players on the team. However, Round Robin points earned shall not be subject to the 65 SP cap.

2) IPP and Seeding Point Reduction for finishes with “tainted players”

A player shall forfeit all positioning points and seeding points earned in an event when the team for that event included a player who has been convicted by ACBL or EBL of collusive cheating.

A player shall forfeit 50% of seeding points earned on a team that included a player who has been charged by ACBL or EBL of collusive cheating or has been precluded by the WBF Credentials Committee from playing in a WBF event within the 2 years preceding the start of the 2017 USBC.

3) Seeding the Round of 16 - Shuffling

The teams from the Round Robin are plugged into the Bracket after the Bye teams have been placed in accordance with their PPs. Nickell is Team 1 and Diamond is Team 2 based on their byes to the Quarterfinal and deep bye PPs. Fleisher and Fireman are Teams 3 and 4 based on their byes to the Round of 16. They will be assigned their numbers by lot. The rest of the teams will to be assigned their numbers by lot in groups of two.

4) Seeding the Round of 16 - Reshuffle

After the brackets are set and the shuffling is done as provided above, the team that won the Round Robin can refuse its drawn opponent by asking for a re-shuffle. If such reshuffle is requested, the Round Robin winner will

randomly choose from among its team number and its bracket mate's number. The number chosen by the Round Robin winner will be swapped with its original number. If the Round Robin winner chooses its own number again, it keeps it.

V. USA 2

A. Playing in USA2 is Mandatory

Every team that enters the event commits to play until eliminated not only in the USA1 bracket, but also in the USA2 bracket. Any team that qualifies for the USA2 bracket must play in that bracket until eliminated. If a player or team goes home or seeks to withdraw after suffering its first loss (in USA1), he/she/it is subject to the same disciplinary penalties and procedures as would apply if it failed to show up for a match in the USA1 bracket.

B. Format

All of the teams in the Round Robin and Round of 16 will play in USA2. The USA2 stages are:

1) Round of 64

The Round of 64 takes place during the USA1 Round of 16. There are 3 teams in the Round of 64. Two teams will qualify for the Round of 32.

2) Round of 32

The 120 board Round of 32 takes place during the USA1 Quarterfinal. There are 8 teams in the Round of 32: the 6 USA1 Round of 16 losers plus 2 additional teams from the USA2 Round of 64.

3) Round of 16

The 120 board Round of 16 takes place during the USA1 Semifinal. There are 8 teams in the Round of 16, the 4 losers from the USA1 Quarterfinal plus the 4 winners from the USA2 Round of 32.

4) Quarterfinal

The 120 board USA2 Quarterfinal takes place during the USA1 Final. There are 6 teams in the USA2 Quarterfinal, the two losing USA1 Semifinalists and the four USA2 Round of 16 winners.

5) Semifinal

The 120 board USA2 Semifinal takes place after completion of the USA1 selection. There are 4 teams in the USA2 Semifinal, the losing USA1 finalist and the 3 winners from the USA2 Quarterfinal.

6) Final

The 120 board USA2 Final match takes place on the two days following the completion of the USA2 Semifinal.

C. Setting the Bracket for USA2

The USA2 bracket is set at the same time as the USA1 Bracket, subject to revision to avoid replays, based on these rules:

1. Drop-ins from USA1 to USA2 take the higher bracket number from their USA1 match. So for instance if team 3 loses to team 14, the team that was originally 14 becomes 3 in USA1 and the team that was originally 3 becomes 14 in USA2.
2. If possible, drop-ins from USA1 to USA 2 do not play against each other in their first USA2 round;
3. Teams that have played against each other in the USA1 round of 16 or later do not play against each other in USA2 before the USA2 Round of 8.
4. The losing USA1 finalist chooses its Semifinal opponent from the 3 USA2 Quarterfinal winners and the other 2 Quarterfinal winners play each other.

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 the end of the 2017 Vanderbilt, the ITTC Technical & Advisory Committee (TAC) shall make determinations.
- 2) After the end of the 2017 Vanderbilt but before the Guaranteed Entry Date, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the TAC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
- 3) After the Guaranteed Entry Date, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

B. Headings for Convenience.

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

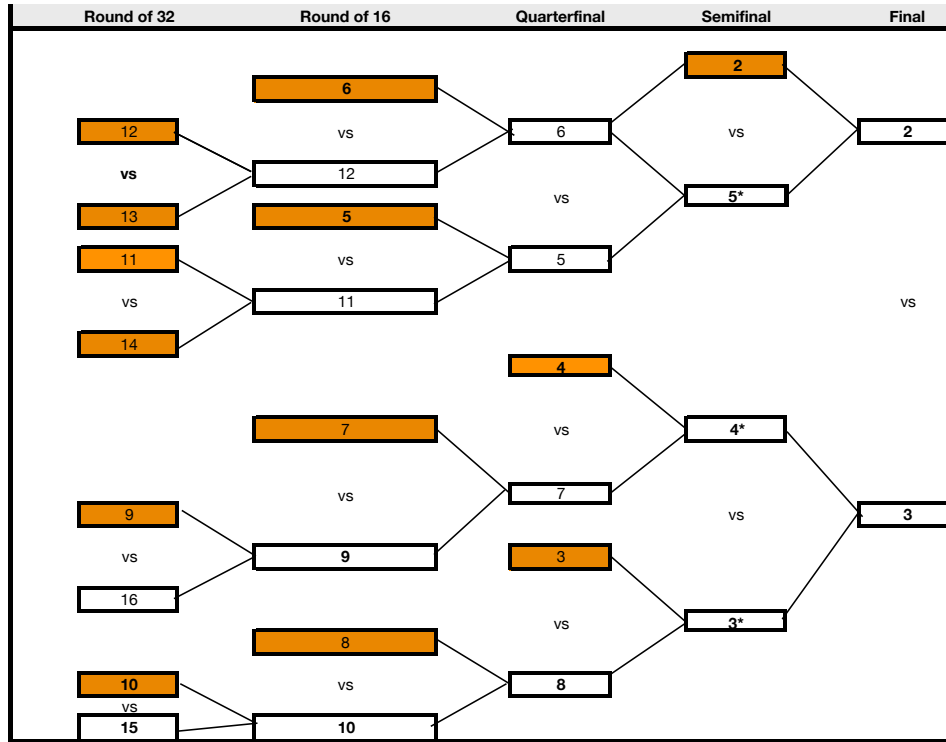
C. Conditions Interpreted in Entirety.

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

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 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.

VII. PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF USA2 BRACKET



Shaded boxes are teams that drop in from USA1

* Team numbers may change for the Semifinal because USA1 losing finalist picks its opponent