

**2024 Open USBC Conditions of Play**  
**Table of Contents**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION .....	1
A. Roster Changes .....	1
B. Date, Schedule, and Length of Matches .....	1
C. Prepaid Entry and Fees.....	1
D. Site and Hotel Reservations.....	1
E. Captain’s Meeting(s).....	1
II. BYES.....	2
III. FORMAT .....	2
A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages .....	2
B. Format of Face to Face Stages.....	2
C. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds .....	2
IV. INTERPRETATION.....	3
A. Interpretation of Conditions .....	3

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Roster Changes

#### 1. Before Play Starts

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by [sending an email to the USBF Secretary](#)), until April 28, 2024.

#### 2. During the KO Stages

No roster changes are allowed after the KO has commenced. Substitutes may be allowed subject to the provisions of the General Conditions of Contest.

### B. Date, Schedule, and Length of Matches

#### 1. Face-to-Face Stages of Play

Starting on May 1, there will be 4 face-to-face 2-day stages of play: Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final. See Section V.C for format of the Round of 16 with 9-15 teams.

### C. Prepaid Entry and Fees

The advance entry fee for the 2024 Open USBC is \$500 per team. The advance entry fee is due by March 26, 2024 and is fully refundable if a team withdraws before March 26, 2024 or if a team withdraws after March 26, 2024 and is replaced, or if a team withdraws after March 26, 2024 and that improves the format.

There is a \$450 per team per day entry fee for the face-to-face Round of 16 and Quarterfinal stages of the event.

There is a \$600 per team per day entry fee for the face-to-face Semifinal and Final stages of the event.

### D. Site and Hotel Reservations

The site of the 2024 Open USBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$141 plus tax per night and includes internet access. There is no charge for early departure. Reservation website is linked from the usbf.org website

### E. Captain's Meeting(s)

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the online stage, the Round of 16 stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: use of electronic devices, conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures. All Captain's Meetings will be held on Zoom.

## 2024 Open USBC Conditions of Play

### II. BYES

With no more than 16 teams entered, only byes to the Semifinal and Quarterfinal are relevant. No team has a bye to the Semifinal. The Nickell team has a bye to the Quarterfinal.

### III. FORMAT

#### A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages

##### 2) Quarterfinal

Eight teams will play in the Quarterfinal.

##### 3) Round of 16

No more than 14 teams will play in the Round of 16. If there are 13 or 14 total teams entered, 12 teams will play in the Round of 16; if there are 15 total teams entered, 14 teams will play in the Round of 16.

#### B. Format of Face to Face Stages

If 14 or more teams have entered the event, with one team having a bye to the Quarterfinal, there will be face-to-face 2-day, 120-board Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final matches. With 14 teams entered, the top team will have a bye to the Quarterfinal, even if they had not earned it based on PPs. The remaining 12 non-bye teams will play in the Round of 16.

If 13 teams have entered the event, and one team has earned a bye to the Quarterfinal, the first 2 days will be a complete Round Robin to qualify the top 7 teams for the Quarterfinal.

The format of the Round Robin will be 11 matches of 9 boards each.

In all cases, the 2024 Open USBC will end on May 8, 2024.

#### C. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

The bracket is set before the start of the first knockout round. The bracket is determined based on the procedures set forth in the USBC General Conditions of Contest with the additional provision that with 13 total teams in the event, the winner of the Round Robin has the right to reshuffle as follows:

##### Seeding the Round of 16 - Reshuffle

After the bracket is set and the shuffling is done as provided in the General Conditions of Contest, the team that won the Round Robin can refuse its drawn opponent by

## **2024 Open USBC Conditions of Play**

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.

A team with a bye in a bracket group with the Round Robin winner is exempt from inclusion in a reshuffle (even though it was included in the initial bracket shuffle). In such a case, the reshuffle is among only those teams who do not have byes.

If the Round Robin winner does not have a bracket mate to reshuffle with, because its bracket-mates have byes or are empty bye slots, then the team may reshuffle with the next highest bracketed team below the Round Robin winner that is an even number of bracket slots below the Round Robin winner. (i.e. 2 slots below, or 4 slots below, if 2 does not exist, etc.).

### **IV. INTERPRETATION**

#### **A. Interpretation of Conditions**

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

4. Before May 1, 2024, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the TAC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
5. Beginning May 1, 2024, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.