

USBF Invitational 1 advance email to players

Thank you all for entering the USBF Invitational1 event. We hope you will enjoy it. This email is to make you aware of how the event will work (we hope) and what you'll need to do. I'm sorry this is so long, but with a new event some things may not be obvious.

You can find information about the event on the USBF website. On the home page, click on USBF Invitational 1 under the tournament menu - that will take you to the main page where there is general information and will also open the submenus, which include:

Results - links to the cross-table for the Round Robin and to brackets for the KO matches. We will have our usual "web vugraphs" linked to KO scores. We hope to get similar links for the Round Robin, which you would get by clicking on a match score on the cross-table.

Teams entered has the list of teams with links to players' SSFs. You should review the SSFs for players on other teams so that you will be prepared to play against them. The SSFs for a few pairs with unusual methods are in red on the Teams Entered list - we very strongly recommend that you review those SSFs even if you don't review all the others.

Event schedule has the time each segment starts. Remember to be logged into the "competitive" area of BBO at least 5 minutes before you are due to play.

Daily Bulletin - links to the Daily Bulletins - if a link gets you a 404 error (we can't find that page) that daily bulletin hasn't yet been posted.

Captains & Players Meeting - Our DIC, Will Watson, will meet with all of the team captains and any players who want to participate on Zoom at 2:00 on Saturday, May 30th. Subjects for the meeting include BBO procedures, Zoom procedures, scoring, and answers to any questions you may have. We hope that this will be a short meeting.

BBO Procedures -

Where to go: The event will be played in the Competitive section of BBO, which is where you will be when you log in to BBO. If you go to the Casual section to play or kibitz at a table there, you will need to return to the Competitive section, which sometimes requires logging off and back on. Please be logged into the Competitive section at least 5 minutes before you are scheduled to play.

Lineups: For this event we are using "blind" lineups as we do for USBCs with a single Round Robin. You submit your lineup before you know which team you're playing. Because of the time needed to set up matches online, we are asking that lineups be submitted a match in advance.

You need to email your lineup for the first 2 matchups each day to Will <

watsonbridge@gmail.com> no later than 1:00 pm EDT each day. Then before each match starts, you need to email Will your lineup for the following match. The lineup submission needs to specify which player is sitting in which seat. As for USBCs, if you have not submitted a new lineup for a match, it means your lineup remains the same as for the current match.

Starting: If all of the players are on BBO in a timely manner, you should be automatically taken to the appropriate table and seat when the matches start. But since nothing ever works the way it's supposed to, you may have to accept an invitation to play at the appropriate table, which will be identified as USBF INV1 RR match X, Table Y (X & Y will be numbers).

Timing: We scheduled the "short" Round Robin day for Saturday to allow time for the Captains & Players Meeting and in case there are any glitches with getting started; please bear with us, as we may not be able to stick to the posted schedule.

Kibitzers: We will initially allow kibitzers for the Round Robin matches, but we will not link the matches to the Vugraph Theatre so they won't be obvious to spectators. We will not allow kibitzers to chat to players. If we find that kibitzers are more trouble than they're worth, we will stop allowing them. If you think we should do that from the beginning, let us know.

Alerting: You should self-alert your own bids, and as with screens, should alert if you have any question about whether or not to alert. If you are in a Zoom session with your screenmate, you can provide additional information about bids orally.

Undo's: Undo's for misclicks are allowed, and must be accepted. You should ask for an undo before your partner acts.

BBO profile: Please make sure that your profile includes your real name.

BBO convention cards: I hope that all of you have created BBO convention cards that have links to your SSF and convention card. If you did this and included your partner's BBO name, it will automatically load when you are playing. When you are playing, you can get to your opponents' SSF or convention card by going to the "hamburger" menu in the upper right and selecting the opponents convention card, selecting a link, copying it into a new tab or window or right clicking on it and selecting "go to address in a new tab" or "go to address in a new window" - except when using Chrome, don't select "go to address" or you will be logged off of BBO (Chrome will open the link in a new tab and take you to it if you click on "go to.")

Asking questions of opponents: You may ask questions of one or both opponents by directing chat to them. You may ask your screenmate questions orally on Zoom if you are participating in that. PLEASE do not ask questions of the entire table, as that might give your partner UI. You may ask only the person who made a bid the meaning of his or her bid.

Help during play: I will be on BBO as USBF, Al Hollander will be on as USBF2, as well as some ahollan# accounts, and Will Watson will be on as willwats If you have any problems, please message one of us and we'll try to solve them.

Scores: I will be entering the scores into the USBF scoring program based on the BBO results. I will try not to have to ask you for scores, but I may sometimes miss the end of a match and have to do so.

Zoom - You will receive an invitation to a Zoom meeting called INV1 Round Robin on Friday, 5/29. The meeting will start at 1:50 on Saturday, and you should be able to join it by clicking on the link in the invitation. We may have to "admit" you to the meeting, although I hope not. If you have a Zoom account that is linked to an email address other than the one at which you received this email, I would appreciate it if you could let me know the email address to which your Zoom account is linked - I can do some advance set-up on Zoom for people who have Zoom accounts when I have the right email address. It's not a big deal, so don't worry about it if you don't have a Zoom account.

If you've never attended a Zoom meeting, when you click on the link in the invitation, you'll be asked to download the Zoom app - it's very quick and Zoom has improved their security so I think the early issues with using Zoom no longer exist.

When the first match starts, I will assign you to a Zoom "breakout room" with your screen mate, so you can chat and provide more complete explanations of bids and plays. This is not compulsory, although most people like it. If you prefer not to do it, please let me know so I can tell your screen mate that you won't be doing it. If you and your screen mate want to use FaceTime instead of Zoom, you can do so.

As each match is completed, I will try to move all of the players from your team to your home table (it will be called TeamName NE because it will also be where your N and the opponents' E have been during the match) so you can compare results and discuss whatever you want.

Again, this is not required; let the rest of your team know if you're not participating in Zoom meetings. Let me know if you do want to participate in the team meeting but not in screen mate chat - I'll try to make that happen.

Ethics - We're not trying to provide security for this event, as we do when we sometimes have "real" events online. However, the provisions of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding ethical obligations and possible penalties still apply to this event. If an expert committee is convinced that any player covertly communicated with his/her partner or

unethically obtained information about any other player's hand, the player will be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion from the USBF.