

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2015 UNITED STATES SENIOR BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

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2015 SUSBC
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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 2015 Senior United States Bridge Championship (SUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to nominate the winning team and the winner of the USA2 Bracket as the USA representatives to compete in the 2015 Senior Bowl. They will be referred to as USA1 and USA2. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from September 26- October 10, 2015, in Chennai, India. 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 to represent the USA, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for 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 SUSBC or information received after the SUSBC.

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, 1955.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by midnight EST on Monday, May 11, 2015. You must be logged in to the USBF site and have paid 2015 dues to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until

midnight EST on Friday, May 22, 2015 if it improves the event format. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by changing the team roster on the USBF website) until May 29, 2015. Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification for the Bermuda Bowl may withdraw from the SUSBC 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 \$150 per team per session (\$300 per day). Payment of \$810 is due by the guaranteed entry date; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the first 3 sessions of play (which will almost always be the first stage of play). The event fee is refundable only if a team withdraws before the guaranteed entry date, if a team that has entered the SUSBC qualifies for the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the 2015 Bermuda Bowl. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if a team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Dates

The 2015 SUSBC will begin Friday, June 5, 2015 and end no later than Sunday, June 14, 2015.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2015 SUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$125 per night and includes internet access.

F. Captain's Meetings and Schedule of Play

Play will commence at 10:00 AM on each day with the further schedule to be determined by the DIC. There will be a Captain's Meeting at 9:30 AM on June 5th. Further Captain's meetings will be held at the discretion of the DIC.

G. Conditions of Contest

The event is governed by this document and by the USBF General Conditions of Contest, which are posted on the USBF website at <http://usbf.org/docs/COC/General%20CoC.pdf>.

III. SEEDING

The SUSBC shall be seeded based on ACBL seeding points used for the Baze Senior Knockout plus additional seeding points based on performance in the immediately preceding SUSBC. Each player on the winning team from the 2013 SUSBC shall receive the number of seeding points given to players on the winner of the Baze Senior KO; players on the runner up in the 2013 SUSBC shall receive the number of seeding points awarded to players on the team that finishes second in the Baze Senior KO. Masterpoints, adjusted in accordance with the ACBL's current formula will be used in the seeding. 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 SPs without cap will be used to break the tie.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

The event will be a straight Knockout if there are 4, 8, 14, 15, or 16 teams entered. With 14 or 15 teams, the top one or two teams will have a bye from the Round of 16 stage. The event starts with a Round Robin with all other numbers of teams.

If there are 17 or more teams, the Round Robin will last for 2.5 days and will reduce the USA1 field to 8 teams. Teams 9 through 16 will enter the USA2 Bracket. Teams 17 and higher will be eliminated from both USA 1 and USA 2.

If there are 16 or fewer teams, all teams eliminated from USA 1 will compete for USA2.

If there are between 9 and 13 teams, the Round Robin will reduce the USA1 field to 8 teams.

If there are 5-7 teams, the RR will reduce the USA1 field to 4 teams.

The USA1 bracket will continue as a single elimination KO. The SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee will determine the exact format (including number of days for each stage and number of boards for each Round Robin match) after the entry size is known.

V. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA1

A. Setting the Bracket for USA 1

1) General Procedure if we go straight to Knockout

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 5/6, 7/8, 9/12, and 13/16 will be randomly drawn. If there are 14 or 15 teams, the top one or two teams will have a bye in the Round of 16.

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 double 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.

B. Length of Matches

If there is a two match KO (four teams) the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall determine the length of the matches.

If there is a Round Robin followed by a three or four match KO all matches shall be 90 boards, played over 1.5 days.

C. Carryover

There will be carryover from the Round Robin to USA1 Knockout matches as follows. There is no carryover in USA2 Knockout matches.

If the team that won the Round Robin match finished ahead of the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover for all matches except the finals will be 51% of the margin of victory. If the team that won the Round Robin match finished behind the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover for all matches except the final will be 34% of the margin of victory.

In the finals: if the team that won the Round Robin match finished ahead of the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover will be 50%; if the team that won the Round Robin match finished behind the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover will be 1/3.

Carryovers will be capped at 12.5 IMPs for a 90 board match and at 15.5 IMPs for a 112 board match.

VI. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA2

If there are 16 or fewer teams entered then all teams eliminated from the USA 1 competition will enter the USA2 competition. If there are 17⁺ teams entered, the 9th through 16th teams in the Round Robin will enter USA 2.

The USA2 format will consist of either 90 board KO matches or Round Robins as further described below. The exact number of boards in each Round Robin match and whether they are played in one continuous set or as two halves will be determined after entries have closed.

There are no carryovers in the USA2 matches from any previous matches.

The losing USA 1 finalist chooses their opponent for the USA2 Semi-finals.

A. Specific USA2 formats

1) **Table 1: USA2 format with 17⁺ teams in USA1:**

USA1 Round	USA2 Round	#teams in USA1	#teams in USA2
QF	R32	8	8 (teams 9-16 from Round Robin)
SF	R16	4	8 (4 USA1 QF losers and 4 R32 winners)
F	QF	2	6 (2 USA1 SF losers and 4 R16 winners)
	SF	N/A	4 (1 of USA 1 F loser and 3 SF winners)
	F	N/A	2 (2 winners of USA2 semifinal)

2) **Table 1: USA2 format with 16 teams in USA1:**

USA1 Round	USA2 Round	#teams in USA1	#teams in USA2
R16	None	16	N/A
QF	R32	8	8 (USA1 R16 losers)
SF	R16	4	8 (4 USA1 QF losers and 4 R32 winners)
F	QF	2	6 (2 USA1 SF losers and 4 R16 winners)
	SF	N/A	4 (1 of USA1 F loser and 3 SF winners)
	F	N/A	2 (2 winners of USA2 semifinal)

3) **Table 2: USA2 Round of 32 Format with 10-15 teams in USA1**

# USA1 Teams	# Teams in USA2 R32	# Survivors	Format
15	7	4	Round Robin
14	6	4	Round Robin
13	5	4	Knock In*
12	4	2	KO
11	3	2	Round Robin
10	2	1	KO

* The team that finished 9th in the USA1 Round Robin has a bye to the USA2 Round of 16. The 10th through 13th placed teams play two 40-board matches to eliminate 1 team.

4) Table 3: USA2 Round of 16 Format

# USA1 Teams	# Teams in USA2 R16	# Survivors	Format
13-16	8	4	KO
12	6	4	Round Robin
11	6	4	Round Robin
10	5	4	Round Robin
9	5	4	Round Robin

B. The USA2 Bracket

1) If there are 17⁺ teams in the 2015 SUSBC

If there are 17 or more teams in the event, the USA2 bracket will be set in the same way as the USA1 bracket, with seeding based on two times original seed position plus Round Robin finish.

2) If there are 9-16 teams in the 2015 SUSBC

Teams that drop into the USA2 Bracket will take the lower seed of the teams that played in USA1; for example, if team 16 defeats team 1, team 16 will become team 1 for the USA1 bracket and team 1 will become team 16 for the USA2 bracket.

a. USA2 Round of 32

If there are 16 teams in USA1, the matches in the USA2 Round of 32 will be:

9 vs 16

10 vs 15

11 vs 14

12 vs 13

If there are 12 teams in USA1, the matches in the USA2 Round of 32 will be 9 vs 12 and 10 vs 11.

b. USA2 Round of 16

The USA 1 Quarter-final losers will become teams 5, 6, 7 and 8 in USA2. They are matched with the remaining USA2 teams in a fashion to avoid 2nd meetings between teams.

5 vs 11

6 vs 12.

7 vs 9

8 vs 10

c. USA2 Quarter-finals

The USA 1 Semi-final losers will become teams 3 and 4.

Team 3 will be matched with the lowest remaining seed among the USA2 teams that they have NOT previously played.

Then Team 4 will be matched with the lowest remaining seed among the USA2 teams that they have NOT previously played.

The two remaining USA2 teams will play each other if they did not play in a USA1 Knockout match.

However, if the two remaining USA2 teams played each other in a USA1 Knockout match there will be an adjustment. Team 4 will play the next lowest seeded team that they have not previously played to avoid having any teams meet for a 2nd time.

d. USA2 Semi-finals

The loser of the USA 1 finals shall choose their opponent in the USA2 Semi-finals. Matches in the Semi-finals may be repeat matches between teams that have previously played.

e. USA2 Finals

The two Semi-final winners shall meet to determine the team to be designated as USA 2.

3) If there are 8 or fewer teams in the 2015 SUSBC

If there are 8 or fewer teams in the event, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee will decide the format for the selection of USA2.

VII. 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 May 11th, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.
2. From May 11 through the end of the event, the DIC shall make any necessary interpretations after consultation with the SITTC Conditions of Contest 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, 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.

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.

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

APPENDIX A. SPECIFIC FORMATS

Entry	Format
6 or 7 Teams	Round Robin. The top 4 teams qualify for KO.
8 Teams	Immediate KO.
9 - 13 Teams	One and one half-day Round Robin. The top 8 teams qualify for KO.
14 or 15 teams	Immediate KO with the 1 st seed or 1 st two seeds having a bye in the Round of 16.
16 teams	Immediate KO.
17 ⁺ teams	Two and one-half day Round Robin. The top 8 teams qualify for USA1, the next 8 teams qualify for USA2