
**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR
THE 2016 WOMEN'S UNITED STATES
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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

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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 2016 United States Women's 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 the USBF representative for the Women's Teams in the 2016 World Bridge Games. 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 team for the 2016 World Bridge Games, 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 2016 WUSBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

The 2016 WUSBC will start on Monday, May 30, 2016 and end on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

1. Quarter-final

With 4 teams entered in the Quarter-final and one team with a bye to the Semi-final, the Quarter-final will be a 2-day "knock-in" event. The teams will be seeded based on Wagar seeding points. The team with the most seeding points will be Team 2, the team with the second most seeding points will be Team 3, the other two teams have been randomly assigned as Team 4 and Team 5. On the first day of the Quarter-final, Team 2 will play a 60 board match against Team 5 and Team 3 will play a 60 board match against Team 4. The winners of those matches will qualify for the Semi-Finals. On the second day of the Quarter-final, the losers of the first day matches will play a 60 board match. The winner of that match will qualify for the Semi-final. The loser will be eliminated.

2. Semi-final

The Semi-final will be a 2 day, 120 board, Knockout match on June 1 & 2. The Baker team has a bye to the Semi-final and will choose its Semi-final opponent from the three teams that qualify from the Quarter-final. The other two teams will play each other.

3. Final

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

B. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge or his or her designee (DIC) may convene a captain's meeting before each RR stage 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.

III. 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 1 VP (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. Egregious tardiness will be referred to the USBF Conduct and Ethics Committee for possible disciplinary action.

B. Interpretation of Conditions

Entries having closed, the DIC shall make determinations on matters involving the interpretation of these conditions or treatments of matters not included in these conditions.

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.