

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2020 SENIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

*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

2020 Senior USBC
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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 2020 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 as the USA representatives to compete in the 2020 World Senior Team Championship. The 2020 World Bridge Games are scheduled to take place from August 21 to September 4 in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy.

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, 1958. A player who has qualified for the 2020 Open Team Championship is not eligible, but players who have qualified for the 2020 Venice Cup or Mixed Teams are eligible.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by midnight EDT on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. You must be logged in to the USBF site and have paid 2020 dues to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until midnight EDT on Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 if it improves the event format. Any player who is entered in the Senior USBC and in one or both of the Mixed and Women's USBCs must notify the USBF Secretary within one week of entering the second event, which World Championship event s/he will play in if s/he qualifies in 2 events.

Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by sending [email to the USBF Secretary](#)) until May 24, 2020. However, a player who has qualified for the 2020 Mixed Team or is still playing in the Mixed USBC and who designates the Senior World Championship as the event s/he will play in if s/he qualifies for 2 events, may not be added without evidence that notice was given to all of the player's Mixed teammates, before the start of the Mixed USBC, that the player might be added to the Senior team.

Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification for the Open or Mixed Team 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 \$600 for the 2-day Round Robin and \$200 per team per session (\$400 per day) for KO matches. Payment of \$960 is due by the guaranteed entry date; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the Round Robin. 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 2020 Open Team, or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the 2020 Open Team, or Mixed Team. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if a team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Dates

The 2020 SUSBC will begin Tuesday, May 26, 2020 and end on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. If fewer than 9 teams enter, the 2020 SUSBC will end on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2020 SUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$136 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 9:45 AM on May 26th. 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](#).

H. Seeding

1) Seeding Points

The teams in the KO stage will be seeded based on ACBL VSR seeding points plus additional seeding points as follows:

Players on the 2019 Senior USBC winning team will receive 10 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2019 Senior USBC second-place team will receive 7 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2018 or 2019 Open USBC winning team will receive 10 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2018 or 2019 Open USBC second-place team will receive 7 additional seeding points, however, a player can receive seeding points from only one event.

Players on the 2017 Open USBC winning team will receive 8 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2017 Open USBC second place team will receive 5.6 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2017 Senior USBC winning team will receive 8 additional seeding points.

Players on the 2017 Senior USBC second-place team will receive 5.6 additional seeding points.

Seeding points earned on teams with a player or pair who has been found to have engaged in collusive cheating will not count. Seeding points earned on teams with a player or pair who has been charged, but not yet convicted, of collusive cheating will count at 50%.

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the sum of the SP totals for each player (capped at 80) 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.

2) Round Robin Points

In addition, teams finishing in the following positions in the Round Robin will receive additional team seeding points, which will be added to the team's average Seeding Points and are not subject to the cap, as follows:

1st – 10

2nd – 7

If the Round Robin selects 8 teams for KO play:

3rd – 5

4th – 3.8

III. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

If there are 4, 8 or 16 teams entered, the event will start with KO matches. With 4 or 8 teams, the matches will be 2 days (120 boards) long. With 16 teams, the matches will be 1-1/2 days (90 boards) long.

If there are 5-7 teams entered, the event will start with a 2 day Round Robin, which will reduce the field to 4 teams. The teams finishing below 4th in the Round Robin will be eliminated. The

event will continue with 2-day (120 board) Semifinal and Final matches.

If there are 9 to 15 teams entered, the event will start with a 2 day Round Robin, which will reduce the field to 8 teams. The teams finishing below 8th in the Round Robin will be eliminated. The event will continue with 2 day (120 board) Quarterfinal, Semifinal & Final matches.

If there are 17 or more teams, the event will start with a 3 day Round Robin. Teams 1 through 8 will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The remaining teams will be eliminated. The event will continue with 2 day (120 board) Quarterfinal, Semifinal & Final matches.

IV. FORMAT

A. Setting the Bracket

The teams in the KO stage will be ranked in seeding point order. The top ranked team will be assigned bracket position 1. The second ranked team will be assigned bracket position 2. The 3rd & 4th ranked teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 3 & 4. The 5th & 6th ranked teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 5 & 6. The 7th & 8th ranked teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 7 & 8.

B. Reshuffle

After the bracket has been provisionally set, if the team that finished first in the Round Robin was assigned bracket position 3 or lower, that team may choose to reshuffle with its shuffle mate.

C. Carryover

There will be no carryover from the Round Robin to Knockout matches, except to break ties in matches before the Final.

V. 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 5th, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.
2. From May 5th 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.