
**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2020 BETH PALMER WOMEN'S UNITED
STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*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

Women's Conditions of Contest Committee

Lynn Baker
Cheri Bjerkan
Jan Martel
McKenzie Myers

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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 Beth Palmer Women's United States Bridge Championship (BPWUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF) and is governed by these Conditions of Contest and the USBF General Conditions of Contest. The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning team as the USA representative for the Women's Team at the 2020 World Bridge Games. 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 for the 2020 World Women's Team, 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 BPWUSBC or information received after the BPWUSBC.

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 BPWUSBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Registration.

Teams enter the event by registering online on the USBF.org website at: http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_entries&task=entryform&event=77. To register, a player must be logged in to the USBF website. Any player who is entered in the Women's USBC and in one or both of the Mixed and Senior USBCs must notify the USBF Secretary, within one week of entering the second event, which World Championship event she will play in if she qualifies in 2 events.

1. Guaranteed Entry Date

To assure entry in the 2020 BPWUSBC, teams must enter on or before 11:59 EDT on Thursday, May 7th, 2020.

Teams may add or subtract players as they wish, notifying USBF by email to the USBF Secretary, until May 26th, 2020. After May 26th, teams may apply to the Credentials Committee to change their team roster. However, a player who has qualified for the 2020 Mixed Team or is still playing in the Mixed USBC and who designates the Women's World Championship as the event she will play in if she 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 Women's team.

Late entries may be accepted until May 20th, but only if additional teams would improve the format of the event.

B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

The 2020 BPWUSBC will start on Thursday, May 28th, 2020 and most likely will end on Sunday, May 31st or Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020.

1. Round Robin

If 5 to 10 teams enter the 2020 BPWUSBC, the first stage will be a 2-day Round Robin to select 4 teams for the KO stage. After entries close on May 7th, the USBF website will show the schedule of the event and the format for the Round Robin. If more than 10 teams enter the 2020 BPWUSBC, the WITTC Conditions of Contest committee will decide the format.

2. Semifinal

The Semifinal will be a 2 day, 120 board, Knockout match on May 30th & 31st.

If exactly 4 teams enter the event, the Semifinal will be the first stage of the event and will be a 2 day, 120 board match. Bracket positions will be assigned by random draw.

If 3 teams enter the event, the first stage of the event will be a 2-day Round Robin to select 2 teams for the Final. If 2 teams enter the event, the Final will be the only stage of the event.

3. Final

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

C. Prepaid Entry and Fees.

Fees for the 2020 BPWUSBC are an event entry fee of \$360 per team and session fees of \$600 (\$300 per day) per team for the Round Robin and an additional \$200 per team per session for KO matches (\$400 per day). The advance entry fee for the event is \$960, consisting of the event fee and prepayment of session fees for the Round Robin. Additional fees for KO matches will be charged before each KO stage. The event fee is normally not refundable after the entry closing date, but an appeal for a refund may be made to the USBF Board of Directors. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if the team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Site and Hotel Reservations.

The site of the 2020 BPWUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$136 per night and includes internet access. Reservation website & phone are posted on usbf.org.

E. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge or his or her designee (DIC) may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin and any subsequent stage. Topics may include: a review and/or clarification of certain conditions such as seating, system summary forms, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

F. Requirement to be an Active or Resident Member of USBF.

Players entering the BPWUSBC must be dues paying 2020 Active or Resident Members of the USBF.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues cover a calendar year.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues are \$50 (\$25 for players born after 1990, \$10 for players born after 1997). Dues may be paid by sending a check made payable to the USBF to Stan Subeck, 106 Penn Court, Glenview IL 60026 or by using a credit card after logging into www.usbf.org.

III. ROUND ROBINS

A. Format

The Round Robin will be played as two complete one-day Round Robins among the teams entered in the BPWUSBC. The number of boards played in each match will be the largest number possible such that no more than 60 boards are scheduled for a day. Matches will be scored at IMPs converted to VPs based on the VP scales set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. The VPs earned by each team on each day will be added together to determine the team's total VPs for the event.

The Director in Charge will determine pairings for the Round Robin as soon as practicable after the number of teams in the event is known. The order of play on Day 2 will be opposite from the order of play on day 1. The schedule of play will be posted on the USBF website as soon as it is known. See Section VI.B (Balanced Play Requirement) of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding special play requirement.

B. Tie Breaking

Ties for the last team to advance out of a RR will be broken in the following order:

- a) Total net IMPs in the final stage of the Round Robin (if there was a final stage with fewer teams than in the initial stage)
- b) Total net IMPs for the entire Round Robin
- c) Total net IMPs against all other teams with which a team is tied;
- d) 4 board playoffs.

Ties in a KO match shall be broken in accordance with the USBF General Conditions of Contest.

Ties for seeding purposes shall be broken by a coin toss.

A team eliminated from a tie by a method of tie breaking shall not be considered in subsequent tie-breaks.

Any fraction of an IMP difference is sufficient to break a tie.

IV. SETTING THE BRACKET FOR KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

If the Round Robin selects 4 teams, the Round Robin winner will be seeded 1 and will select its Semifinal opponent from the teams that finished 3rd and 4th in the Round Robin; the team that finished second in the Round Robin may make itself eligible for selection.

If there are exactly 4 teams entered, bracket positions will be assigned by random draw.

V. CARRYOVER

There will be no carryover from the Round Robin to any KO match, except for tie-breaking purposes, in accordance with the General Conditions of Contest.

VI. 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

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

1. Prior to the end of the 2020 Spring NABC, the Women's Conditions of Contest committee shall make determinations.
2. After the end of the 2020 Spring NABC but before entries close, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the Women's Conditions of Contest committee. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
3. After entries close, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

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.