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**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION  
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR  
THE 2020 USBF TRANSATLANTIC SENIOR  
TEAMS QUALIFICATION**

*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 Systems Committee**

**USBF Credentials Committee**

**Appeals Coordinators**

**Tournament Appeals Committee Panel**

**Tournament Planning Committee**

**USBF Recorder**

**USBF Ethics Investigation Committee**

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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 [General Conditions of Contest](#) for USBF events apply to this event except as otherwise provided in these Conditions of Contest.

The 2020 USBF Transatlantic Senior Qualification (TASR) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). This event will select 3 or 4 teams to enter the 2021 Transatlantic Senior Teams for the Klukowski Cup, to be held online from January 18 - Feb. 8, 2021.

The USBF is not required to provide security for this event, as for USBCs. However, players have the same ethical obligations in this event as in USBCs, and they are subject to the same potential penalties. If the USBF Ethical Investigation Committee finds 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.

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Eligibility

Each team must have at least 4 players, and may have as many more as desired. Each player in TASR must be a USBF Active Member who was born before 1960. Any player who has not paid his or her 2020 dues by December 9, 2020 will not be eligible to play in the event.

### B. Registration.

Teams enter the event by [registering online](#) on the USBF.org website. This link will only work if you are logged in to the USBF site.

Entries will close at 11:59 pm EDT on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020. If an odd number of teams has entered by the closing date, one additional team will be accepted.

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by sending an email to the [USBF Secretary](#)), until December 9, 2020.

### C. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

From Friday, December 11, 2020 to Sunday, December 13, 2020, there will be a 3-day day Complete Round Robin with 9-board matches. If there are 12 teams in the event, there will be 3 matches on Friday and 4 matches on Saturday & Sunday. If there are 14 teams in the event, there will be 4 matches on Friday and Sunday, and 5 matches on Saturday. Play will start at 1:00 pm EST each day.

**D. Entry Fee.**

The entry fee for the event is \$150.

**E. Site**

The site of the 2020 TASR is [RealBridge](#).

**F. Captain's Meeting.**

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee will convene a captain's meeting on Friday, December 11th on Zoom. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seating, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

**III. FORMAT**

Each team will play a nine board match against each other team. The matches will be scored at IMPs converted to VPs using the [USBF 9-board VP scale](#). The top 3 or 4 teams will qualify for the 2021 TransAtlantic Senior Teams for the Klukowski Cup.

**IV. SPECIAL RULES FOR ONLINE PLAY**

**A. Players May Consult Bidding Notes**

During the bidding, players may consult their bidding notes. No other aids to memory, including but not limited to calculators, lists of percentages, optimal ways to play suit combinations, and notes about defensive carding, may be used during the event. The time used for consulting notes will be charged against the player who has done so, and if the table is late and one player has consulted notes frequently the presumption will be that that player is at fault for the lateness.

**B. Undos for Misclicks Will be Allowed**

Any player who accidentally clicks on the wrong bid or card ("misclick") may ask for an undo and the opponents must allow the undo. The request for an undo must be made before the partner of the person requesting the undo has acted. If there are any concerns about whether an undo should be allowed, the players should summon the Director.

**C. Self-Alerts and Explanations**

Each player should explain any bid about which their partnership knows something the opponents might not know before making the bid. Players may choose to Alert and not explain bids that require an alert and have an obvious meaning, but are encouraged to explain. Players may also explain

a bid or edit their explanation after making the bid, and the explanation shown to the opponents will have a notation about how late it was.

#### **D. Logging onto RealBridge**

Each player who is playing in the event will receive an email with a link to log in. The link will take the player directly to his or her seat. All players must be logged in by the scheduled start. Play for a segment will not be started until all of the players in all of the matches are on RealBridge. If a player is late for the scheduled start of a Round Robin match, his or her team will lose 1 VP for every minute the player is late.

#### **E. Submitting lineups**

1. Lineups will be submitted on the team's lineup page. The captain or designee will have the ability to edit that page.
2. Lineups are "blind" - teams will not know their opponent before submitting their lineup.
3. Each team must submit its lineup for the first match of the day by 12:00 noon on the day of play.
4. Each team must submit its lineup for each subsequent match at least 15 minutes before the match is scheduled to start.
5. The lineup submitted should list the exact seat (N, S, E, W) in which each player should be placed.
6. If both teams in a match have submitted their lineups the day before the match, the tournament organizer will email the two team captains with the match #, the opposing team name and the opposing team lineup.

#### **E. Time Allowed**

The play schedule will be based on 7.5 minutes per board, rounded down to 65 minutes for 9 boards, with a 15 minute break between rounds.

#### **F. Video Meetings & Screenmate chat**

1. The Captains' Meeting will be held on Zoom. All team captains and any player who is interested in attending a Captains' Meeting should accept the invitation to join the Zoom meeting.
2. During the bidding, screen mates (N&E, S&W) must participate in a chat session. RealBridge includes screenmate chat in the presentation of the table. Video is optional but strongly recommended.

#### **G. Convention cards**

Each pair must [submit an electronic convention card](#) to the USBF. The submitted cards will be [posted on the usbf website](#) so players can click on them when they find out who their opposing pair is.

## **H. Kibitzing**

There will be [delayed kibitzing online](#). “Live” kibitzing from next to a player is allowed, but kibitzers should observe the same procedures they would if they were kibitzing a face to face bridge event: they should not speak, they should not point anything out to the player, they should not have any electronic devices.

## **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, the DIC in consultation with the TASR organizers will make all determinations. Appeals from the DIC’s decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals 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 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.

### **D. 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.