

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE
FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2011 UNITED STATES JUNIOR TRIALS
FOR WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS IN
CROATIA**

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

Board of Directors of the United States Bridge Federation

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I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

These Conditions of Contest will not be changed after commencement of play except for emergencies and unforeseen events

The 2011 United States Junior Trials for Croatia (USJTC), under 26 division (U26), is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to sponsor the top 3 pairs for the World Youth Bridge Congress to be held in Opatija, Croatia, August 21-30, 2011. Under current USBF procedures, if the USBF Board of Directors believes there is any reason not to sponsor all of the players on the top 3 pairs for the 2011 World Youth Bridge Congress (WYBC), the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to

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the USBF Credentials Committee for review of concerns such as players' ethics, conduct, substance abuse, deportment, and hygiene. Normally, the USBF Board will only follow this procedure based on behavior at or after the USJTC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Form of Competition

The event will be a 3-session Pairs Trials, played on Bridge Base Online (BBO) and scored at matchpoints. Two sessions will be contested on Saturday, April 30th and one on Sunday, May 1. There is no entry fee. On both Saturday and Sunday there will be a complete round robin, with each pair playing each other pair.

After the 2 sessions on Saturday, the three highest-scoring pairs plus any pairs whose cumulative matchpoint total is equal to or greater than 90% of the cumulative matchpoint score of the 3rd highest-scoring pair will advance to play on Sunday. If an odd number of pairs is selected by this method, then the next-highest scoring pair will also advance to play on Sunday.

B. Eligibility

Players must have been born on or after January 1, 1986.

C. Registration.

Pairs must register by April 1, 2011, on the USBF website www.usbf.org. Each player in the event must be registered on the USBF website and must include the year of birth in the registration information. Players are not required to pay USBF active member dues in order to participate; players who are selected to represent the United States in Croatia will be expected to pay dues and become an active member of the USBF.

Each participant must also sign the "Participation Letter" agreeing to the special provisions for this event, and each participant must arrange to have his or her club director or monitor sign a "Monitor's Letter" agreeing to the monitor's responsibilities. Each player selected to compete on a USBF sponsored team in Croatia must sign a waiver agreement.

D. Schedule of Play

Play will commence at approximately 2 PM, EDT each day. The second session on Saturday will commence at approximately 6:30 PM EDT, with the exact schedule to be determined by the DIC in consultation with the

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USBF tournament chair. The single session on Sunday will likely be long enough to play 35-42 boards, depending on the number of pairs that advance to play Sunday.

E. Seeding

On both Saturday and Sunday, each pair will play each other pair, so seeding will not be required.

F. Determination of Team

The 3 highest scoring pairs in the event will qualify for the USBF sponsored team.

G. Training Program

Pairs who qualify for Croatia are expected to be dedicated to a training process; repeated failure to participate in training scheduled by the NPC or the USBF may result in removal from the team.

H. Play at the World Youth Bridge Congress

Every member of any USBF-sponsored US junior team who complies with the requirements will be afforded the opportunity and be expected to play the number of boards required for medal eligibility.

III. EVENT FORMAT

A. General Structure

The event will be run as a matchpoint pairs competition. During the 2 sessions on Saturday, each pair will play each other pair in a complete Round Robin, one-winner movement. Similarly, each pair that qualifies to play on Sunday will play against each other remaining pair.

B. Special Rules Because of BBO Play

1. Monitors

Each player must be monitored during play. Players may arrange to play at a local bridge club (normally the player will have to bring a computer and arrange for their internet connection) with a club official as monitor or may arrange for some other monitor, with the prior approval of the USBF Junior Program Coordinator, at a bridge club or other site. The monitor will confirm

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to USBF that the player did not engage in any extraneous communication during any session, such as consulting with another person at the site, talking or reviewing text messages on a cell phone, or having an instant message, email or bridge playing program active on the player's computer.

2. Alerts

Each player will be responsible for self-alerting bids to their opponents.

3. Boards not completed

If a board is not completed at any table, the BBO software will assign an arbitrary score (average for both pairs if the board was not started, average minus if it was started but not completed). The DIC may adjust this score if the DIC finds that one pair was at fault and the arbitrary score does not reflect equity. The DIC's decision may be appealed to the Review Committee. The Review Committee's decision is final.

4. Review of Play

An expert Review Committee has been selected by the USBF Junior Committee to review all hands played in the Event. This will take place during and at the conclusion of the event. The Review Committee will notify the Junior Committee if it believes that any player's actions during the Event demonstrate a pattern suggesting that a player may have had information other than that obtained from the player's hand and the bidding and play of the cards.

All participants must sign the Participation Letter which will state that the Review Committee will make a determination of the facts and the USBF Board will take appropriate action, which can include eliminating pairs from the event. Such action shall be binding on every participant and is not appealable.

If a pair is eliminated from the Event as a result of this review, scores against that pair shall not be considered in determining the rank of the others pairs in the Event.

C. Carryover

Final scores for each pair will be the sum of the percentage scores for the two days (that is, the overall percentage for the two sessions on Saturday plus the percentage for the session on Sunday).

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IV. PACE OF PLAY

Players will be allowed 7 ½ minutes per board. Slow play penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the DIC.

V. INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.

A. Interpretation of Conditions

The DIC, in conjunction with the USBF tournament chair, shall make any necessary interpretations of these conditions or resolution of matters not included in these conditions.

B. 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 (except those that may be rendered so due to the fact that the play is using the Internet as the venue).

C. Other Regulations.

Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF, USBF and 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.

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APPENDIX A. LETTER FOR PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN

211 USBF Junior Trials for Croatia

Participation Letter

April 2, 2011

Dear trials participant,

Welcome to the United State Bridge Federation's (USBF) online trials for the World Youth Congress (WYC), Under 26 Division, to be held on BBO April 30 and May 1, 2011. Good luck in qualifying for a subsidized trip to Croatia for the WYC, Aug 21-30, 2011.

This letter contains details regarding the online trials and your agreement to abide by all conditions (as more fully described in the Conditions of Contest). To indicate your agreement, please sign below, and either fax (312-666-6084), email, or mail the last page of this letter to Joe Stokes, 1147 West Ohio Street, Suite 506, Chicago, IL 60642 for receipt by April 15, 2011. Joe's email address is jstokes@uic.edu. Immediately after the online qualifying, you should also fax, email, or mail your monitor's letter to Joe.

- 1) All conditions of qualification and participation will be decided solely by the USBF.
- 2) I have read, and agree to fully comply with, all USBF Conditions of Contest and participation in both the online trials and the championship in Croatia.
- 3) My date of birth is ___/___/____. If I was born after 8/15/1990, my parent or legal guardian has co-signed below. I understand that the USBF plans to send a non-playing captain, and my parents or other adults are free to accompany me to Croatia at their own expense.
- 4) I understand that during the on-line sessions of this USBF competition, I am not permitted to receive outside help of any kind. Without limitation, it is impermissible to do anything during this on-line competition that would not be permitted during a face-to-face tournament; for example: receiving "coaching," receiving advice about what to play or bid, consulting a bridge book or a bridge-related website, consulting system notes or any other notes (excepting defenses to unusual bids that are provided by my opponents in advance), keeping notes during a hand about which cards have been played, receiving information from any external source about what cards other players hold, or receiving information from any external source about the results at other tables (before the session ends).

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- 5) I further understand that while I am competing in an on-line USBF session, I am permitted to communicate only with the opponents at my table (solely through BBO), with a director for the event, or with a person assigned to monitor me in the event. During sessions, I am forbidden to communicate with anyone else, even if it is not bridge related. Without limitation, it is impermissible to communicate with anyone via telephone, via IMs, by using a secondary computer, by opening an additional window on the computer, or by doing anything similar.
- 6) I understand that the USBF will use a variety of security procedures to monitor compliance with these rules during the BBO trials. I consent to the use of any surveillance or other monitoring methods that USBF, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. I agree and understand that I have no expectation of privacy while I am participating in any session of this competition.
- 7) I agree to arrange to play at an ACBL bridge club or arrange for a monitor to be present in person to watch me during the competition, and to submit the monitor's name to USBF for approval at least one week before the competition. In either case, I also will forward the signed Monitor's Letter to the USBF via Joe Stokes not later than 48 hours after the end of the event.
- 8) The USBF may, in its sole judgment, disqualify any pair if it detects a pattern of actions that it believes are suspicious. To avoid sending a team that some might feel is "tainted" to represent the United States, USBF has discretion to disqualify a pair if it has any plausible basis to believe that the pair gained an unfair advantage. The USBF may rely on the opinion of any bridge or IT expert it elects to consult. If USBF disqualifies me, I will accept USBF's judgment as final and binding.
- 9) If I qualify to represent the United States in Croatia, I agree to comply with all local laws while I am in Croatia. I understand that I may be subject to USBF discipline if I violate Croatian law, and also to criminal prosecution under Croatian law, which may be harsher than U.S. law for certain offenses.
- 10) USBF expects to send two teams to Croatia (one under 21 and one under 26) and to subsidize them by covering the following expenses for each team member: coach class airfare to/from Croatia, full room and board (dual occupancy in the designated dorm/hotel/motel), and entry fees. I agree that all other expenses I incur are my responsibility. I understand that USBF will not reimburse me for things such as airport transfers, luggage charges, sightseeing, incidentals, etc.
- 11) If I am selected for the U.S team, I understand that to receive the subsidy described above, and as a condition precedent to my participation in the event in Croatia, I must sign a Waiver form that USBF will provide to me.
- 12) If I am selected for the U. S. team, I will make every effort to prepare for the championships in Croatia, including participating in organized practice matches arranged for my team by the USBF.

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I agree to all terms as stated on the first two pages of this letter:

Participant name (print) _____ Date: _____

Participant signature: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guardian's signature (if born after 8/15/1990):

Who will be your monitor (print): _____

Where will you play during the online trials: _____

Monitor's telephone number: _____

Monitor's email address: _____

Please return this signature page to Joe Stokes via
fax (312-666-6084),
email (jstokes@uic.edu),
or surface mail (1147 West Ohio Street, Suite 506, Chicago IL 60642)
to arrive by April 15, 2011.

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APPENDIX B. LETTER FOR MONITORS TO SIGN

211 USBF Junior Trials for Croatia

Dear WYC trials monitor,

Thank you for agreeing to monitor one of the Junior participants in the United States Bridge Federation's (USBF) trials for the World Youth Congress, April 30 and May 1, 2011. The participants are competing online for a valuable trip, so it is imperative that a variety of security procedures be in place.

All participants have agreed to a series of conditions, which include:

- 1) During the on-line sessions of this USBF competition they are not permitted to receive outside help of any kind, such as:
 - a. receiving "coaching"
 - b. consulting a bridge book or a bridge-related website
 - c. reading system notes or any other notes (except defenses provided by opponents)
 - d. writing notes or anything else during a hand
 - e. receiving information from any external source about what cards other players hold or the results at other tables
- 2) Participants may communicate with the other players at their table (solely through BBO), with a director for the event, or with you. During sessions, they are forbidden to communicate with anyone else, even if it is not bridge related. For example, no telephones of any kind, IMs, secondary computers, or additional windows open on their computers. Please take possession of players' cell phones or other devices while they are playing online.
- 3) The USBF may, in its sole judgment, disqualify any pair if it detects a pattern of actions that it believes are suspicious. To further ensure the integrity of the event, a panel of experts will be reviewing the hands, looking for suspicious behavior.

(continued)

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Please complete this form after the online qualifying and give it to the player you monitored. The player will return it to us. We appreciate your monitoring to ensure that these security measures are respected.

Thanks again.

Joseph Stokes (jstokes@uic.edu)
Junior Program Coordinator, USBF

Joan Gerard (joanandron@att.net)
President, USBF

I actively monitored _____ (participant), and did not detect any improper activity.

My name is _____ (print)

_____ (signature) Date: _____

phone: _____

email: _____