

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS of CONTEST for
the 2013 JUNIOR UNITED STATES
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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

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I. Authority and Overview

The 2013 Junior United States Bridge Championships (JUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF will nominate the winning teams to represent the USA in the World Youth Team Bridge Championships (WYTBC) in August 2014 in Istanbul Turkey. Teams will be chosen in three categories: 1) Two open under 26 (U26) teams, to compete for the Patiño Cup, 2) Two open under 21 (U21) teams, to compete for the Damiani Cup, and 3) one “girls” team (Rona) to compete for the Rona Cup.

II. General Information

A. Eligibility

Each Player in the 2013 JUSBC must be eligible to compete and intend to compete in the 2014 World Youth Team Championships, August 13-23, 2014, in Istanbul, Turkey. To be eligible for U26 or Rona, players must have been born in 1989 or later; for U21, 1994 or later.

B. Registration

Teams must register by September 20, 2013, at USBF.org. Each player in the event must be registered on the USBF. Juniors are not required to pay USBF dues to participate; players who are selected to represent the US in Turkey will be expected to pay dues at reduced junior rates and to become active members of the USBF.

Participants must sign the “Participation Letter” agreeing to the special provisions for play on BBO, including finding a place to play outside of their homes and finding someone to monitor their play. Monitors must be approved by the USBF and must agree to submit a Monitor’s Letter, certifying the conditions of play, at the end of the online portion.

C. Augmentation

Teams representing the United States in international competition shall be composed of six players. If a team that qualifies has fewer than six players, (an) additional player(s) shall be added. Teams may suggest (a) player(s) to add. Player(s) to be added must be approved by the USBF Board of Directors. Preference will be given to players who participated in the JUSBC and who have participated in the USBF Junior Online Training Program.

D. Training Program

Those who qualify to represent the USA at the World Youth Team Championships, August 13-23, in Istanbul, Turkey, will be expected to attend structured practice with their partners at least once a week for at least two hours between January 15, 2014, and when they leave for Turkey in August 2014.

E. Play at World Youth Bridge Team Championships

Every member of any USBF-sponsored 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.

F. Waiver Agreements

Participants at the in-person portions of the JUSBC and those who represent the USA in Turkey will be required to sign a Waiver Agreement provided by the USBF.

III. Event Format

A. Form of Competition

Online Portion

The JUSBC will begin with a competition on BBO to qualify 4 U26 teams, 4 U21 teams, and 2 Rona Cup teams to compete in the in-person portion of the JUSBC, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, December 28, 2013 through January 2, 2014. U26 teams will compete on BBO October 5-6 (and possibly also October 12-13, if needed); Rona Cup teams will compete on BBO Oct 12-13; U21 teams will compete online October 26-27. Further details about the in-person portion of the JUSBC will be posted at USBF.org as they become available.

For the online portion, play will begin at 2:00 PM Eastern each day. The second session will start at 6:30 PM Eastern. These times are subject to change by the Director-in-Charge (DIC) and the USBF tournament chair.

Online format for U26. Two full-day RR, scored in VP each day, with the top 4 teams (most VPs) at the end of Day Two advancing (7 8-bd matches each day if there are 8 teams; more boards per match if fewer than 8 teams).

Online format for Rona Cup. Full RR (3 teams) on Day One (18-board matches with a sitout). After Day One, if one team has won both its matches and has won each match by 18 IMPS or more, that team advances (qualifies for the in-person competition in Atlanta), and the other two teams play a 36-board match on the second day to determine the second team to advance, with carryover from their RR match (in IMPs) as per WBF rules: 51% carryover from the head-to-head RR match if the higher ranked team in the RR won their RR match against their KO opponent, 34% if the higher ranked team in the RR lost the RR match to its KO opponent. If no team wins both its RR matches by 18 IMPs or more on the first day, the three teams play another full RR on the second day; the top two teams (in VPs summed over the two days) advance to the in-person portion of the JUSBC in Atlanta.

Online format for U21.

Full RR on Day One (5 10-board matches). At the end of Day One there are special conditions, described below, that might allow for a team or two to advance (qualify

for Atlanta at the end of Day One) or be eliminated (leave the competition at the end of Day One)

Special conditions assuming 6 teams enter: at the end of Day One,
if two or more teams are each 20 or more VPs ahead of the 5th place team, the two leading teams (most VPs) will advance and the remaining four teams will continue. Any relevant ties will be broken by the head-to-head RR match results.

if one and only one team is 20 or more VPs ahead of the fifth place team and another team is 30 or more VPs behind the 4th place team, the leading team will advance, the trailing team will be eliminated, and the remaining four teams will continue.

In all other circumstances, all six teams will continue with a full RR on the second day. The VPs for the two days of RR will be added together and the four teams with the highest VP totals will qualify for Atlanta.

Special condition assuming 5 teams enter: at the end of Day One, if one or more team(s) is/are each 16 or more VPs ahead of the team in fifth place, the leading team (most VPs on Day One) will qualify for Atlanta and the remaining four teams will continue. If no team is 16 or more VPs ahead of the fifth place team at the end of Day One, all five teams will continue with a full RR on the second day. The VPs for the two days of RR will be added together and the four teams with the highest VP totals will qualify for Atlanta.

If four teams continue to Day Two of this online stage of this event, the second day will be KO matches, with carryover (in IMPs) from the teams' RR matches as follows: 51% carryover from the head-to-head RR match if the higher ranked team in the RR won their RR match against their KO opponent, 34% if the higher ranked team in the RR lost the RR match to its KO opponent. If we move to KO format for the second day, pairings for the first match will be based on finish in the RR, with the highest finisher of the remaining teams choosing its first-round opponent from the teams finishing third and fourth. In the case of four teams playing on the second day with two to advance (that is, 2 teams advanced the first day), the remaining four teams will play double elimination KO (3 18-bd matches), with the winner of their first two matches on the second day advancing, the loser of their first two matches on the second day being eliminated, and the two teams that are 1-and-1 in their first two matches on Day Two playing a third match to determine the second team to advance. If four teams remain for the second day with three to advance (that is, one team advanced after the first day), teams will play 2 26-board matches, with the winners of their first match advancing and the losers of their first match playing a second match to determine the third team to advance.

There will be no carryover from online play to the in-person event in Atlanta in any category.

In-Person Competition (U26 and U21)

First match. For the U26 and U21 competitions, Team 1 shall play a 48-board match against Team 4, and Team 2 shall play 48-board match against Team 3 on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

If the online competition is entirely Round Robin, seeding will be based on finish in the Round Robin. If no online competition is needed or if the online competition is not entirely a Round Robin, ACBL masterpoints, with Platinum points counting triple, will be used for seeding. The first two finishers in the online competition or the top two teams by average masterpoints, will be Teams 1 and 2.

For the U26 competition, the other two teams will be assigned randomly to be Team 3 or Team 4.

For the U21 competition, the winner of the RR will choose its first opponent for Atlanta from the teams that finished third and fourth in the online competition. If one or more teams qualify for Atlanta after the first day of online play, the team that had the highest number of Victory Points on that first day is the winner of the RR for this purpose.

Second match. The winners of the first match shall play a 48-board match; the losers of the first match shall play a 48-board match on Wednesday, January 1, 2014. The winner of the match between the winners of the first match shall be USA1 for Turkey in their division. The losing team from the match between the losers of the first match is eliminated from the competition.

Third match. The two remaining teams (the loser of the match between the teams that won the first match and the winner of the match between the teams that lost their first match) shall play a 48-board match on Thursday, January 2, 2014. The winner of this third match is USA2 for Turkey in their division.

Seating. Teams 1 and 2 will have seating rights; the teams with seating rights may decide which segment they want those rights, after which the lower seeded team picks two segments for which they will have seating rights. Alternatively, the seeded team may waive their right, after which the lower seeded team picks one segment and the seeded team picks two.

In-Person Competition (Rona Cup)

Team 1 shall play a 96-board match against Team 2, 48 boards being played on each of Wednesday and Thursday, January 1 and 2, 2014. The format of the matches and seeding of the teams will be the same as described above for U26 and U21, except seating rights will be assigned over eight segments of play.

B. Special Rules for Play on BBO

Monitors

Each player must be monitored during play on BBO. Players may arrange to play at a bridge club or in a private home or other setting outside of where the player resides. Normally players will have to provide their own computers and arrange for an internet connection. Players must also provide a monitor who must be approved in advance by the USBF. The monitor must not have a familial relationship with the participant. The monitor will confirm in writing at the conclusion of online play that the player did not engage in any extraneous communication during any session, such as consulting with another person, or having an instant message, email, or bridge playing program active on the player's computer.

Alerts

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

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. The Review Committee will make a determination of the facts and the USBF Board will take appropriate action, which may include eliminating pairs or teams from the event. Such action shall be binding on every participant and is not appealable.

C. System Summary Forms and Conventions Allowed

Each pair must submit a Systems Summary Form (SSF) at least two weeks before each segment of play. Once you are logged in to USBF.org (you must be logged in), select "SSF or ASF" from the User Menu on the left. For more information about what is to be included on the SSF,

see http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=28. See also the "System Regulations" tab under the "USBF Tournaments" menu on the home page of USBF.org.

ACBL Mid-Chart Conventions will be allowed (<http://www.acbl.org>, then "charts, rules, regulations," then "convention charts.>"). If you are playing Mid-Chart Conventions, you must list those conventions in the section of the SSF that lists conventions that might require advance preparation. Where an ACBL defense is available, please indicate "ACBL Defense" when you list the convention on your SSF. For a list of ACBL Defenses, see <http://www.acbl.org/play/defensedatabase.html>. Defenders are allowed to refer to written defenses for Mid-Chart conventions that require a written defense.

D. Matches that End in a Tie

Ties in knockout matches will be broken by an additional segment of six boards (and further additional segments of six boards, if needed).

E. Pace of play

Players will be allowed 7.5 minutes per board. Slow play penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the director.

F. Tardiness

Play shall begin at the announced starting time. Players shall arrive five minutes before the announced starting time to discuss methods with their opponents. Players who do not arrive at the table in accordance with the above are deemed to be tardy. When tardiness exceeds 10 minutes from the announced starting time, the Director may curtail the match by removing one board and one additional board for every 9 minutes later than the original 10-minute tardiness. The opponents will be awarded 3 IMPs per board removed, and the DIC may impose penalties without removing boards.

G. Entering in more than one category

Only players who have registered as part of a team (U26, U21, or Rona) by September 20, 2013, are eligible to play in any category. That is, no one may be added after September 20, 2013, to a Rona team unless that player was part of an U26 team that failed to advance, and no player may be added after September 20, 2013, to an U21 team unless that player was part of an U26 or Rona team that failed to advance. The deadline for amending team composition at USBF.org is 11:59 PM Eastern on Oct. 7 for Rona, and 11:59 PM Eastern on October 15, 2014, for U21.

Players may enter as part of a team in more than one category, contingent on not advancing from a prior category. For example, If one advances in U26, one would have to drop off the subsequent team (Rona or U21). If the Rona or U21 team then had fewer than four players, that team would be ineligible to compete unless they add (a) player(s) who had failed to advance in a prior category. Put another way, teams of fewer than four people may enter U21 or Rona, contingent on adding an eligible player who played U26 (or U26/Rona for U21 teams) and failed to advance. Teams that do not augment to at least four players by the October 7 and October 15 deadlines mentioned in the previous paragraph will be ineligible to compete.

IV. 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. These Condition 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 because some portion of the play is on BBO.

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.

The DIC and the USBF Tournament Chair may modify any of these conditions as deemed necessary to ensure the integrity of the event.