
**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR
THE 2019 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

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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 but are subject to these Conditions of Contest.

The 2019 United States Bridge Championship (USBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning team as USA2 for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from Oct. 19 to Nov. 2 in Wuhan, China..

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 team for the Bermuda Bowl, 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 USBC or information received after the USBC.

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 2019 USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Registration.

There are 18 teams entered in the 2019 Open USBC

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by sending an email to the USBF Secretary), until May 9, 2019.

B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

Beginning Friday, May 10, 2019, there will be a 2 day Complete Round Robin, followed by 2 day, 120 board, Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches. The 2019 USBC will end on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

C. Site and Hotel Reservations.

The site of the 2019 USBC is the Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg, IL.

D. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin stage, the R16 stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

III. BYES

The Rosenthal team has a bye to the Quarterfinal. The Fleisher team has a bye to the Round of 16. There are no other byes.

IV. FORMAT

A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages

1) Quarterfinal

The Quarterfinal will consist of eight teams.

2) Round of 16.

There will be 14 teams in the Round of 16. One of those teams (Fleisher) has a bye, so there are 13 "slots" in the Round of 16 for Round Robin teams.

3) Pre-Round of 16 Format

The Round Robin will have 15 rounds; each Round Robin match will be 7 boards long. USBF General Conditions of Contest rules about advance submission of lineups and sequestering will apply. Thirteen teams will advance to the Round of 16

B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

The bracket is set before the start of the first knockout round. The bracket is determined as follows:

1) Seeding the Teams with Byes

The Rosenthal team is number 1; The Fleisher team is number 2.

2) Seeding the Round of 16 – Teams without Byes; Seeding Points

All teams not receiving a bye into the Semifinal, Quarterfinal or Round of 16 shall be ranked by average Seeding Points (SPs). SPs shall be calculated as the sum of the following:

- a) **ACBL Seeding Method One:** ACBL seeding points, (a.k.a V/S/R points), including masterpoints given via the ACBL Masterpoint Log. Resident’s seeding points awarded (not earned) by the ACBL shall count toward a player’s ACBL seeding point totals. ACBL seeding points are calculated in accordance with [Appendix B to the ACBL Conditions of Contest](#).
- b) **PPs earned by an individual (IPPs) during the Cycle.** IPPs are the PPs earned by individual members of a team that the individual played on during the Cycle, but if that team contained Ineligible Players, IPPs are diluted by 25% if the team contained one Ineligible Player, 50% if the team contained 2 Ineligible Players and 75% if a team contained 3 Ineligible Players. No IPPs may be earned by players on a team with 4 or 5 Ineligible Players. The IPPs of a player shall be the sum of the IPPs earned during the cycle. IPPs are further limited as follows:
 - The first fifteen are counted fully
 - The second fifteen are discounted by half
 - The third fifteen are discounted by three-quarters
 - No credit shall be earned for more than 45 PPs
 - The maximum IPPs for any player shall be 26.25.
- c) Round Robin Points earned for first through fourth place in the Round Robin as follows:

Finish	SPs
1st place*	8
2nd place	8
3rd place	4
4th place	2

* Plus the team with the highest number of Victory Points has an option to reshuffle, described in section 5 below

A team’s average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the total of the SPs for each player (capped at 65) divided by the number of players on the team. However, Round Robin points earned shall not be subject to the 65 SP cap. Paragraph III.B.2. regarding teammates of a player who has

expertise significantly below the majority of the team, shall not apply to IPPs

3) IPP and Seeding Point Reduction for finishes with “tainted players”

A player shall forfeit all positioning points and seeding points earned in an event when the team for that event included a player who has been convicted by ACBL, EBL or the player’s NBO of collusive cheating.

4) Seeding the Round of 16 - Shuffling

The teams from the Round Robin are plugged into the Bracket after the Bye teams have been placed as set forth in 1) above. Teams 1 and 2 are fixed based on their PPs. Regardless of whether they have byes or byes to different stages of the event:

- a) Teams that would be seeded into the 3 and 4 slots are assigned their number by lot.
- b) The rest of the teams continue to be assigned their number by lot in groups of two.
- c) If there is an odd number of teams to be shuffled, the bottom three teams are shuffled together.

If there is no Round Robin, the bracket shall be set as determined by the byes and the SPs of the non-bye teams, in accordance with this paragraph.

5) Seeding the Round of 16 - Reshuffle

After the brackets are set and the shuffling is done as provided above, the team that won the Round Robin can refuse its drawn opponent by asking for a re-shuffle. If such reshuffle is requested, the Round Robin winner will randomly choose from among its team number and its bracket mate’s numbers (i.e., a two or three team group identified in the above paragraph). The number chosen by the Round Robin winner will be swapped with its original number. If the Round Robin winner chooses its own number again, it keeps it.

A team with a bye in a bracket group with the Round Robin winner is exempt from inclusion in a reshuffle (even though it was included in the initial bracket shuffle). In such a case, the reshuffle is among only those teams who do not have byes.

If the Round Robin winner does not have a bracket mate to reshuffle with, because its bracket-mates have byes or are empty bye slots, then the team may reshuffle with the next highest bracketed team below the Round Robin winner that is an even number of bracket slots below the Round Robin winner. (i.e. 2 slots below, or 4 slots below, if 2 does not exist, etc.).

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 the end of the 2018 Vanderbilt, the ITTC Technical & Advisory Committee (TAC) shall make determinations.
- 2) After the end of the 2018 Vanderbilt but before the Guaranteed Entry Date, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the TAC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
- 3) After the Guaranteed Entry Date, the DIC shall make such 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.