

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2012 UNITED STATES SENIOR BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

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2012 USSBC
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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 2012 United States Senior Bridge Championship (USSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to nominate the winning team as the USA representative to compete in the Senior Teams competition at the 14th World Bridge Games. This event is scheduled to take place from August 9-23, 2012 at the Grand Palais in Lille, France. 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 14th World Bridge Games, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for review. The Credential 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 USSBC or information received after the USSBC.

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.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Eligibility

Teams may consist of 4, 5, or 6 members, and may have a designated non-playing captain. All playing members of a team must have been born on or before December 31, 1952.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by midnight EST on Friday, May 11, 2012. You must be logged in to the USBF site and have paid 2012 dues to register a team. One additional entry will be accepted until midnight EST on Thursday, May 17th, 2012 if it improves the event format. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by changing the team roster on the USBF website) until May 17th, 2012. Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification of its players for the Open division of the 14th World Bridge Games may withdraw from the USSBC and receive a refund of both the event fee and the advance payment of session fees.

C. Fees.

Fees are an event entry fee of \$360 per team and session fees of \$150 per team per session (\$300 per day). Payment of \$660 must accompany the registration of the team; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the first

day of play. The event fee is refundable only if a team that has entered the USSBC qualifies for the Open Division of the 14th World Bridge Games or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the Open Division of the 14th World Bridge Games. The advance payment of session fees is refundable.

D. Dates

The 2012 USSBC will begin Friday, June 1, 2012 and will end on Wednesday, June 6.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2012 USSBC is the Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$115 per night and includes internet access. Parking is free.

F. Captain's Meetings and Schedule of Play

Play will commence at 10:30 AM on each day with the further schedule to be determined by the DIC. There will be a Captain's Meeting at 10:00 AM on June 1st. Further Captain's meetings will be held at the discretion of the DIC.

G. Conditions of Contest

The event is governed by this document and by the USBF General Conditions of Contest, which are posted on the USBF website at <http://usbf.org/docs/COC/General%20CoC.pdf>.

III. SEEDING

The USSBC shall be seeded based on ACBL seeding points used for the Baze Senior Knockout plus additional seeding points based on performance in the immediately preceding USSBC. The winner of the 2011 USSBC shall receive the number of seeding points given to the winner of the Baze Senior KO; the winner of the 2011 USSBC USA2 bracket shall receive the number of seeding points awarded to the team that finishes second in the Baze Senior KO. Masterpoints, adjusted in accordance with the ACBL's current formula will be used in the seeding. Resident's seeding points awarded (not earned) by the ACBL shall count toward a player's ACBL seeding point totals.

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the sum of the SP totals for each player (capped at 50) divided by the number of players on the team. In the event of a tie, the average SP without cap will be used to break the tie.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

A. General Structure

Except when the initial entry is 4 or 8 or 15 or 16 teams, the USSBC will start with a Round Robin.

If there are 9 or 10 teams, the Round Robin will be 1 day. The field will then be reduced to 8 teams.

If there are 5,6,7, 11, 12, 13 or 14 teams, the Round Robin will be two days. If there are 5-7 teams, the round robin will reduce the field to 4 teams. If there are 11-14 teams the Round Robin will reduce the field to 8 teams.

The event will continue as a single elimination KO. The format for each number of teams is set forth in Appendix C. The format is subject to revision after entry size is known.

B. Knockout Rounds

1. Setting the Bracket

a. General Procedure

If 4, 8, 15 or 16 teams enter the event, the teams will be ranked according to Average Seeding Points as determined under Section III above. The team with the highest Average Seeding Points will be seeded 1st. The team with the 2nd highest average will be seeded 2nd. The teams with the 3rd and 4th highest Average Seeding Points will be randomly drawn into seeds 3 and 4. Similarly teams 5/6, 7/8, 9/12, and 13/16 will be randomly drawn.

b. If There is a Round Robin

If there is an initial Round Robin, the results of the qualifying teams in the Round Robin will be combined with their SP rank to determine seeding. At the conclusion of the Round Robin, each qualifying team's Round Robin rank will be added to double the team's SP rank among qualifying teams. These sums will then be ranked to determine seed order. In case of ties, the team with the higher SP ranking will be seeded higher. The brackets will then be drawn as above.

2. Length of Matches

If there is a two match KO (four teams) then both the semi finals and finals shall be 112 boards played over two days.

If there is a three match KO (eight teams) and it was not preceded by a Round Robin, all matches shall be 112 boards, played over two days.

If there is a three match KO and it was preceded by a one day Round Robin, then the Quarterfinal and Semifinal shall be 90 board matches, each played over one and one half days. The Finals shall be 112 boards, played over two days.

If there is a three match KO and it was preceded by a two day Round Robin, then the Quarterfinals shall be 60 boards, played in 1 day. Both the Semifinals and Finals shall be 90 boards each played over one and one half days.

If there is a four match KO then all matches will be 90 boards. Each match will be played over one and one half days.

3. Carryover

If the team that won the Round Robin match finished ahead of the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover for all matches except the finals will be 51% of the margin of victory. If the team that won the Round Robin match finished behind the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover for all matches except the final will be 34% of the margin of victory.

In the finals: if the team that won the Round Robin match finished ahead of the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover will be 50%; if the team that won the Round Robin match finished behind the loser in the final Round Robin standings then the carryover will be 1/3.

Carryovers will be capped as follows: 60 board match = 8.5 Imps. 90 board match = 12.5 Imps. 112 board match = 15.5 Imps.

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 June 1, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.
2. From June 1 through the end of the event, the DIC shall make any necessary interpretations.

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, 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.

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.

Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF and ACBL policies, procedures, regulations and the Laws of Duplicate Bridge when ruling on any issues not expressly addressed in these conditions. **SPECIFIC FORMATS**

VI. SPECIFIC FORMATS

Entry	Format
6 Teams	Two-day Round Robin. One match each day vs each other team. The order of play on day two shall be the opposite of the order of play on day one. The results will be scored as one match. The top 4 teams qualify for KO.
7 Teams	Two-day Round Robin. One match each day vs each other team. Each team will have a bye on each day. The order of play on day two shall be the opposite of the order of play on day one. The results will be scored as one match. The top 4 teams qualify for KO.
8 Teams	Immediate KO.
9 or 10 Teams	One-day complete Round Robin. Each team will have a bye if there are 9 teams. The top 8 teams qualify for KO.
11 or 12 Teams	Two-day Round Robin. The order of play on day two shall be the opposite of the order of play on day one. The results will be scored as one match. Each team will have a bye on each day if there are 11 teams. The top 8 teams qualify for KO.
13-14 Teams	Two-day Round Robin. The order of play on day two shall be the opposite of the order of play on day one. The results will be scored as one match. Each team will have a bye on each day if there are 13 teams. The top 8 teams qualify for KO.
15 teams	Immediate KO with the 1 st seed having a bye in the Round of 16.
16 teams	Immediate KO.