

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2012 UNITED STATES WOMEN'S
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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

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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 Women's Bridge Championship (USWBC) 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 the USA Women's representative to the 2012 World Bridge Federation ("WBF") Olympiad (International Mind Sports Games). 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 2012 Olympiad, 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 USWBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Registration.

Teams enter the event by registering online on the USBF.org website at:
http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_entries&task=entryform&event=30
<http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_entries&task=entryform&event=30>

1. Guaranteed Entry Date

To assure entry in the 2012 USWBC, teams must enter on or before 11:59 EDST on Friday May 11, 2012. The Credentials Committee may adjust or void the Positioning Points (PPs) of a team with a bye if new players are added or Eligible Players are removed after May 11th.

2. Late Entry Date

Teams may continue to enter until 11:59 EDST on Thursday, May 17, 2012, but entries will be accepted only if the additional entry does not change the format of the event.

Entries after May 11th will be accepted on a provisional basis, subject to review to make certain that this condition is met. If it is necessary to reject any teams that entered between May 11th and 17th, later entries will be rejected before earlier ones.

Registered teams not requesting byes may add or subtract players as they wish, (using the "update" button on the team list, which is available only to team captains who are logged into the USBF.org website), until May 25th, 2012. After May 25th,

teams without byes may apply to the Credentials Committee to change their team roster.

B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

1. If 10 or Fewer Teams Enter the Event (most likely situation)

If 10 or fewer teams (counting a team with a bye to the Semi-final as two teams) enter the 2012 USWBC, the first stage will be a 2-day Round Robin on June 1st & 2nd to reduce to 4 teams for the Semi-finals. The Semi-finals will be a 1-1/2 day Knockout match on June 3rd and 4th. The Finals will be a 1-1/2 day Knockout match on June 4th and 5th.

After entries close on May 11th, the USBF.org website will show the schedule and format for the RR.

2. If more than 10 Teams Enter the Event

If more than 10 teams (counting a team with a bye to the Semi-final as two teams) enter the 2012 USWBC, the first stage will be a 2-day Round Robin on June 1st and 2nd and the second stage will be a 2-day Round Robin on June 3rd and 4th. The general format of the first Round Robin is described in Appendix A. The Semi-finals will be a 1-1/2 day Knockout match on June 5rd and 6th. The Finals will be a 1-1/2 day Knockout match on June 6th and 7th.

C. Prepaid Entry and Fees.

The entry fee for the event is \$960, consisting of an event fee of \$360 and prepayment of four, \$150 session fees. The event fee is normally not refundable, but an appeal for a refund may be made to the Credentials Committee.

D. Site and Hotel Reservations.

The site of the 2012 USWBC is the Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173. Reservations may be made online at file://localhost/<https://resweb.passkey.com:Resweb.do%3Fmode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=5134470> or by calling the Hotel at (847) 605-1234. Mention "bridge event" or USBF to get the bridge rate of \$115 per night (free Internet).

E. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge or his or her designee (DIC) shall convene a captain's meeting before each RR stage and the Semi-final & Final stages. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention summary forms, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

F. POSITIONING POINTS

Positioning Points (PPs) are used to rank the teams for the purpose of obtaining byes to the Second Round Robin if there is a First Round Robin and the semi-final. PPs for the qualifying events will be as follows:

Place	Wagar	WBAM & Swiss	Vand & Spin	Reisinger	GNT
1 st	80	44	124	108	100
2 nd	60	32	100	88	80
3 rd	40	24	80	68	64
4 th	40	20	80	48	64
5 th	20	16	60	44	48
6 th	20	12	60	40	48
7 th	20	8	60	36	48
8 th	20	4	60	32	48
9 th		3		28	24
10 th		2		24	24
11 th					24
12 th					24
9-16 th	8		32		
17-32			8		
13-24					8

G. Eligibility for PPs

A team may earn PPs for the 2012 USWBC based on its performance in the 2010 Women's Board-A-Match and Reisinger, the 2011 Women's Swiss, Vanderbilt, Wagar, GNT, Spingold, Women's Board-A-Match and Reisinger. To earn PPs from any of these "cycle" events, at least 4 members of the 2012 USWBC team must play on the cycle-event team, and must be Eligible Players who were USBF Active or Resident Members on a date no later than 2 weeks after conclusion of the event for which PPs were awarded. For example, if players ABCD played together on a 2010 BAM team, and players ABEF played together on a 2011 Wagar team, and players CDEF played together on a 2011 BAM team, then a 6-person 2012 USWBC team of ABCDEF could use PPs earned in all three events to count towards earning a bye (subject to V.B.1 and V.B.2 below).

An Eligible Player is a player who is eligible to compete for the USA in the WBF championship for which the USWBC is a selection trial. Men players on an Open team with 4 or 5 women players are "ineligible players" as are players who are not USBF Resident or Active members. In addition to being subject to Section III., paragraphs B., C. and D., below, to be counted as a member of a team in an event that awards PPs, a player must fulfill the ACBL minimum-play requirements for the overall rank for which PPs are awarded. For example, if a team with eligible players A, B, C & D and ineligible player E wins an event, and player A did not fulfill the minimum play requirement in the final, but did fulfill the minimum play requirement through the semi-final, the team earns PPs for winning its semi-final match (finishing 2nd), but does not earn PPs for winning the final. The Credentials Committee determines Eligibility.

H. Dilution of PPs

Teams normally earn full PPs for any event in which at least four Eligible Players who are also USBF Active Members compete on the same team. There are two exceptions:

1. Effect of Ineligible Players.

A team with one or two Ineligible Players will earn diluted PPs according to the following schedule:

- a) 75% of PPs earned if there is 1 Ineligible Player
- b) 50% of PPs earned if there are 2 Ineligible Players
- c) No PPs if there are 3 or more Ineligible Players

2. Effect of Bridge Expertise.

When a player has been added to a team that earned PPs without that player, the Credentials Committee shall first determine whether the team added the player in order to improve its chances of winning at the table. If the Credentials Committee determines that is the case, the team's PPs shall not be reduced under this section. In all other situations, based on criteria described in this section, the Credentials Committee may determine, for PPs purposes, that any team member of a team entered in the 2012 USBC has expertise that is significantly less than that of the majority of the team.

- a) If such a team member did not play in an event in which her teammates earned PPs, the team will receive 50% of the PPs for the team's finishing position in the event.
- b) If such a team member earned some PPs and then did not play the required percentage of boards to qualify for that team's final position in an event in which the team earned PPs, the team will receive the greater of the PPs earned up to the point such team member did not play the required percentage of boards, or 50% of the PPs for the team's finishing positioning position in the event.

In making the determination as to whether a player has expertise significantly below the majority of the team, the Credentials Committee shall examine many criteria and any special circumstances necessitating the augmentation. A player who has both regularly played more than the minimum required boards and regularly played the last segment in meaningful match situations when the player was not required to do so on this or comparable teams in recent years is considered to have expertise not significantly below the majority of the team.

If a team member's bridge expertise is determined to be significantly less than that of the remainder of the team, that member must be a member of the team before any PPs are won (See Pre-registration, below). If such a member does not play in a qualifying Event with her team, her team may earn PPs only in the first qualifying Event she does not play in. In that first event, the team earns the lesser of one half the PPs earned or the largest number of PPs earned in any event in which such a player played.

I. Pre-Registration.

In order to receive PPs for bye considerations, a team containing a player who did not play in the 2010 Women's BAM or 2011 Women's Swiss or Wagar who then joins her team for play in a later event and whose bridge expertise is determined to be significantly less than that of the remainder of the team, must have submitted a

USWBC entry to the USBF prior to the first qualifying event that she did not play in. ("Pre-registered").

In the event a Pre-registered team wishes to make changes to its roster, such team is subject to all other terms of these conditions.

J. Requirement to be an Active or Resident Member of USBF.

Players entering the USWBC must be dues paying 2012 Active or Resident Members of the USBF. For a team to be credited with Positioning Points (PPs) for bye purposes for the 2012 USWBC, at least 4 Eligible Players on the team must have paid their USBF Active or Resident Member dues prior to the start of the event in which they earned PPs or (for an additional fee) within two weeks after the event in which they earned PPs.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues cover a calendar year.

USBF Active and Resident Member Dues are \$50 (\$25 for players born after 1984, \$10 for players born after 1992), or \$150 when paid within two weeks after an event in which PPs were earned. Dues may be paid by sending a check made payable to the USBF to Barbara Nudelman, 200 E. Delaware, Apt. 18E, Chicago, IL 60611 or by using a credit card online at:

http://usbf.org/index.php?option=com_paydues&Itemid=73. To access this page, you must be logged into the USBF website.

III. BYES

A. Byes to the Semi-final.

Any team with 144 or more PPs and two "wins" gets a bye to the Semi-Final. A "win" is defined as a first or second place finish in the Wagar or a first place finish in the Women's Swiss or BAM or a fifth place or higher finish in an Open team event.

B. Byes to RR2.

Any team with 72 or more PPs that does not have a bye to the Semi-final gets a bye to Round Robin 2, if there is an earlier Round Robin.

IV. ROUND ROBIN

A. Seeding and Format

Each Round Robin will be seeded based on Women's KO seeding points. Pairings will follow a schedule published after the number of entrants is known. The order of play on the second day will be the opposite of that on the first day.

B. Tie Breaking

Ties for the last team to advance out of either RR will be broken as follows:

- a) Total net IMPs in the final stage of the Round Robin (if there was a final stage with fewer teams than in the initial stage)
- b) Total net IMPs for the entire Round Robin
- c) IMPs against other tied teams;
- d) 4 board playoffs.

Ties in a KO match shall be broken by one or more additional 8-board segments.

Ties for seeding purposes in either Round Robin shall be broken by a coin toss.

A team eliminated from a tie by a method of tie breaking shall not be considered in subsequent tie-breaks.

Any fraction of an IMP difference is sufficient to break a tie.

V. SETTING THE BRACKET FOR KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

The Semi-final pairings are determined as follows, based on whether any team(s) have byes to the Semi-final:

A. If Two Teams have Byes to the Semi-Finals

If 2 teams have received byes to the semi-finals, the team with the most PPs shall be seeded 1 and shall select its opponent from the two RR2 teams that advance to the semi-finals and the other team with a bye to the semi-finals shall be seeded 2 and shall play the remaining RR2 team. A coin toss will be used to break a tie in PPs between two teams with byes to the semi-finals.

B. If One Team has a Bye to the Semi-Finals

If 1 team has received a bye to the semi-finals, that team shall be seeded 1 and shall select its opponent from the teams finishing 2nd and 3rd in RR2; the RR2 winner shall be seeded 2

C. If No Team has a Bye to the Semi-Finals

If no team has received a bye to the semi-finals, the RR2 winner will be seeded 1 and will select its opponent from the teams that finished 3rd and 4th in RR2

VI. INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.

A. TARDINESS

Play shall begin at the announced starting time. All pairs shall be prepared to commence play at the announced starting time. If a player arrives at the table more than 1 minute after the announced starting time, her team will be penalized 1VP (during Round Robin) or 1IMP (during knockout phases) if she is less than 5 minutes late and 2VPs or IMPs if she is more than 5 minutes late, in addition to all other

penalties for slow play and tardiness. Egregious tardiness will be referred to the USBF Conduct and Ethics Committee for possible disciplinary action.

B. Winners at the Table Winners in Fact.

Except where specifically prohibited, the interpretation of these conditions, of USBF regulations, and of the Laws shall be such that the winners at the table are the winners in fact.

C. 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 2012 Vanderbilt, the ITT Technical Committee shall make determinations.
2. After the end of the 2012 Vanderbilt but before entries close, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the ITT Technical Committee. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
3. After entries close, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

D. Headings for Convenience.

Headings are for convenience only and are not to be considered for purposes of interpreting the conditions.

E. 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.

F. 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.

APPENDIX A. SPECIFIC ROUND ROBIN FORMATS

A. FIRST ROUND ROBIN

1. If ten or fewer teams (counting a team with a bye to the semi-finals as two teams) enter the USWBC, there shall be no first Round Robin (“RR1”).

2. If 10 or fewer teams enter RR1:

The format of play for RR1 shall be the same as that set forth below for RR2, except that the number of teams advancing to RR2 shall be such that the percentage of teams advancing from RR2 to the semi-finals shall not be significantly less than the percentage of teams advancing from RR1 to RR2.

The specific numbers of teams advancing based on numbers of byes and entrants in RR1 are set forth in Appendix B.

3. If more than 10 teams enter RR1, it will consist of two or three stages of play, with a cut after each stage. Specific formats follow.

a. First stage

If more than 10 teams have entered RR1, the first stage of RR1 shall consist of a 2-day complete round robin. The number of boards shall be as set forth below. IMPs are converted to VPs based on the VP scales set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. Except for the last two matches, each session shall be played straight through except for two short (10 minute) breaks. Teams can change line-up at any time during these sessions. Starting times for each match will be strictly enforced, as will time allowed to play each match.

For the final 2 matches of this stage, the pairs in the closed room are segregated and not allowed to talk to anyone. No player substitution will be allowed in the closed room, but substitution is allowed in the open room.

b. Second stage

At the end of the first stage of play, the VPs earned by the teams are multiplied by 60% to determine the carryover to the second session. The teams are ranked based on VPs. The number of teams set forth in the table below play a second session consisting of a 1-day complete round robin, played in the same format and scored on the same VP scale as the first stage. The VPs from these matches are added to the carryover to determine the qualifiers to the third stage or RR2, depending on the number of teams that entered RR1.

c. Third stage

If 19 teams or more enter RR1, there shall be another 1-day complete round robin. The VPs earned by the teams in the second stage, plus 60% of the VPs in the first stage shall be added together and multiplied by 60% to determine the carry over to the third stage. The third stage shall be played in the same format and scored on the same VP scale as the second stage.

4. NUMBER OF DAYS AND BOARDS

Number entered	Days RR1	Bds/ match 1 st stage	# of teams 2 nd stage	Bds/ match 2 nd stage	# of teams 3 rd stage	Bds/ match 3 rd stage
10	2	≈120 total	No 2nd stage	No 2nd stage		
11 – 12	3	10	8	8		
13 – 14	3	9	8	8		
15 – 16	3	8	8	8		
17 – 18	3	7	8	8		
19 – 20	4	6	12	5	8	8
21 – 22	4	5	12	5	8	8
23 – 24	4	5	14	4	8	8
25+	4	4	14	4	8	8

B. SECOND ROUND ROBIN

1. If Round Robin 2 has More than 4 teams.

Unless the Second Round Robin (“RR2”) has 4 teams with two to advance to the semi-finals, it shall be played as two complete Round Robins among the teams entered in the USWBC that have byes to this stage and the teams that are eligible for this stage as a result of their performance in RR1. The number of boards played in each match shall be the largest number possible such that no more than 60 boards are played in a day. Matches will be scored at IMPs converted to VPs based on the VP scales set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. The VPs earned by each team on each day shall be added together to determine the team’s total VPs for the event.

The Round Robin will be seeded based on Wagar Knockout Seeding Points. The Director in Charge in consultation with the WITTC shall determine pairings for the second Round Robin as soon as practicable after the number of teams in the event is known. The order of play on Day 2 shall be exactly opposite from the order of play on day 1. The schedule of play will be distributed to the captains of all of the teams in the event as soon as it is known. See Section VI.B (Balanced Play Requirement) of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding special play requirement.

2. If Round Robin 2 Has 4 Teams & 2 Advance

If there are 4 teams in Round Robin 2, with 2 teams to advance to the semi-finals, Round Robin 2 shall be played as a partial double elimination Knockout, as follows. The teams shall be seeded based on Women’s Team Seeding Points.

a. First Match

Team 1 shall play a 40 board match against Team 4 and Team 2 shall play a 40 board match against Team 3. The matches shall be played in two 20 board halves. Teams 1 and 2 shall have seating rights in the first half, unless a team chooses to waive the seed. Teams 3 and 4 shall have seating rights in the second half unless their opponent waived the seed for the first half. Each player on each team must play at least one half of the match.

b. Second Match

The winners of the First Match shall play a 40 board match and the losers of the First Match shall play a 40 board match. The first half shall be played on one day and the second half on the second day. Seating rights shall be as for the First Match. The winner of the match between the two winning teams shall advance to the semi-finals. The loser of the match between the two losing teams shall be eliminated.

c. Third Match

The loser of the match between the two winners of the First Match and the winner of the match between the two losers of the First Match shall play a 40 board match. The winner of this match shall advance to the semi-finals. The loser shall be eliminated.

APPENDIX B. DETERMINING TEAMS TO ADVANCE FROM RR1

I. General Principles

The number of teams to advance from Round Robin 1 to Round Robin 2 shall be such that the percentage of teams advancing from Round Robin 2 to the semi-finals is not significantly smaller than the percentage of teams advancing from Round Robin 1 to Round Robin 2.

II. Specific Examples

The table below shows how many teams will advance from Round Robin 1 to Round Robin 2 depending on the number of teams with byes to the semi-finals, the number of teams with byes to Round Robin 2 and the number of teams entering Round Robin 1:

Semi-Final Byes	RR2 Byes	RR1 Entries	Teams Advancing		
0	0	11	6		
		12-14	7		
		15-16	8		
	1	10	5		
		11-13	6		
		14-16	7		
	2	9-11	5		
		12-15	6		
		16	7		
	3	8-9	4		
		10-12	5		
		13-15	6		
		16	7		
		1	0	9-11	5
				12-14	6
15-16	7				
	1	8	4		
		9-12	5		
		13-16	6		
	2	7	3		

		8-12	4
		13-14	5
		15-16	6
2	0	7-11	4
		12-16	5
	1	6-8	3
		9-14	4
		15-16	5
	2	5-6	2
		7-10	3
		11-15	4
		16	5

