
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2016 SENIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

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Board of Directors of the United States Bridge Federation

Senior International Team Trials Committee

USBF Credentials Committee

USBF Tournament Appeals Committee

Tournament Planning Committee

Grievance & Appeals Committee

USBF Recorder

Hospitality Committee

Vugraph Committee

2016 Senior USBC
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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 2016 Senior United States Bridge Championship (SUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed to nominate the winning team as the USA Senior representatives to compete in the 2016 World Bridge Games. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from September 3-17, 2016, in Wroclaw, Poland. 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 to represent the USA, the Board will submit the name(s) of any players about whom the Board has questions to the Credentials Committee for 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 Senior USBC or information received after the Senior 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.

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, 1956.

B. Registration.

Teams must [register on the USBF website](#) by midnight EDT on Monday, May 23, 2016. You must be logged in to the USBF site to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until midnight EDT on Friday, June 3, 2016 if it improves the event

format. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by sending an email to the USBF Secretary) until June 15, 2016. Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification for the Open or Women's teams for the World Bridge Games may withdraw from the Senior USBC 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 \$810 is due by the guaranteed entry date; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the first 3 sessions of play (which will almost always be the first stage of play). The event fee is refundable only if a team withdraws before the guaranteed entry date, if a team that has entered the Senior USBC qualifies for the 2016 Open or Women's team for the World Bridge Games, or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the 2016 Open or Women's team for the World Bridge Games. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if a team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Dates

The 2016 Senior USBC will begin Friday, June 17, 2016 and end no later than Thursday, June 23, 2016.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2016 Senior USBC is the Grand Hyatt located in Denver, CO. The room rate is \$169 per night and includes internet access.

F. Captain's Meetings and Schedule of Play

Play will commence at 10:00 AM on each day. There will be a Captain's Meeting at 9:45 AM on June 17th. 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](#).

III. SEEDING

The Senior USBC 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 Senior USBC. Each player on the winning team from the 2015 Senior USBC shall receive the number of seeding points given to players on the winner of the Baze Senior KO; players on the runner up in the 2015 Senior USBC shall receive the number of seeding points awarded to players on 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 SPs without cap will be used to break the tie.

Seeding Point Reduction for finishes with "tainted players"

Half of all seeding points a player has accrued in an event will be forfeited when the team for that event included a "tainted player" who has not yet been convicted.

A "tainted player" includes any player currently charged by the WBF, ACBL, or EBL, due to suspected collusive cheating. A "tainted player" also includes any player who has been precluded by the WBF Credentials Committee from playing in a WBF event within the last 2 years preceding the start of the 2016 Senior USBC

All of the seeding points a player has accrued in an event will be forfeited when the team for that event included a player who has been convicted by a competent jurisdiction or bridge organization of having cheated.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

The event will be a straight Knockout if there are 4, 8, 14, 15, or 16 teams entered. With 14 or 15 teams, the top one or two teams will have a bye from the Round of 16. The event starts with a Round Robin with all other numbers of teams.

If there are 17 or more teams, the Round Robin will last for 2.5 days and will reduce the field to 8 teams. Teams 9 and higher will be eliminated from the event.

If there are between 9 and 13 teams, the Round Robin will last for 1.5 days and will reduce the field to 8 teams.

If there are 5-7 teams, the RR will last for 1.5 days and reduce the field to 4 teams.

The event will continue as a single elimination KO.

V. FORMAT

A. Setting the Bracket

1) General Procedure if we go straight to Knockout

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 second 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, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14 and 15/16 will be randomly drawn. If there are 14 or 15 teams, the top one or two teams will have a bye in the Round of 16.

2) 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. 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.

B. Length of Matches

If there is a two match KO (four teams) the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall determine the length of the matches.

If there is a three match KO (8 teams) the Quarterfinal and Semi-Final will be 90 boards, played over 1.5 days; the Final will be 120 boards, played over 2 days.

If there is a Round Robin followed by a three or four match KO all matches shall be 90 boards, played over 1.5 days.

C. Carryover

There will be carryover from the Round Robin to Knockout matches as follows.

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 at 12.5 IMPs for a 90 board match and at 15.5 IMPs for a 120 board match.

VI. 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 May 23rd, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.

2. From May 23rd through the end of the event, the DIC shall make any necessary interpretations after consultation with the SITTC Conditions of Contest 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, 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.

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.