

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
SUPPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS of
CONTEST for
the 2017 MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR
UNITED STATES
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

December 27, 2017 – January 1, 2018

**(See also the USBF General Conditions of Contest
<http://usbf.org/docs/COC/General-CoC.pdf>)**

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I. Authority and Overview

The 2017 Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championships (JUSBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The 2017 JUSBC will be held December 27, 2017 – January 1, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta. The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning teams to represent the USA in the World Youth Team Bridge Championships (WYTBC) August 8-18, 2018, at the Li Ze Culture and Sports Palace in Suzhou, Wujiang District, China.

Teams will be chosen in four categories: 1) Two open under 26 (U26) teams, to compete for the Patiño Cup, 2) one open under 21 (U21) team, to compete for the Damiani Cup, 3) one team of women under 26 (Rona) to compete for the Rona Cup, and 4) one open under 16 (U16) team.

The competition for U21 and U26 will begin at 11:30 AM EST, on Wednesday, December 27, with Tuesday, December 26 as a travel day for those flying to Atlanta. The U16 competition will begin one day later, on Thursday, December 28, at 11:30 AM EST. The Rona competition begins Friday, December 29, at 11:30 AM EST.

Under current USBF procedures, if the USBF Board of Directors believes there is any reason not to nominate all the players on the winning teams for the WYTBC, 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 JUSBC or information received after the JUSBC. 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 2017 Michael Seamon JUSBC.

II. General Information

A. Eligibility

Each Player in the 2017 Michael Seamon JUSBC must be eligible to compete and intend to compete in the 2018 World Youth Team Championships, August 8-18, 2018, in Suzhou, China. To be eligible for U26 or Rona, players must have been born in 1993 or later; for U21, 1998 or later; for U16, 2003 or later.

B. Registration

Teams in all categories must register by August 16, 2017, at USBF.org. Additional teams will be accepted after this deadline only if it improves the movement for the competition. Each player in the event must be registered on the USBF website. Juniors are not required to pay USBF dues to participate; players who are selected to represent the US in China will be expected to pay dues at reduced junior rates and to participate in the USBF Junior Training Program.

C. Augmentation

Junior teams representing the United States in international competition normally will have 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 2017 Michael Seamon JUSBC and who have participated in the USBF Junior Online Training Program.

In exceptional circumstances, the Board may approve in advance sending a team of four or five players, or augmenting a team of four with a player or pair that may not be expected to meet the minimum play requirements to receive WBF masterpoints.

D. Training Program

The USBF expects those who qualify to represent the USA at the 2018 World Youth Team Championships to attend structured practice with their partners at least once a week for at least two hours between January 15, 2018, and when they leave for China in August 2018. Further, to be eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses to the JUSBC in Atlanta, players must participate in the Online Training Program September-December 2017.

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 to receive WBF masterpoints, except under circumstances mentioned above in II.C.

F. Waiver Agreements

Participants at the in-person portions of the Michael Seamon JUSBC and those who represent the USA in China may be required to sign a waiver of liability agreement provided by the USBF before they travel to the 2017 JUSBC or to the 2018 World Youth Team Championships.

G. Reimbursement of expenses

The USBF will attempt to reimburse lowest-available coach airfare to and from the JUSBC (and mileage for those who drive, up to the lowest available coach airfare) and housing expenses (double or triple occupancy) for the JUSBC, but not expenses associated with meals and ground travel to and from airports. If a team is eliminated (or wins their category) during the competition, the USBF will pay their housing through the night of the day they are eliminated. To be eligible for reimbursement of expenses to the JUSBC, players must participate in the USBF online training program in the fall of 2017. USBF will cover or reimburse most of the expenses associated with representing the USA at the World Youth Team Championships in China, including airfare, housing, entry fees, and meal charges.

III. Event Format

A. General Information and Terminology

Round Robin (RR) refers to each team playing each other team in the field in a series of matches. To mirror WBF policies, there will be no carryover from RR matches to head-to-head (KO) matches when the RR comprises more than three teams, except the winner of their RR match will be the winner of KO matches that end in a tie. IMP scores in RR matches will be converted to Victory Points (VP), using the appropriate USBF VP scale.

If the number of teams that enter in a category is not covered below, the USBF Junior Committee, with the approval of the USBF Board of Directors, will determine the specific Conditions of Contest within 30 days after entries close. In some cases, the number of teams entered may require online qualifying, which, if needed, will be held September 16-17 and/or September 23-24, 2017, on BBO.

If online qualifying is necessary, the USBF Board of Directors, in consultation with the Junior Committee, may grant teams a bye to the in-person JUSBC based on their past performance in Junior international play, ACBL tournaments, and the online Junior Training Program, while holding an online qualification for additional teams to compete in the in-person JUSBC. If a combination of byes and online competition are used to select teams for the in-person portion of the JUSBC, more than half the teams in the in-person competition will come from the online competition.

B. Various Formats

Formats not listed below will be determined after entries close, if needed. For the 2017 Michael Seamon JUSBC, relevant formats as of August 15, 2017 are these:

- U16 – B.ii. Three teams with one advancing
- U21 – B.vi. Six teams with one advancing
- U26 – B.viii. Seven teams with two advancing
- Rona – B.i. Two teams with one advancing

i. TWO TEAMS ENTER (one advances)

120-board match over 2 days

ii. THREE TEAMS ENTER (one advances)

Stage 1

112-board RR over 2 days (56 against each other team), scored by IMPs converted to VPs, using the USBF 56-bd scale.

Stage 2

The top two teams from the RR in Stage 1 play a 60-board final. Carryover is 51% (no cap) of the IMP difference in the 60-board RR match played by these two teams.

iii. THREE TEAMS ENTER (two advance)

Stage 1

90-board RR over 1.5 days (45 against each other team)

Stage 2

If one team has won both matches in Stage 1, each by >20 IMPs, that team advances as USA1, and the other two teams play an additional 90 boards head-to-head, with full carryover from their RR match, to determine USA2. Otherwise, repeat the 90-board RR, with full carryover from the first RR, and the top two teams advance.

iv. FOUR TEAMS ENTER (two advance)

Stage 1

60-board RR (20 against each other team), after which the leading team chooses its semifinal opponent from teams that finish 3 and 4

Stage 2

USA1 semifinals, 60 boards, with no carryover from the RR.

Stage 3

Stage 2 winners play USA1 final, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.
Stage 2 losers play USA2 semifinals, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

Stage 4

USA1 final loser plays winner of USA2 semifinal in the USA2 final, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

v. FIVE TEAMS ENTER (two advance)

Stage 1

2-day, 120-board RR (22 boards against each other team). The winner of the RR has a bye to the USA1 final in Stage 3.

Stage 2

USA1 semifinal between the teams finishing 2nd and 3rd in the RR, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

USA2 quarterfinal between the teams finishing 4th and 5th in the RR, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

Stage 3

USA1 final between the winner of the RR and the winner of the USA1 semifinal in Stage 2, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match

USA2 semifinal between the loser of the USA1 semifinal in Stage 2 and the winner of the USA2 quarterfinal in Stage 2, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match

Stage 4

USA2 final between the loser of the USA1 final and the winner of the USA2 semifinal in Stage 3 with no carryover from the RR match.

vi. FIVE OR SIX TEAMS ENTER (one advances)

Stage 1

2-day, RR (22 boards against each other team, 11 each day), with IMPs converted to VPs using the USBF 22-board scale. The top four teams advance to the KO stage; other teams are eliminated from the competition.

Stage 2

Top four teams from RR play semi-finals, with the winner of the RR picking its opponent from teams finishing 3rd and 4th in the RR, 60 boards, with no carryover from the RR matches.

Stage 3

Winners from semifinals play each other in the final, 60 boards, with no carryover from the RR matches. Losers from semifinals play each other to determine the 3rd place finisher, with no carryover from their RR matches.

vii. SIX TEAMS ENTER (two advance)

Stage 1

1-day, 55-bd RR (11 against each other team)

Stage 2

Top four teams from RR play USA1 semi-finals, with the winner of the RR picking its opponent from teams finishing 3rd and 4th in the RR, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

Teams that finished 5th and 6th in the RR play each other in USA2 quarterfinal, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match. The loser is eliminated.

Stage 3

Winners from USA1 semifinals play each other in USA1 final, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

USA2 is a three-way RR with the winner of the USA2 quarterfinals and the two losers from Stage 2 USA1 semi-finals, 60 boards, 30 against each team, with one winner to advance to the USA2 final, with no carryover from their RR match.

Stage 4

Loser of the USA1 final plays the winner of the 3-way USA2 semifinal, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

viii. SEVEN TEAMS ENTER (two advance)

Stage 1

1-day, RR (8 against each other team, with each team sitting out one round).

Stage 2

Top four teams from RR play USA1 semi-finals, with the winner of the RR picking its opponent from teams finishing 3rd and 4th in the RR, 60 boards.

Teams that finished 5th, 6th, and 7th play a 3-way USA2 round of 16 match, 56 boards (28 against each other team), with no carryover from their RR match. IMPs will be converted to VPs, using the USBF 28-board scale. The top two teams advance to the USA2 semi-finals, and the third team is eliminated from the competition. Should two teams be tied for 2nd in VPs, the winner of their Day One RR match will advance.

Stage 3

Winners from USA1 semifinals play each other in the first half of the USA1 120-board final (60 on each of two days). Losers from USA1 semifinals plus the two teams that advanced from the USA2 round of 16 play the quarterfinals of USA2, with the USA1 semi-finals loser that finished higher in the Day One RR picking its opponent from the two teams that advanced from the USA2 round of 16.

Stage 4

Second half of the 120-board USA1 final. USA2 semifinals, 60 boards, between the two teams that advanced from the USA2 quarterfinals.

Stage 5

USA2 final, 60 boards, between the winner of the USA2 semifinals and the loser of the USA1 Final.

ix. SEVEN OR EIGHT TEAMS ENTER (one advances)

Stage 1

2-day, RR (16 boards against each other team, 8 each day), with IMPs converted to VPs using the USBF 16-board scale. The top four teams advance to the KO stage; other teams are eliminated.

Stage 2

Top four teams from RR play semi-finals, with the winner of the RR picking its opponent from teams finishing 3rd and 4th in the RR, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match.

Stage 3

Winners from semifinals play each other in the final, 60 boards, with no carryover from their RR match. Losers from semifinals play each other to determine the 3rd place finisher, with no carryover from their RR matches.

C. System Summary Forms and Conventions Allowed

Each pair must submit a System Summary Form (SSF) at least two weeks before the event (and two weeks before the online portion of the competition, if any). 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 SSFs, see the “System Regulations” tab under the “USBF Tournaments” menu on the home page of USBF.org.

ACBL Mid-Chart Conventions will be allowed; see <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/Convention-Chart.pdf>.

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/tournaments_page/charts-rules-and-regulations/tournament-specific-regulations/defense-database/. Defenders are allowed to refer to written defenses for Mid-Chart conventions that require a written defense.

D. Matches that End in a Tie

If a knockout match that follows a RR ends in a tie, the team that won the RR match between these two teams will be the winner. If there was no RR, ties in knockout matches will be broken by an additional segment of six boards (and further additional segments of four boards, if needed).

E. Pace of play

Players will be allowed about 8.5 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 at least 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. The DIC may impose penalties without removing boards.

IV. General Expectations of Participants

Participants in the 2017 Michael Seamon JUSBC are expected to abide by all applicable regulations of the USBF, ACBL, and other sponsoring organizations, as well as all laws of the State of Georgia and the United States of America. Participants are expected to dress and behave appropriately at all times, including tournament play and any related events and mentoring sessions. The USBF reserves the right to sanction any participant who does not meet these expectations during the 2017 JUSBC.

To minimize the effects of jet lag in China, the USBF expects players who represent the USA to be in Asia several nights before they begin play. Those representing the USA in China should be prepared to leave the United States as early as Friday morning, August 3, 2018, if the USBF is paying their travel expenses.

Participants in Junior World Championships sponsored by the WBF should be aware that testing for banned substances may take place during international competitions (see <http://www.worldbridge.org/rules-regulations/anti-doping-regulations/> for more details). Players taking banned substances for legitimate medical reasons should file a Therapeutic Use Exemptions form before participating in WBF events.

V. Interpretation of Conditions

The DIC, in conjunction with the USBF Tournament Committee 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 Committee Chair may modify any of these conditions as deemed necessary to ensure the integrity of the event.