
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
2017 SENIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

*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

2017 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 2017 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 and the winner of the USA2 Bracket as the USA representatives to compete in the 2017 Senior Bowl. They will be referred to as USA1 and USA2. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from August 12-26, 2017, in Lyon, 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 teams 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 SUSBC or information received after the SUSBC.

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, 1957.

B. Registration.

Teams must register by midnight EST on Monday, April 17, 2017. You must be logged in to the USBF site and have paid 2017 dues to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until

midnight EST on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2017 if it improves the event format. Teams may add or subtract players as they wish (advising the USBF by sending email to the USBF Secretary) until May 15, 2017. Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification for the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup may withdraw from the SUSBC 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. The event fee is refundable only if a team withdraws before the guaranteed entry date, if a team that has entered the SUSBC qualifies for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup, or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup. The advance payment of session fees is refundable if a team withdraws at any time prior to the start of play.

D. Dates

The 2017 SUSBC will begin Wednesday, May 17, 2017 and end Thursday, May 25, 2017.

E. Site and Hotel

The site of the 2017 SUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$129 per night and includes internet access.

F. Captain's Meetings and Schedule of Play

Play will commence at 10:00 AM on each day with the further schedule to be determined by the DIC. There will be a Captain's Meeting at 9:30 AM on May 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, which are posted on the USBF website at <http://usbf.org/docs/COC/General%20CoC.pdf>.

III. SEEDING

The SUSBC 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 SUSBC. Each player on the winning team from the 2016 SUSBC 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 2016 SUSBC 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.

Seeding points earned on teams with a player or pair who has been found to have engaged in collusive cheating will not count. Seeding points earned on teams with a player or pair who has been charged, but not convicted, of collusive cheating will count at 50%.

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the sum of the SP totals for each player (capped at 70) 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.

IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT

If there are 10 to 14 teams entered, the event will start with a 1.5 day Round Robin, which will reduce the USA1 field to 8 teams.

If there are 15 or 16 teams entered, the event will start with a Round of 16 KO. If there are 15 teams entered, the top seed will have a bye to the Quarterfinal.

If there are 17 or more teams, the event will start with a 2.5 day Round Robin. Teams 1 through 8 will qualify for the USA1 Quarterfinal. Teams 9 through 16 will enter the USA2 Bracket. Teams 17 and higher will be eliminated from both USA 1 and USA 2.

The USA1 bracket will continue with 90 board Quarterfinal, Semifinal & Final matches.

The USA2 bracket will continue with 90 board Round of 32, Round of 16 and Quarterfinal matches opposite the USA1 bracket and 90 board Semifinal and Final matches after completion of the USA1 bracket.

V. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA1

A. Setting the Bracket for USA 1

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 team with the highest ranking will be seeded 1st. The team with the 2nd highest ranking will be seeded 2nd. The teams with the 3rd and 4th highest ranking will be randomly drawn into seeds 3 and 4. Similarly teams 5/6, and 7/8 will be randomly drawn.

B. Carryover

There will be carryover from the Round Robin to USA1 Knockout matches as follows. There is no carryover in USA2 Knockout matches.

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.

VI. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA2

If there are 16 or fewer teams entered then all teams eliminated from the USA 1 competition will enter the USA2 competition. If there are 17⁺ teams entered, the 9th through 16th teams in the Round Robin will enter USA2.

The USA2 format will consist of either 90 board KO matches or Round Robins as further described below. The exact number of boards in each Round Robin match and whether they are played in one continuous set or as two halves will be determined after entries have closed.

There are no carryovers in the USA2 matches from any previous matches.

The losing USA 1 finalist chooses their opponent for the USA2 Semi-finals.

A. Specific USA2 formats

1) Table 1: USA2 format with 17⁺ teams in USA1:

USA1 Round	USA2 Round	#teams in USA1	#teams in USA2
QF	R32	8	8 (teams 9-16 from Round Robin)
SF	R16	4	8 (4 USA1 QF losers and 4 R32 winners)
F	QF	2	6 (2 USA1 SF losers and 4 R16 winners)
	SF	N/A	4 (1 USA 1 F loser and 3 SF winners)
	F	N/A	2 (2 winners of USA2 semifinal)

2) **Table 2: USA2 Round of 32 Format with 10-16 teams in USA1**

# USA1 Teams	# Teams in USA2 R32	# Survivors	Format
16	8	4	KO
15	7	4	Round Robin
14	6	4	Round Robin
13	5	4	Round Robin
12	4	2	KO
11	3	2	Round Robin
10	2	1	KO

3) **Table 3: USA2 Round of 16 Format**

# USA1 Teams	# Teams in USA2 R16	# Survivors	Format
13-16	8	4	KO
12	6	4	Round Robin
11	6	4	Round Robin
10	5	4	Round Robin
9	5	4	Round Robin

4) **If there are 8 or fewer teams in the 2017 SUSBC**

If there are 8 or fewer teams in the event, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee will decide the format for the selection of USA2.

VII. 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 11th, the SITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.

2. From May 11 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.