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**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION  
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR  
THE 2019 WOMEN'S UNITED STATES  
BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*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**

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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 2019 Women's United States Bridge Championship (WUSBC) 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 USA1 for the 2019 Venice Cup and the USA2 winning team as USA2 for the 2019 Venice Cup. The 2019 Venice Cup is scheduled to take place from October 19 – November 2 in China.

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 for the 2019 Venice Cup, 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 WUSBC or information received after the WUSBC.

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 USA1 or USA2 bracket of WUSBC.

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Registration.

There are 5 teams in the 2019 Women's USBC

Teams may add or subtract players as they wish, notifying USBF by email to the USBF Secretary, until May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. After May 9<sup>th</sup>, teams may apply to the Credentials Committee to change their team roster.

### B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

The 2019 WUSBC will start on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and will end on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### 1. Round Robin

The first stage will be a 2-day complete Round Robin to select 4 teams for the USA1 bracket.

#### 2. USA1 Semifinal

The USA1 Semifinal will be a 1 day, 60 board, Knockout match on May 16<sup>th</sup>

**3. USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal or Quarterfinal**

The USA1 Final will be a 2 day, 120 board, Knockout match.

The losing USA1 Semifinalists will play a 2 day, 120 board, USA2 Semifinal at the same time as the USA1 Final.

**4. USA2 Final**

The loser of the USA1 Final will play the winner of the USA2 Semifinal in a 2-day, 120 board, USA2 Final.

**C. Prepaid Entry and Fees.**

Fees for the 2019 WUSBC are an event entry fee of \$360 per team and session fees of \$150 per team per session (\$300 per day).

**D. Site and Hotel Reservations.**

The site of the 2019 WUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL.

**E. Captain's Meeting.**

The Director In Charge or her designee (DIC) may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin and any subsequent stage. 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. Requirement to be an Active or Resident Member of USBF.**

Players entering the WUSBC must be dues paying 2019 Active or Resident Members of the USBF.

### **III. ROUND ROBIN**

**A. Seeding and Format**

There will be no seeding for the Round Robin. 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 the RR will be broken as follows:

- a) Total net IMPs for the Round Robin
- b) IMPs against other tied teams;
- c) 4 board playoffs.

Ties in a KO match shall be broken in accordance with the USBF General Conditions of Contest.

Ties for seeding purposes 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.

#### **IV. SETTING THE BRACKET FOR KNOCKOUT ROUNDS**

The Round Robin winner will be seeded 1 and will select its USA1 Semifinal opponent from the teams that finished 3rd and 4th in the Round Robin. The second place team in the Round Robin will be seeded 2 and the remaining team will be 3.

#### **V. CARRYOVER**

There will be no carryover from the Round Robin to any KO match, except for tie-breaking purposes, in accordance with the General Conditions of Contest.

#### **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 3 IMPs (during knockout phases) if she is less than 5 minutes late, 2 VPs or 6 IMPs if she is between 5 and 10 minutes late, 3 VPs or 9 IMPs if she is between 10 and 15 minutes late, and an additional 1 VP or 3 IMPs for each subsequent 5 minutes, 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. Interpretation of Conditions**

On matters involving the interpretation of these conditions or treatments of matters not included in these conditions, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

##### **C. Headings for Convenience.**

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

**D. 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.

**E. 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.