

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR
THE 2023 Beth Palmer 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

USBF Recorder

Hospitality Committee

Vugraph Committee

Women's Conditions of Contest Committee

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2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC Conditions of Play

I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

These Conditions of Play are an extract from the 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC Conditions of Contest based on the number of teams entered. The Conditions of Contest prevail if there is any ambiguity herein.

These Conditions of Contest may not be changed after commencement of play except for emergency changes. The [General Conditions of Contest](#) for USBF events apply to this event but are subject to these Conditions of Contest.

The 2023 Beth Palmer Women's United States Bridge Championship (USBC) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). The USBF has agreed, unless special conditions arise, to nominate the winning teams as USA1 and USA2 for the 2023 Venice Cup. This World Championship is scheduled to take place August 20-Sept 2, 2023, in Marrakech, Morocco.

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 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 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 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Vaccination Requirement

All players in the 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC must have submitted evidence of completed vaccination against COVID19 to the USBF Secretary before play commences. There are no exceptions to this rule.

B. Roster Changes

1. Before Play Starts

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by [sending an email to the USBF Secretary](#)), until 10:00 pm CDT on May 18, 2023 if there is not an online stage. In addition to the deadlines set forth in the General Conditions of Contest for submission of System Forms, any added players may not play until they have submitted a System Summary Form and ACBL Convention card.

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2. During the KO Stages

No roster changes are allowed after the KO has commenced. Substitutes may be allowed subject to the provisions of the General Conditions of Contest.

C. Date, Schedule, and Length of Matches

Starting on May 20, 2023, there will be face-to-face 2-day, 120-board USA1 Semifinal and Final matches; concurrent with the USA1 Final there will be a 2-day, 120 board USA2 Semifinal match; after completion of the USA1 Final, there will be a 2 day, 120 board USA2 Final.. The 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC will end on May 25, 2023.

Face to face play will be on LoveBridge electronic devices with 2 players (screenmates) in each room.

D. Play Requirement

Each player must play 50% of the boards in any KO match to remain on the team for the following match (boards not played in a match may be assigned to any player on the team). This play requirement can only be waived by the Tournament Conduct and Ethics Committee in accordance with Section XII.B.3 of the General Conditions of Contest.

E. Prepaid Entry and Fees

The advance entry fee for the 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC is \$500 per team, which covers the online stages as well as the start up costs for the face-to-face stages. The advance entry fee is due by March 28, 2023 and is fully refundable if a team withdraws before March 28, 2023 or if a team withdraws after March 28, 2023 and is replaced, or if a team withdraws after March 28, 2023 and that improves the format.

There will be a \$400 per team per day entry fee for the face-to-face stages of the event.

F. Site and Hotel Reservations

The site of the 2023 Beth Palmer Women's USBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$136 plus tax per night and includes internet access. There is no charge for early departure. Reservation website is linked from the usbf.org website

G. Captain's Meeting(s)

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin stage, the Semifinal stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: use of electronic devices, conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures. All Captain's Meetings will be held on Zoom.

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III. USA1 FORMAT

With 4 teams, bracket positions will be assigned based on a random draw.

IV. USA2 FORMAT

The USA1 Semifinal losers play in USA2. The USA2 stages, format and the number of teams in each are as follows:

1. Semifinal

The 120 board USA2 Semifinal takes place during the USA1 Final.

2. Final

The 120 board USA2 Final match takes place on the two days following the completion of the USA1 Final. There are 2 teams in the Final, the winner of the USA2 Semifinal and the loser of the USA1 Final.

V. SPECIAL RULES FOR FACE-TO-FACE PLAY

A. Play is on Electronic Devices

Face-to-face play will be on electronic devices; there will be 2 players (screenmates) in each room. The electronic devices will be supplied by USBF, and will remain at the table.

B. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices other than the devices used for play or health-related devices approved in advance by the DIC will be allowed in the playing rooms.

Tournament staff will randomly check for electronics on players' persons. If a player is found with an electronic device, the player's team will be penalized 10 imps and the remaining players on the offending team will be checked for electronic devices. If any other player on the offending team is found with an electronic device, the team will be eliminated.

A second infraction by any player on an offending team will result in a penalty of 30 imps. The third time any player on an offending team is found to have an electronic device the team will be eliminated from the event.

Any player who was found with an electronic device more than once will not be allowed to enter any USBF selection trials for 25 months.

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C. Alerts and Explanations

Each player will explain and alert their own bids. The explanations and alerts will be seen only by the bidder's opponents, not by the bidder's partner. Players should explain any bid about which they have information they believe the opponent might not expect.

D. Time Allowed

The play schedule is based on approximately 7.5 minutes per board, with 15 minutes between KO segments. A board that has not been started when time for a segment expires may not be played. The score for unplayed boards and penalties for a pair that is found to be at fault are set forth in the General Conditions of Contest.

For this event the VP and IMP penalties set forth in the General Conditions of Contest for slow play shall be reduced by 50%.

E. Masks

Masks are optional except that if a masked player asks their screenmate to wear a mask, the screenmate must do so, absent a compelling reason not to.

F. Kibitzing

There will be delayed kibitzing and Vugraph online. "Live" kibitzing from next to a player is not allowed, except by NPCs.

G. If a Player tests Positive for Covid19

If a player tests positive for Covid-19 during the KO stages of play, and wants to continue to play, the DIC may, in the DIC's absolute discretion, allow the player to continue to compete from a separate hotel room. In that situation, both the Covid-positive player and that player's screenmate will be video recorded during play.

VI. INTERPRETATION

A. Interpretation of Conditions

On matters involving the interpretation of these conditions or treatments of matters not included in these conditions:

1. Prior to March 28, 2023, the Conditions of Contest Committee and ITTC Technical & Advisory Committee (TAC) shall make determinations.
2. After March 27, 2023 but before May 20, 2023, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the TAC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
3. Beginning May 20, 2023, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.