

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF PLAY FOR
THE 2023 OPEN 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

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2023 Open USBC Conditions of Play

I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

These Conditions of Play are an extract from the 2023 Open 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 Open 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 team as USA2 for the 2023 Bermuda Bowl. 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 Bermuda Bowl, 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 Open USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Vaccination Requirement

All players in the 2023 Open 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 March 30, 2023 if there is an online stage, or until April 28, 2023 if there is not an online stage.

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.

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C. Date, Schedule, and Length of Matches

If 14 or more teams have entered the event, starting on May 1, 2023, there will be face-to-face 2-day, 120-board Round of 16, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final matches. With 14 or 15 teams entered, the top 1 or 2 teams will have a bye to the Quarterfinal.

If 9-13 teams have entered the event, the first 2 days will be a complete Round Robin to qualify the top 8 teams for the Quarterfinal. The format of the Round Robin will be:

9 or 10 teams, 9 matches of 11 boards each. With 9 teams, each team will have one sit out match;

11 or 12 teams, 11 matches of 9 boards each. With 11 teams, each team will have one sit out match;

13 teams, 12 matches of 8 boards each, scheduled as 13 matches, each team will have one sit out match;

In all cases, the 2023 Open USBC will end on May 8, 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 Open 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 21, 2023 and is fully refundable if a team withdraws before March 21, 2023 or if a team withdraws after March 21, 2023 and is replaced, or if a team withdraws after March 21, 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 Open 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 Round of 16 stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: use of electronic devices, conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating,

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system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures. All Captain's Meetings will be held on Zoom.

III. BYES

There are no teams with byes to the Quarterfinal

IV. KO FORMAT

A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages

1) Quarterfinal

The Quarterfinal shall consist of eight teams.

2) Round of 16

The Round of 16 shall consist of 12 or 14 teams. If there are 14 teams entered in the event, the two teams with the highest number of Positioning Points will have byes to the Quarterfinal and the remaining 12 teams will play head to head matches. If there are 15 teams entered in the event, the team with the highest number of Positioning Points will have a bye to the Quarterfinal and the remaining 14 teams will play head to head matches.

B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

The bracket is set before the start of the first knockout round. The bracket is determined by as follows:

1) Seeding the Teams with Byes

The two teams with byes to the Round of 16 are seeded first, with the team with the most Positioning Points (Nickell) seeded 1 and the other team with a bye to the Round of 16 (Lebowitz) seeded 2.

2) Seeding the Round of 16 - Teams Without Byes - Seeding Points

All teams shall be ranked by average Seeding Points (SPs). Each player's SPs shall be calculated as the sum of the following:

- a. ACBL Seeding Method One: ACBL seeding points, (a.k.a V/S/R points), including masterpoints given via the ACBL Masterpoint Log. Resident's seeding points awarded (not earned) by the ACBL shall count toward a player's ACBL seeding point totals.
- b. PPs earned by an individual (IPPs) during the Cycle. IPPs are the PPs earned by individual members of a team that the individual played on during the Cycle, but if that team contained Ineligible Players, IPPs are diluted by

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25% if the team contained one Ineligible Player, 50% if the team contained 2 Ineligible Players and 75% if a team contained 3 Ineligible Players. No IPPs may be earned by players on a team with 4 or 5 Ineligible Players. The IPPs of a player shall be the sum of the IPPs earned during the cycle. IPPs are further limited as follows:

- The first twenty are counted fully
- The second twenty are discounted by half
- The third twenty are discounted by three-quarters
- No credit shall be earned for more than 60 PPs
- The maximum IPPs for any player shall be 35.

A team's average Seeding Points (SPs) are equal to the SP totals for each player (capped at 90) divided by the number of players on the team.

3) IPP and Seeding Point Reduction for finishes with “tainted players”

A player shall forfeit all positioning points and seeding points earned in an event when the team for that event included a player who has been convicted by ACBL, EBL or the player's NBO of collusive cheating.

4) Seeding the Round of 16 - Shuffling

The teams from the Round Robin are plugged into the Bracket after the Bye teams have been placed as set forth in 1) above. Regardless of whether they have byes or byes to different stages of the event:

- a. Teams 1 and 2 are fixed.
- b. Teams that are ranked 3 and 4 are assigned to positions 3 and 4 by lot.
- c. Lower ranked teams are assigned their bracket positions in pairs by lot.

If there is no Round Robin, the bracket shall be set as determined by the byes and the SPs of the non-bye teams, in accordance with this paragraph.

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.

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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 trial for 25 months.

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. However, 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.

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VI. INTERPRETATION

A. Interpretation of Conditions

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

1. After March 22, 2023 but before May 1, 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.
2. Beginning May 1, 2023, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

DRAFT 1
APPENDIX TO
2022 OPEN USBC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

APP I: FORMATS FOR ONLINE STAGES

A. Fewer than 17 Teams Entered

If fewer than seventeen teams enter the Open USBC, there will be no online stages.

B. Seventeen to Twenty-six Teams Entered

If there are 17 to 26 teams entered in the USBC, there will be an online complete Round Robin to select 16 teams. If there are 17-20 teams, the Round Robin will 2 or 3 days long and match length will depend on the number of matches to be played. If there are 21-26 teams entered, all matches will be 10-boards long and the number of days will be determined based on the number of teams entered. All matches will be scored at Victory Points using the appropriate USBF Victory Point scale. Teams placing lower than 16th will be eliminated.

C. More than Twenty-six Teams Entered

If there are more than 26 teams entered in the USBC, there will be a multi-stage Round Robin to reduce the field to 16 teams. The Conditions of Contest committee will determine the exact format for the number of teams entered, based on the following general principles:

1. No more than 45% of the teams will be eliminated in any one stage.
2. Each match will be 7 boards or longer.
3. There will be some carryover from one stage to the next.
4. If possible, steeper cuts will be in early stages.

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