

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2024 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](#)

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**2024 Beth Palmer Women’s USBC Conditions of Contest
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2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC Conditions of Contest

I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

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 2024 Beth Palmer 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 USA for the 2024 Women's Team at the World Bridge Games. This World Championship is scheduled to take place in Buenos Aires from October 21-Nov. 3, 2024.

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 World Bridge Games, 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 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Registration

Teams enter the event by registering online on the USBF.org website. This link will only work if you are logged in to the USBF site.

1. Guaranteed Entry Date

To assure entry in the 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC, teams must enter on or before 11:59 pm EDT on Friday, April 12, 2024.

2. Late Entry Date

If fewer than 8 teams have entered by April 12, teams may continue to enter until 11:59 EDT on Monday, May 20, 2024, but only if it does not change the schedule for the event. Thus, if there are 8 teams entered on April 12, no additional entries will be accepted. If there are between 2 and 4, or 5 and 8 teams entered on April 12, additional entries will be accepted until there are 4 or 8 teams entered.

Entries after April 12, 2024 will be accepted on a provisional basis, subject to review to determine whether they change the schedule. If all late entries cannot be accepted, later entries will be rejected before earlier ones.

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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 April 8, 2024 if there is an online stage, or until May 21, 2024 if there is not an online stage.

2. Between Online and Face-to-Face

After completion of any online stage, teams that are qualified for the Knockout stages of play may make roster changes only subject to the rules set forth in the General Conditions of Contest, and to the requirement that at least 2 men and 2 women remain on the team for the face-to-face stages.

3. 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 Stages of Play

1. Online Stages of Play

If more than 8 teams have entered, there will be an online stage to reduce the field to 8 teams. See Section III.A. for the format.

2. Face-to-Face Stages of Play

If 5 to 8 or more teams have entered the event, there will be 3 face-to-face 2-day, 120-board stages of play: Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final. See Section III.B. for format of the Quarterfinal with 5-7 teams.

In all cases, the 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC will end on May 26, 2024.

D. Prepaid Entry and Fees

The advance entry fee for the 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC is \$500 per team, which covers any online stages as well as the start up costs for the face-to-face stages. The advance entry fee is due by April 8, 2024 and is fully refundable if a team withdraws before April 8, 2024 or if a team withdraws after April 8, 2024 and is replaced, or if a team withdraws after April 8, 2024 and that improves the format.

There will be a \$450 per team per day entry fee for the face-to-face Quarterfinal stage of the event.

There will be a \$600 per team per day entry fee for the Semifinal and Final stages of the event.

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E. Site and Hotel Reservations

The site of the 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$141 plus tax per night and includes internet access. There is no charge for early departure. Reservation website is linked from the usbf.org website.

F. Captain's Meeting(s)

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the Online stage, the Round Robin stage, the Quarterfinal 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.

III. FORMAT

A. Online Stage

If 1 team is to be eliminated, the bottom 2 teams based on seeding points will play a 64-board KO match on April 3rd.

If 2 teams are to be eliminated, the bottom 4 teams will play a double elimination KO with 32 board matches between April 3rd and April 10th. If the teams cannot agree on dates, the matches will be played on April 3, 4, and 5.

If more than 2 teams are to be eliminated, the top 4 teams will not play in the online stage; the remaining teams will play a Round Robin to eliminate enough teams to leave 8.

B. Face-to-face Stages

1. 3 or 4 teams enter

If 3 teams enter, the first 2 days of play will be a 2-day 3-way Round Robin, played in accordance with the procedure set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. The top 2 teams will qualify for the Final.

If 4 teams enter, the first 2 days of play will be a 120 board KO Semifinal.

The 3rd and 4th days of play will be a 120 board KO Final

2. 5 to 8 teams enter

If fewer than 8 teams enter, the first 2 days of play will be a 2-day Round Robin. The top 4 teams will qualify for the Semifinal. The 3rd and 4th days of play will be a 120 board KO Final

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3. The format of the Round Robin will be:

5 teams, 4 matches played simultaneously using BAM format.

6 teams, a double Round Robin of 5 10-board matches each day, with the IMP scores of each 10 board segment converted to VPs and the VPs added together.

7 teams, a double Round Robin of 6 8-board matches each day, with the IMP scores of each 8 board segment converted to VPs and the VPs added together.

In all cases, the 2024 Beth Palmer Women's USBC will end on May 17, 2024

4. Exactly 8 teams enter

If exactly 8 teams enter, there will be 3 2-day KO stages: Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Final.

C. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

The bracket is set before the start of the first knockout round. The bracket is determined based on the procedures set forth in the USBC General Conditions of Contest

IV. 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 23, 2024, the Conditions of Contest Committee and ITTC Technical & Advisory Committee (TAC) shall make determinations.
2. After March 22, 2024 but before May 21, 2024, 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 21, 2024, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.