

**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION  
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR  
2019 MIXED 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**

**2019 Mixed USBC**  
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**I.**

## **II. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW**

*These Conditions of Contest may not be changed after commencement of play except for emergency changes.*

The 2019 Mixed United States Bridge Championship (MUSBC) 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 2019 World Mixed Team Championship. They will be referred to as USA1 and USA2. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from Sept. 14-28 in Wuhan, 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 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 MUSBC or information received after the MUSBC.

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.

## **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Eligibility**

Teams may consist of 4, 5, or 6 members, with no more than 3 players of each gender, and may have a designated non-playing captain. Each pair must consist of one woman and one man. No player who has qualified for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl is eligible, however players who have qualified for the 2019 Venice Cup are eligible.

## **B. Dates**

The 2019 MUSBC will begin Wednesday, May 22, 2019 and end Wednesday, May 29, 2019, unless exactly 4 teams enter, in which case it will end on Monday, May 27, 2019.

## **C. Registration.**

Teams must register by midnight EDT on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 to guarantee entry in the MUSBC. You must be logged in to the USBF site to register a team. Additional entries will be accepted until midnight EDT on Tuesday, May 14<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 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 21, 2019. However, a player who has qualified for the 2019 Venice Cup or is still playing in the Women's USBC may not be added without evidence that notice was given to all of the player's Venice Cup teammates before the start of the Women's USBC that the player might be added to the Mixed team.

Any team that is reduced to fewer than four players because of qualification for the Bermuda Bowl or Venice Cup may withdraw from the MUSBC and receive a refund of both the event fee and the advance payment of session fees.

## **D. 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 \$960 is due by the guaranteed entry date; that payment consists of the event fee plus advance payment of session fees for the first 4 sessions of play. The event fee is refundable only if a team withdraws before the guaranteed entry date, or if a team that has entered the MUSBC qualifies for the 2019 Bermuda Bowl, or if a team's membership is reduced to fewer than 4 because players qualified for the 2019 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.

### **E. Site and Hotel**

The site of the 2019 MUSBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$136 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 9:45 AM on May 22nd. 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](#).

### **H. SEEDING**

If the event starts with a Round Robin, there will be no seeding. If exactly 4 teams enter the event, the Semifinal will be the first stage of the event and will be a 2 day, 120 board match. Bracket positions will be assigned by random draw.

## **IV. SIZE OF FIELD AND EVENT FORMAT**

If there are exactly 4 teams entered, the event will consist of 6 days of 120 board knockout matches: USA1 Semifinal; USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal; and USA2 Final.

If there are 5 or 7 teams entered, the event will start with a 2 day Round Robin, which will reduce the field to 4 teams. Teams that finish lower than 4<sup>th</sup> will be eliminated. The event will continue with 6 days of 120 board knockout matches: USA1 Semifinal; USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal; and USA2 Final.

If there are 6 or 8 teams entered, the event will start with a 2 day Round Robin. The top 2 teams will qualify for the USA1 Final. The remaining 4 or 6 teams will play in the USA2 Quarterfinal. The event will continue with 2 day Knockout matches: USA1 Final & USA2 Quarterfinal (teams will be assigned bracket positions in accordance with Section VI.A. below); USA2 Semifinal (USA1 losing finalist chooses its Semifinal opponent); and USA2 Final. If

the event starts with 6 teams, the USA2 Quarterfinal will consist of 2 1-day “Knock In” matches: the winners of the day 1 matches will advance to the Semifinals after a day off; the losers of the day 1 matches will play on day 2 to determine the 3<sup>rd</sup> team to advance to the Semifinals.

If there are 9-12 teams entered, the event will start with a 2 day Round Robin. The top 4 teams will advance to USA1, the remaining teams to USA2. The event will continue with 1-1/2 day Knockout matches: USA1 Semifinal & USA2 R16 (USA2 R16 will be a Round Robin to select 4 teams if USA2 starts with fewer than 8 teams); USA1 Final & USA2 Quarterfinal (USA1 losing Semifinalists select their); USA2 Semifinal (USA1 losing finalist chooses its Semifinal opponent); and USA2 Final.

## **V. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA1**

### **A. Setting the Bracket for USA 1**

If the USA1 Bracket starts with 4 teams, the Round Robin winner will choose its USA1 Semifinal opponent from the teams finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin.

### **B. Carryover**

There will be no carryover from Round Robin matches to Knockout matches, except to break ties in matches before the USA2 Final.

## **VI. FORMAT FOR SELECTING USA2**

### **A. General Format**

The first stage of USA2 will be either KO matches or a Round Robin depending on the number of original USA2 teams. The USA2 Quarterfinal will have 6 teams, except if the event started with exactly 6 teams in which case it will have 4 teams. The exact format and the 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.

## **B. Pairings for USA 2 KO matches**

1. If USA2 starts with a one-match KO Quarterfinal (there were 8 entrants in the MUSBC), the team that finished third in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 3, the team that finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 4, the team that finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 5 (positions 1 and 2 are taken by USA1); the remaining teams will be randomly assigned to bracket positions 6, 7 and 8. If USA2 starts with a 2-match KI (there were 6 entrants in the MUSBC), the team that finished third in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 3, the team that finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 4, and the other two teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 5 and 6.
2. If USA2 starts with a KO Round of 16 (there were 12 entrants in the MUSBC), the team that finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 5, the team that finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket position 6, the teams that finished 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin are randomly assigned to bracket positions 7 and 8, the teams that finished 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Round Robin are randomly assigned to bracket positions 9 and 10 and the teams that finished 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> are randomly assigned to bracket positions 11 and 12.
3. Except in case 1 above, USA2 Quarterfinal pairings are determined by the losing USA1 Semi-final teams selecting their opponents from the 4 remaining USA2 teams, with the team that finished higher in the Round Robin selecting first.
4. In all cases, USA2 Semifinal pairings are determined by the USA1 losing finalist selecting its opponent.

## **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 14th, the MITTC Conditions of Contest Committee shall make determinations.

2. From May 14th through the end of the event, the DIC shall make any necessary interpretations after consultation with the MITTC 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.