

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2021 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

Grievance & Appeals Committee

USBF Recorder

Hospitality Committee

Vugraph Committee

Women's Conditions of Contest 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 [General Conditions of Contest](#) for USBF events apply to this event but are subject to these Conditions of Contest.

The 2021 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 USA1 and USA2 teams as USA1 and USA2 for the 2021 Bermuda Bowl. This World Championship is scheduled to take place from March 27 - April 9, 2022, in Salsomaggiore, Italy.

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 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 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Vaccination Requirement

All players in the 2021 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. 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 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC, teams must enter on or before 11:59 pm EDT on Sept. 9, 2021.

2. Late Entry Date

Teams may continue to enter until 11:59 EDT on September 16, 2021, but only if additional teams cause the event to run more smoothly do not change the number of days of the event.

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Entries after Sept. 9, 2021 will be accepted on a provisional basis, subject to review to determine whether they improve the Round Robin format. If all late entries cannot be accepted, later entries will be rejected before earlier ones.

3. Roster Changes

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by sending an email to the USBF Secretary), until Oct. 1, 2021.

C. Date, Schedule, and Length of Matches

If 5-7 teams enter the Beth Palmer Women's USBC, starting on Oct. 7, 2021, there will be a 2-day face-to-face Round Robin to select 4 teams, face-to-face 2-day, 120-board USA 1 Semifinal and Final matches; concurrent with the USA1 Final there will be a 2-day, 120 board USA2 Semifinal KO match; after completion of the USA1 Final, there will be a 2 day, 120 board USA2 Final. The 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC will end on Oct. 14, 2021, 2021.

If exactly 4 teams enter the Beth Palmer Women's USBC, starting on Oct. 9, 2021, there will be face-to-face 2-day, 120-board USA 1 Semifinal and Final matches; concurrent with the USA1 Final there will be a 2-day, 120 board USA2 Semifinal KO match; after completion of the USA1 Final, there will be a 2 day, 120 board USA2 Final. The 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC will end on Oct. 14, 2021, 2021.

If exactly 3 teams enter the Beth Palmer Women's USBC, starting on Oct. 12, 2021, there will be 3-days of face to face play. The first day will be a 3-team Round Robin, in which each team plays 30 boards against each other team. If at the end of the first day one team is ahead by a total of 80 IMPs, that team will qualify as USA1 for the 2021 Venice Cup, and the event will continue as a head to head match between the other two teams to select USA2, with full carryover from their match on day 1, but no carryover from their match against USA1. If no team qualifies after the first day, the teams will continue to play a Round Robin on the second day. If at the end of the second day one team is ahead by a total of 50 IMPs, that team will qualify as USA1 for the 2021 Venice Cup, and the event will continue as a head to head match between the other two teams to select USA2, with full carryover from their matches on days 1 & 2, but no carryover from their match against USA1. If no team qualifies after the second day, the teams will continue to play a Round Robin on the third day.

Within a week after entries close on Sept. 9, 2021, the USBF website will summarize the format of the event. At that time, the website will also state whether additional entries will be accepted.

D. Prepaid Entry and Fees

The advance entry fee for the event is \$500 per team. The advance entry fee is fully refundable if a team withdraws before Sept. 9, 2021 or if a team withdraws after Sept. 9, 2021 and is replaced, or if a team withdraws after Sept. 9, 2021 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.

E. Site and Hotel Reservations

The site of the 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC is the Hyatt Regency located in Schaumburg, IL. The room rate is \$124 plus tax per night and includes internet access. Reservation website will be added when known and will be linked from the usbf.org website

F. 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). If there is a 3-way Round Robin, each player must play 50% of the boards each day. These play requirements can only be waived by the Tournament Conduct and Ethics Committee in accordance with Section XII.B.3 of the General Conditions of Contest.

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 Quarterfinal stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: use of tablets, conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

III. FORMAT

A. If there are 4 or more Teams:

1. USA1 - Setting the Semifinal Bracket

The bracket is set before the start of the first knockout round.

If there is a Round Robin, the Round Robin winner will be team 1 and will choose their Semifinal opponent and the other two teams will be teams 2 and 3.

If exactly 4 or 8 teams enter, bracket positions will be assigned based on a random draw.

2. USA2

i. USA1 Semifinal Teams Play in USA2

Only the teams that qualify for the USA1 Semifinal are eligible to play in the USA2 bracket.

ii. Semifinal Format

The 120 board USA2 Semifinal takes place during the USA1 Final. There are 2 teams in the USA2 Semifinal, the losers of the USA1 Semifinal.

iii. 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 USA2 Final, the loser of the USA 1 Final and the winner of the USA2 Semifinal.

B. If There are 3 Teams

The event will take 3 days.

Day 1 will be a 3-team Round Robin; each team will play 30 boards against each other team. If one team is more than 80 total IMPs ahead at the end of Day 1, that team will qualify as USA1 for the 2021 Venice Cup and the other 2 teams will play a continuing head to head match to select USA2. The two continuing teams will carry forward their scores against each other from Day 1, but will not carry forward any part of their scores against USA1.

If no team is more than 80 total IMPs ahead after Day 1, Day 2 will be a continuation of the Day 1 Round Robin. If one team is more than 50 total IMPs ahead at the end of Day 2, that team will qualify as USA1 for the 2021 Venice Cup and the other 2 teams will play a continuing head to head match to select USA2. The two continuing teams will carry forward their scores against each other from Days 1 and 2, but will not carry forward any part of their scores against USA1.

If no team is more than 50 total IMPs ahead after Day 2, Day 3 will be a continuation of the Days 1 and 2 Round Robin. The qualifying teams will be determined based on total IMPs for the 3 days of play.

C. If There are 2 Teams

If only 2 teams enter the 2021 Beth Palmer Women's USBC, the event will not be held and the teams will be randomly assigned as USA1 and USA2 for the 2021 Venice Cup.

IV. SPECIAL RULES FOR PLAY

A. Play Will be on Tablets

Play will be on electronic tablets, with 2 (screenmates) or 4 players in each room. The tablets will be supplied by USBF, will remain at the table and will be cleaned after each segment of play. Each player will be issued a stylus and/or a mouse to use to enter bids and plays on the tablet and will keep the same stylus and/or mouse throughout the event.

B. Use of Electronic Devices

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

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 8 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. If it is possible that a board may not be played at one table, the DIC will attempt to prevent the other table from playing it.

V. 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 Sept. 9, 2021, the Conditions of Contest Committee and ITTC Technical & Advisory Committee (TAC) shall make determinations.
2. After Sept. 9, 2021 but before the start of face to face play, the DIC shall make determinations after consulting with the Conditions of Contest Committee and TAC. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.
3. After the start of face to face play, the DIC shall make such determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals Committee.