

**UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST FOR
THE 2020 USBF INVITATIONAL1**

*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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW	1
II. GENERAL INFORMATION	1
A. Registration.....	1
B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.	1
C. Entry Fee.	1
D. Site.....	1
E. Captain’s Meeting.....	1
IV.BYES	2
V. FORMAT	2
A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages	2
B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds.....	2
VI.special rules for online play	3
A. Players May Consult Bidding Notes	3
B. Undos for Misclicks Will be Allowed	3
C. Logging onto BBO	3
D. Submitting lineups.....	3
E. Time Allowed	4
F. Video Meetings.....	4
VII.INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.....	4
A. Interpretation of Conditions	4
B. Headings for Convenience.	4
C. Conditions Interpreted in Entirety.	4
D. Omissions.	5

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 2020 USBF Invitational1 (INV1) is held under the authority of the United States Bridge Federation (USBF). This is a stand alone, online event, with no influence on any future USBF event and no rewards to the winning team.

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.

To assure entry in the 2020 INV1, teams must enter on or before 11:59 pm EDT on Monday, May 18th, 2020.

Registered teams may add or subtract players as they wish, (advising the USBF by sending an email to the USBF Secretary), until May 29, 2020.

B. Date, Schedule and Length of Matches.

Beginning Saturday, May 30, 2020, there will be a 2 day Complete Round Robin, followed by 1 day, 56 board, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final matches. The 2020 INV1 will end on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Play will start at 2:00 pm EDT on Saturday and Sunday and at 4:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

C. Entry Fee.

The entry fee for the event is \$200.

D. Site

The site of the 2020 INV1 is the BBO.

E. Captain's Meeting.

The Director In Charge (DIC) or DIC's designee may convene a captain's meeting before the Round Robin stage, the QF stage, and any other stage. Topics may include: conditions clarifications, seed selection, seating, system summary form, convention cards, tampering, reporting of scores, score corrections and slow play procedures.

IV. BYES

Teams entered in the INV1 will be given the same byes they would have for the 2020 Open USBC. The Nickell and Spector teams have earned byes to the Quarterfinal.

V. FORMAT

A. Number of Teams Playing in Early Stages

1) Quarterfinal

The Quarterfinal will have eight teams

2) Round Robin Format

Six of the ten Round Robin will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The Round Robin will be 9 11 board matches. The order of play will not be announced in advance so teams have to submit their lineups before knowing their opponent for a match.

B. Setting the Bracket for Knockout Rounds

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

1) Teams with Byes

Teams with byes are seeded first, based on the stage to which they have a bye, and when more than 1 team has a bye to the same stage, based on the total Positioning Points the teams with byes to that stage have earned.

The Nickell team is seeded 1, the Spector team is seeded 2.

2) Teams without Byes

Round Robin teams will be placed in the bracket based on their finish in the Round Robin. The winner of the Round Robin will be team 3 and will choose its Quarterfinal opponent from the teams that finished 4-6 in the Round Robin. The teams that finished 2nd and 3rd in the Round Robin may make themselves available to be chosen. The team chosen by the Round Robin winner will be team 6. The teams that finished 2nd & 3rd in the Round Robin will be assigned bracket positions 4 and 5. The remaining 2 teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 7 and 8.

VI. SPECIAL RULES FOR ONLINE PLAY

A. Players May Consult Bidding Notes

During the bidding players may consult their notes. The time used for such consultation will be charged against the player who has done so, and if the table is late and one player has consulted notes frequently the presumption will be that that player is at fault for the lateness.

B. Undos for Misclicks Will be Allowed

Any player who accidentally clicks on the wrong bid or card (“misclick”) may ask for an undo and the opponents must allow the undo. The request for an undo must be made before the partner of the person requesting the undo has acted.

C. Logging onto BBO

Each player who is playing in a Round Robin match or KO segment must be logged onto BBO at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Matches cannot be started until all of the players are on BBO, so late arrival will not be allowed. If a player is late for the start of a Round Robin match or KO segment, his or her team will lose 1 VP or 3 IMPs for every minute the player is late.

D. Submitting lineups

1. Round Robin

- A. Each team must submit its lineup for the first 2 matches of the day to the DIC at least one hour before play commences.
- B. Each team must submit its lineup for the 3rd match of the day before commencing play in the 2nd match, for the 4th match of the day before commencing play in the 3rd match, and for the 5th match of the day if there is one before commencing play in the 4th match.

2. KO Segments

Seating rights for KO segments will be determined as set forth in the USBF General Conditions of Contest. At least 10 minutes before the start of play for each segment, the team that does not have seating rights will submit its lineup for the segment to both the DIC and the other team. Within 5 minutes of receiving the opposing team’s lineup, the team with seating rights will submit its lineup to the DIC and the other team. Submission may be by email or in a Zoom meeting or using BBO chat.

E. Time Allowed

The play schedule will be based on 7.5 minutes per board.

F. Video Meetings

1. The Captains' Meetings will be held on Zoom. All team captains and any player who is interested in attending a Captains' Meeting should accept the invitation to join the Zoom meeting, which will be designated as USBF INV1 followed by the day.
2. During play, screen mates (N&E, S&W may join the Zoom meeting and be assigned to individual breakout rooms to chat with each other. This should facilitate questions and explanations and claims. Players who prefer to use a different video chat client may do so with the agreement of their screen mate. Players who prefer not to have video chat with their screen mates do not have to do so. Players should continue to alert and briefly explain their bids in BBO, even though they are able to provide a more extensive verbal description to their screen mate.
3. After both tables have completed play of a Round Robin match or KO segment, the players from a team will be "moved" to their team's Zoom "home table" to compare scores and discuss things, including deciding their lineup for future Round Robin matches.

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, the DIC in consultation with the INV1 organizers will make all determinations. Appeals from the DIC's decision may be made to the Tournament Appeals 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 and including 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.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Decision makers shall be guided by similar WBF or ACBL policies, procedures or regulations, as well as the Laws of Duplicate Bridge when ruling on matters or issues not expressly addressed in these conditions.