



Conventional Wisdom

Filling out the convention card — part 5

The 24-part *Conventional Wisdom* series is available online at www.acbl.org/play/conventionwisdom.html

MAJOR OPENING

Expected Min. Length: Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate the minimum number of cards that you expect when partner opens 1♥ or 1♠. Although most North American players prefer using five-card majors, some will vary this approach in third or fourth seat where only four cards are promised.

If you expect a five-card suit regardless of which position opener is in, check the boxes in the “5” column. If you are a four-card major enthusiast instead, check the boxes in the “4” column. And if you expect five cards in the major in first or second seat, but only four after a third- or fourth-seat opening, check the box under the “5” column for the row labeled “1st/2nd” and check the box in the “4” column for the row labeled “3rd/4th.”

MAJOR OPENING		
Expected Min. Length	4	5
1st/2nd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3rd/4th	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RESPONSES		
Double Raise: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
After Overcall: Force	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> Weak <input type="checkbox"/>
Conv. Raise: 2NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	3NT <input type="checkbox"/> Splinter <input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	_____	
1NT: Forcing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-forcing <input type="checkbox"/>
2NT: Forcing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ to _____
3NT:	_____ to _____	
Drury	<input type="checkbox"/>	: Reverse <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Fit <input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	_____	

RESPONSES

After Overcall: You and your partner might decide the double-raise sequences have the same meaning even if the opponents interfere. Or you might decide to change your agreements after an overcall. For example, after

You	Opp.	Partner	Opp.
1♥	2♣	3♥	Pass
?			

what does partner’s 3♥ mean? Is it the same as when the opponents were silent? Or is it different? Check the appropriate box to match your agreements.

Note that the preemptive jump is not Alertable when the opponents interfere.

Conv. Raise: Many pairs use conventional forcing raises after a major-suit opening. Common treatments are listed here. If you play any of the following methods, check the appropriate RED boxes on this line and Alert the opponents.

2NT: Many pairs use the auction

You	Partner
1♥ or 1♠	2NT

to show a game-forcing raise in the major with four-card or longer trump support. The convention called Jacoby 2NT is the most common example.

3NT: After you open one of a major, say partner jumps to 3NT. Without an agreement, the default position is that 3NT is natural, showing a balanced hand with game-going values. Some partnerships prefer, however, to use 3NT to show a specific hand type. A common treatment is that 3NT shows a 4–3–3–3 pattern with opening values. Opener may pass or correct to four of the major or even search for slam. There are other possible variations, as well.

Splinter: Another popular treatment is that a double jump into a new suit shows a game-going or better hand with four-card or longer support for opener’s suit and shortness in the suit bid. This treatment is called a splinter. For example:

You	Partner
1♠	4♣

Playing splinters, partner’s 4♣ would show club shortness, good spade support and a good hand.

Other: Any other conventional major-suit raises may be listed here. The popular Bergen raises, for example, would be listed on this line. Note that any treatment listed here must be Alerted.

RESPONSES

Double Raise

How does your partnership treat these sequences:

You	Opp.	Partner	Opp.
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

or

You	Opp.	Partner	Opp.
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
?			

Are they forcing to game? Invitational? Preemptive (weak)? Whatever your agreements, check the appropriate box.

If you play a double raise as preemptive (weak) in a non-competitive auction, you should check the RED box and Alert the opponents.

ALERT

ALERT

ALERT