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Systems and Conventions at the Club Level

From the ACBL Handbook:

ACBL retains the right to approve or disapprove any bidding or defensive carding (lead or discard signal) convention for general use in ACBL-sanctioned tournament events. In exercising this right, ACBL has established convention charts that list conventions permitted in games having varying degrees of difficulty.

A club manager can bar or allow specific conventions and can bar certain conventions in newcomer games but allow them in open games. The types of events for which this applies are club masterpoint games, club championships, club charity events, ACBL-wide events, unit championships, unit charity events, district charity events, and the first level of play in the North American Pairs event. The Alert procedure and the skip bid announcement are procedures used in tournaments and are optional (and strongly encouraged) in club games.

When masterpoints are awarded for overall positions in several locations, such as unit-wide games, STaCs, etc., all conventions in the ACBL General Convention Chart must be allowed unless the conditions of contest specify otherwise. Use of the Alert procedure is mandatory, and the rules that govern skip bid announcements are applicable.

Occasionally special games, such as the GNT event, may be held in clubs. In such a case the club manager must check the conditions of contest to be sure to conduct the game in conformity with the rules.

ACBL recommends that clubs which are inclined to permit patrons to test new or little known conventions or systems restrict such testing to one of several scheduled game sessions. If experience indicates that the majority of the club players welcome this policy, it can be extended easily to other sessions. In any case, players must have the approval of the director before using any convention not specifically authorized. ACBL recommends that each club post a list of approved conventions in a conspicuous place on its premises.

Five On-Line Resources

Laws of Duplicate Bridge

http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Laws-of-Duplicate-Bridge.pdf

Duplicate Decisions

http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/clubs/Duplicate-Decisions-2008.pdf

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General, Mid-Chart, and Super Chart Conventions

http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Convention-Chart.pdf

Alert Chart

http://www.acbl.org/play/AlertChart.pdf

Alert Procedures

http://www.acbl.org/play/alertProcedures.html