

Outdated-For Reference Only

Category	No Alert	Announce	Alert
Natural Calls Not Specifically Noted	About expected strength and shape		Unusual strength, shape, etc.
No Trump Openings	Natural NT opening bids at the two-level or above	State the agreed range for all natural 1NT openings	Conventional
No Trump Overcalls	Conventional NT overcalls by a passed hand Jumps to 2NT or any four-level or higher NT bid that shows minors or the two lowest unbid suits		Natural NT overcalls with an expected lower limit of less than 14 HCP and/or upper limit of more than 19 HCP Conventional NT overcalls except those specifically not requiring an Alert Natural Jumps to 2NT, except in balancing seat
Responses to NT Opening Bids and NT Overcalls	Next higher level of clubs asking for a four-card or longer major Natural signoffs at the next higher level in diamonds, hearts and spades Three-level natural responses whether or not it is a jump response 4♣ asking for Aces and responses thereto	State "Transfer" any time a diamond response to a natural NT bid at any level is a transfer to hearts State "Transfer" any time a heart response to a natural NT bid at any level is a transfer to spades	Continuations by responder after the use of Stayman which do not promise a major Continuations by responder after the use of Stayman which guarantee a longer suit than that named After the use of Stayman, continuations by opener where: • the lowest level of diamonds does not deny a four card major • the lowest level of either major guarantees something other than four cards in the major suit named Other conventional responses
Opening Suit Bids at the One-Level	Natural non-forcing openings with an agreed range of somewhere between 10-21+ HCP	State "may be short" for non-forcing 1♣ and 1♦ calls which may be shorter than three cards	Other conventional openings which do not require an Announcement Very light openings (fewer than 10 HCP by agreement) *pre-alert required*
Responses to One-Level Opening Suit Bids	Non-forcing 1NT responses that may or may not bypass four-card majors Natural 2NT responses that may or may not bypass four-card majors which promise invitational or better values One-level major-suit responses to 1♣ that may bypass longer diamonds 2/1 responses that promise invitational or better values Three-level natural jump raises that promise invitational or better values Natural jump raises in competition regardless of strength Natural and forcing jump shifts Natural jump shifts in competition regardless of strength	State "Forcing" if a 1NT response to a major is simply forcing State "Semi-forcing" if a 1NT response to a major is simply forcing except when opener has a balanced minimum	Non-forcing suit bids by an unpassed hand Three-level jump raises not in competition which promise less than invitational values Non-forcing jump shifts not in competition Other conventional responses
Opener's and Responder's Rebids	Natural two-level suit bids after a forcing or semi-forcing 1NT response Natural 1NT or 2NT rebids that may or may not bypass four-card major(s) Responder's Stayman bid, asking for a four-card or longer major, in auctions that begin with strong, artificial openings 4♣ asking for Aces or Keycards and responses thereto		Opener's 1NT rebid, if strong Responder's conventional third- or fourth-suit bids Responder's "checkback" bids of 2♣, 2♦, 3♣ or 3♦ Game tries that, by agreement, may have fewer than three cards in the suit bid Delayed Alerts: Conventional bids above the level of 3NT beginning with opener's rebid
Opening Two-Level Suit Bids and Responses	2♣ strong, artificial and forcing Natural opening preempts of 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ Natural and strong 2NT openings Natural and forcing suit responses Conventional 2NT responses to natural two-level opening bids Any 2♦ response to a strong artificial 2♣ opening		Natural 2♣ openings Natural two-level suit openings that promise intermediate or better values Natural and non-forcing 2NT responses Natural and non-forcing suit responses Other conventional bids
Other Constructive Calls	4NT asking for Aces or Keycards and responses thereto		Ace-asking calls and responses below the level of 3NT or any opening ace-asking call and responses thereto Delayed Alerts: Keycard- or Ace-asking calls and responses above the level of 3NT
Doubles, Redoubles and Passes	Most Doubles and Redoubles *See Alertable Doubles (See Alert Pamphlet)*		Doubles, Redoubles and Passes with highly unusual or unexpected meanings
Cue Bids	Most Cue bids *See Alertable Cue bids (See Alert Pamphlet)*		If played as natural, a direct cue-bid of a natural opening bid
Defensive Bids	Natural weak jump overcalls Natural non-weak jump-shifts by advancer Natural jump raises of overcalls Natural weak jump-shifts by advancer		Very light overcalls (fewer than 6 HCP by agreement) *pre-alert required* Intermediate or better jump overcalls (two or three level)

Definitions

Natural Call: An opening bid of one club is natural if, by agreement, it may be exactly 4-4-3-2 with two clubs, three diamonds, and four cards in each major. Otherwise:

1. An opening suit bid or response is natural if, by agreement, in a minor it shows three or more cards in that suit, and if, by agreement, in a major it shows four or more cards in that suit.
2. A no trump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it is balanced. (generally, no singleton or void and no more than two doubletons)
3. A simple overcall in a suit is natural if, by agreement, it shows four or more cards in the denomination named.
4. Doubles and Redoubles are natural if, by agreement, partner is requested to pass.

Treatment: A natural call that, by partnership agreement, carries a specific message about the suit bid or the general strength of the hand. Such bids are not conventions and therefore not regulated by the ACBL Convention Chart. Consult the ACBL Alert Chart for those treatments which require Alerts and/or Announcements. As to length ACBL accepts the following as treatments.

1. All bids listed above as natural.
2. A two-level suit opening, jump response and jump overcall that, by partnership agreement, guarantees five or more cards in the named suit.
3. A three-level suit opening, jump response and jump overcall that, by partnership agreement, guarantees six or more cards in the named suit.

*****All suit bids which guarantee a 2nd suit (known or unknown) are conventional. Such calls are regulated by the ACBL Convention Charts, and require an Alert*****

Convention: A bid or call which, by partnership agreement, conveys a meaning not necessarily related to the denomination named or, in the case of Pass, Double and Redouble, the last denomination named. In addition a Pass which promises more than a specified strength, or artificially promises or denies values other than the last suit named. Examples of types of conventional bids and calls include, but are not limited to:

1. **Double:**
 - a. Takeout Doubles request partner to bid.
 - b. Competitive Doubles show a desire to compete further.
 - c. Optional Doubles show extra high card strength and offers partner the choice between bidding and passing.
 - d. Penalty Oriented Doubles show a desire to penalize, but ask partner to bid if his hand is not suited for defense.
2. **Transfer:** A bid of a suit to show another specific suit (e.g. a diamond bid to show hearts)
3. **Cuebid:** A bid in a suit which an opponent has either bid naturally or in which he has shown four or more cards.¹
4. **Control Bid:** A bid usually used to investigate slam and not intended as a place to play, which denotes a control (usually first or second round) in a specific suit. The control need not be in the denomination named.
5. **Relay:** A bid which does not guarantee any specific suit; partner is requested to bid the next higher step or make another descriptive bid. (e.g., a ♦ bid which usually shows ♥ but, in some cases, may not have ♥) A sequence of relay bids is defined as a relay system if, after opening one of a suit, it is started prior to opener's rebid.
6. **Puppet:** A bid which requires partner to make a specific bid, e.g., a bid of 2NT which requires partner to bid 3♣.

Alert: A manner specified by the Regulating Authority through which opponents are notified of a partnership's special agreements. The ACBL has four different types of Alerts, all of which require participants to notify their opponent aloud and, when bid boxes are in use, by tapping the alert strip or using the alert card².

1. **Announcements:** An announcement is one word or short phrase which tells the opponents directly the meaning of partner's call. When bid boxes are in use, the Alert Strip or Alert Card is tapped and the partner says aloud the required statement³. When bid boxes are not in use, the partner says the required statement, and gently taps the center of the table.

2. **Immediate Alerts:** An Alert given at the time partner makes a call which requires an Alert. When bid boxes are in use, the Alert Strip or Alert Card is tapped and the partner says, "Alert" aloud². When bid boxes are not in use, the partner says, "Alert" aloud, and gently taps the center of the table.

3. **Pre-Alert:** An Alert made before any hands are removed from the first board of a round or segment of a match. A partnership which fulfills its obligation to pre-alert their opponents is still required to immediately alert when their partner makes an alertable bid or call. Methods which require Pre-Alerts include:

- a. Two system methods (e.g., strong club when equal or favorable vulnerability; a natural two over one when not)
- b. Systems based on very light openings or other highly aggressive methods.
- c. Systems which may be fundamentally unfamiliar to the opponents.
- d. Methods and conventions listed on the ACBL Super and Mid-Charts.
- e. Leading low from two small.

4. **Delayed Alerts:** An Alert given after the auction is completed. Bids above the level of 3NT, beginning with and including opener's first rebid require a Delayed Alert³. Delayed Alerts are made as follows:

- a. The Declaring side must Alert after the auction is completed and prior to the opening lead.
- b. The Defending side must Alert after the opening lead is made face-down and before the dummy is tabled.

¹ While most cuebids are conventional some are, by partnership agreement, treated as natural. 1♣-P-1♠-2♠ is one example of a cuebid commonly treated as natural.

² When playing behind screens contestants are expected to Alert and Announce by silently flashing the Alert Flag or Alert Card to their screen-mate. All explanations should be written.

³ When playing behind screens, all conventional calls require an Immediate Alert. There are no Delayed Alerts.