



# Conventional Wisdom - part 13

For one more issue, we'll break down a section of the new ACBL convention card. See pages 18-19 of the March 2022 issue for the complete card and a glossary of terms and abbreviations.

**CARDING** The last four boxes of the new convention card are all about your partnership's defensive play agreements. Defense is 50% of the game; the new card has devoted additional space for your partnership agreements. The first options in the CARDING box refer to your count and attitude methods, and whether they vary if you are defending a suit contract or a notrump contract. It is now easier for a partnership to indicate if they play, for example, upside-down attitude but standard count, and if that changes based on the strain of the contract they are defending.

**SIGNALS** The first options in the Signals box are your Primary Signals to either declarer's lead or partner's lead. For example, if declarer leads a suit and you agree to give count, you would check the Count box. If your primary signal to partner's lead is attitude, you would check that box. You might even number them in order, for example, Partner's lead: Primary is attitude (1), then count (2), then suit preference (3).

**Exceptions** An exception to your carding might occur if you agree to give count or attitude when a certain card is led.

**Other Carding** If you have Exceptions or Other Carding agreements, there is a line to indicate what those might be, such as Foster echo or upside-down suit preference.

**Smith Echo** Smith Echo is a signal in declarer's first led suit that is about a different suit. There are many different varieties; check the appropriate box if you play this convention and indicate any exceptions or agreements in the line provided.

<b>CARDING</b>	Suits	NT	<b>SIGNALS</b>	Primary Signals to:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>		Declarer's Lead	Partner's Lead	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - Count	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down - Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Count	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down - Count	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Suit Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Exceptions _____			Exceptions _____			
Other Carding:			First Discard: Std <input type="checkbox"/> Upside Down <input type="checkbox"/>			
Smith Echo: Suits <input type="checkbox"/> NT <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse <input type="checkbox"/>			Lavinthal <input type="checkbox"/> Odd/Even <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			
Trump Signals _____			_____			

**Exceptions** An exception to your primary signal might occur when there is shortness in dummy or an obvious switch situation.

**First Discard** When you cannot follow suit, your first discard is an opportunity to tell partner something about your hand (or not). If you play Std (standard) or Upside Down, a high or low card is either encouraging or discouraging in that suit. Two other popular carding conventions are Lavinthal (the defender is not interested in the suit discarded; the size of the spot card indicates whether they want the higher or lower of the other two suits) and Odd/Even (an odd card encourages that suit, even discourages and could be a suit preference indicator). There are many Other types of discards and plenty of space to note what you play.

**Trump Signals** If your partnership has an agreement on certain carding methods when you follow suit to trump, you may indicate it here. One common example is trump suit preference.