



# Conventional Wisdom - part 14

*This is the last installment explaining 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.*

**Length Leads** The first options in both boxes (vs suits and vs notrump) refer to your leads from holdings of three or more cards. 4<sup>th</sup> best, 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>/low are the first options, as are “attitude” leads. Against suit contracts, if you lead small from a doubleton, it no longer requires a pre-Alert but it must be marked on your card and explained if asked about leads and carding. Next there are various card combinations; you can circle the card led (if not in bold) as per your partnership agreements. Note there are fewer card combinations listed; this is to encourage notating on your convention card your methods. “H” means any honor.

**Honor Leads** Circle which you lead from A–K–x or longer, and if it varies. One example might be if you normally lead ace from A–K, except at the five level or above you lead the king, asking for count. Circle the honor card led (if not in bold).

**LEADS** 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. In this issue, we tackle **Leads Vs Suits** and **Leads Vs NT**.

| LEADS vs SUITS   | LEADS vs NT   |
|--|---|
| CIRCLE CARD LED (if not bold):<br>Length Leads: 4 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> /Low <input type="checkbox"/><br>Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> Small from xx <input type="checkbox"/><br>xx xxx xxxxx xxxxx<br>Hxx Hxxx Hxxxx | CIRCLE CARD LED (if not bold):<br>Length Leads: 4 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> /Low <input type="checkbox"/><br>Attitude <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> from xxxx(+) <input type="checkbox"/><br>xx xxx xxxxx xxxxx<br>Hxx Hxxx Hxxxx |
| After 1 <sup>st</sup> Trick _____<br>Honor Leads:<br>AKx (+) Varies <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br><b>K</b> Qx <b>Q</b> Jx <b>J</b> Tx <b>T</b> 9x  | After 1 <sup>st</sup> Trick _____<br>Honor Leads:<br>AKxx (+) Varies <input type="checkbox"/> _____<br><b>K</b> QJx <b>K</b> QT9 <b>Q</b> JTx <b>J</b> T9x  |
| Interior Seq:<br><b>K</b> JTx <b>K</b> T9x <b>Q</b> T9x  | Interior Seq:<br><b>A</b> QJx <b>A</b> JTx <b>K</b> T9x <b>Q</b> T9x  |
| Exceptions _____   | Exceptions _____  |

**After 1<sup>st</sup> Trick** If your leads change after the first trick, for example if you play 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> leads but then 4<sup>th</sup> best, you can note it here. You can also indicate if you change from a count-based spot card to attitude. This applies to both suits and notrump.

**Interior Sequence** Circle the honor card led (if not in bold). Note any exceptions.

The options are almost identical for leading against notrump contracts. If you lead second highest from a four- or five-card suit that does not contain an honor card, there is a box for you to note that.