



Conventional *Wisdom* - part 10

In each of the next several issues, 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.

When your RHO has opened the bidding, you are now in the “direct seat” in terms of overcalling. If RHO opens at the one level in a suit, you have a **Direct 1NT** bid available to you. Most people play that a direct seat overcall of 1NT shows just what it would if you opened a strong notrump – maybe even a little better – 15–18 HCP. Notrump overcalls do not require an Announcement of your high-card point range. If a partnership agreement allows for “ostensibly natural” notrump overcalls that do not meet the definition of Natural (hands which contain a small singleton or 10 cards in two suits), it is both permitted and Alertable. The call is also Alertable if it does not show at least 14 HCP.

When your LHO opens the bidding followed by two passes, you are now in the balancing seat. Because it's more likely that partner has some values, some agree to lower the necessary high-card point requirement to **Balance 1NT**. Again, this does not require an Announcement.

If you play **Systems On**, for example Stayman and transfers, check the box.

Conv There are conventional treatments of a 1NT overcall; for example, “sandwich no-trump” is often used to show a two-suited hand. If you play sandwich or anything else that doesn't mean a balanced hand with at least 14 HCP, check the box and describe in the line provided.

NT OVERCALLS	Direct 1NT ____ to ____ Systems On <input type="checkbox"/>
	Balance 1NT ____ to ____ Systems On <input type="checkbox"/>
	Conv <input type="checkbox"/>
	Jump to 2NT: 2 Lowest Unbid <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other _____

Other There is space for you to indicate other special agreements.

Jump to 2NT: 2 Lowest Unbid A jump to 2NT can be used to show the two lowest unbid suits, for example, 1♣–2NT to show diamonds and hearts. This can still apply after the opponents have bid two suits, such as 1♥–Pass–1♠–2NT would be for both minors.

A jump to 2NT that shows the minors when a natural minor suit has been opened is Alertable. This includes if the opponents open 1♣ with a two-card suit only if 4=4=3=2 (which is considered a natural call for these purposes). This is new. If the opening is quasi-natural or artificial, any artificial two-suited 2NT is not Alertable.

A jump to 2NT in direct seat that is Strong is Alertable.