



Conventional Wisdom - part 11

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.

Previously called "Defense vs Notrump," this is one of the boxes on the new card that is virtually identical to the box on the old card. A handy new element is a line for 2NT. Because many partnerships like to play different systems depending on the strength of the 1NT opening bid (or overcall), there are two columns provided. On the top two "Vs" lines, you might indicate the point-count range that your system defends against, or if you differentiate between direct or balancing seat actions.

Next to each two-level suit bid, indicate what that means in your partnership. For example, if vs a strong 1NT, you play 2♣ as a one-suited hand, write "one suit" in the line. But, if vs a weak 1NT, it's both majors, write "majors" or "hearts and spades" in the line. Or, if it's natural, write "clubs" or "natural." Note that these lines are not in red, but if your bid is conventional, meaning anything but natural, or natural but also indicates a second suit, it requires an Alert.

vs TAKEOUT DBL
Your partner opens the bidding and your RHO makes a takeout double. What do your bids mean?

- New Suit F "F"** stands for Forcing. If a new suit at the two-level by responder is forcing, check the 2 Lvl box.
- If a new suit is a transfer to the next-higher suit, check the Tfr box and mark the lowest call where transfers start (e.g., 1NT is a transfer to clubs) and remember that opener must Announce the transfer suit.

Jump Shift Is a jumpshift by responder weak, invitational, forcing or fit-showing? Check the appropriate box and note that fit-showing jumps are Alertable.

Redouble If redouble has no artificial meaning and is values-showing, check the 10+ box. If you have a specific partnership agreement about redouble, or if it is conventional, check the box next to Conv and explain in the line provided.

vs 1NT OPENING	Vs _____	Vs _____
	Dbl _____	Dbl _____
	2♣ _____	2♣ _____
	2♦ _____	2♦ _____
	2♥ _____	2♥ _____
	2♠ _____	2♠ _____
	2NT _____	2NT _____
Other _____		
vs TAKEOUT DBL	New Suit F: 2 Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Jump Shift: Wk <input type="checkbox"/> Inv <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Fit <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Rdbl: 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> Conv <input type="checkbox"/>	
	2NT Over: Nat	Raise Range
	♣♦ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ___ to ___
♥♠ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ___ to ___	
Other _____		

There is an Other line for any other partnership agreements over an opponent's takeout double.

2NT After your RHO doubles, if 2NT is natural (balanced), or a raise (Alertable), indicate your agreement, the high-card point range you are expected to have and note if you play it differently over your opening bids of 1m and 1M.