



Conventional Wisdom - part 3

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 issue for the complete card and a glossary of terms and abbreviations.

1NT opening bids

If you play a variable notrump, there is space for two different ranges; use both areas if you vary your range either by seat or vulnerability. You can indicate how you vary in the area that says **Seat/Vul**.

If you use two different sets of responses to your variable 1NT ranges, check the Same Resp No, otherwise, check Yes.

5-Card Major: Check this box if you might have a five-card major when you open 1NT.

Sys On vs: How does your partnership handle interference? It is common to play "systems on" versus a double and 2♣; you can write your agreement here.

2♣ Stayman: Most will check this box; if you play some version of 2♣ puppet or something else, check the appropriate box.

2♦/2♥/2♠/2NT: You have the choices of Natural, Transfer or Other. If 2♠ is minor suit Stayman or anything other than natural or a transfer, indicate that in 'other.' A transfer shows a specific suit; if 2♠ could be either minor, that is 'other.'

Smolen: Smolen is a conventional bid that allows responder to show both majors after opener's 2♦ answer to Stayman.

Transfer 4♣/4♦/4♥: If you play these calls as transfers, check the appropriate box.

Dbl: If the opponents overall, indicate whether a double is negative or penalty. You can also indicate the level through which the negative double applies, or other treatments for double (like stolen bid, for example, where a double means you would have made the bid your opponent did).

NOTRUMP	1NT ___ to ___ (Seat/Vul ___)	1NT ___ to ___ (Same Resp: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>)
	5-Card Major <input type="checkbox"/> Sys On vs _____	3♣ _____
	2♣ Stayman <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	3♦ _____
	2♦: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	3♥ _____
2♥: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	3♠ _____	
2♠: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Other _____	
2NT: Nat <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Smolen <input type="checkbox"/> Tfr: 4♣ <input type="checkbox"/> 4♦ <input type="checkbox"/> 4♥ <input type="checkbox"/>		
Dbl: Neg <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Pen <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Lebensohl <input type="checkbox"/>		
2NT ___ to ___ Puppet <input type="checkbox"/> 3♠ <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conv <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Tfr: 3Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> 4Lvl <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dbl <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
3NT ___ to ___ One Suit <input type="checkbox"/>		

2NT
Similar to the 1NT section, there is space for your range and a box to check (**Conv** in red) if your 2NT opening bid is conventional (outside of the expected strong, balanced hand).

3NT
If you play an opening bid of 3NT as strong and balanced, just write your range in the lines. Any conventional 3NT opening bid can still use the lines for a point-count range, but indicate whether it is **One Suit** or something else in the space provided.

Puppet: Check this box if your partnership plays any variation of puppet Stayman (a method of finding out if opener has a five-card major suit).

3♠: Unless you play 3♠ as natural, check this box and indicate your agreement in the space provided. Minor suit Stayman or an artificial relay to 3NT (with follow-ups to describe various distributional hands) are the most common treatments.

Tfr: If your three- and/or four-level responses are transfers, check these boxes.

Neg Dbl: Should the opponents interfere after a 2NT opening bid, you can indicate how you handle it.