



# Conventional Wisdom - part 8

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.

When your LHO opens one of a suit, and your partner bids two of the same suit, that is a direct cuebid. What does it mean? With the proliferation of "could be short" and artificial minor-suit opening bids, the new card has more options for your partnership to indicate if you have different agreements depending on your opponent's opening bid. Note that 1♥ and 1♠ opening bids are always treated as natural.

The first column is for Artificial ("Art") openings of 1♣ and 1♦. Does a direct cuebid by your side show length in both majors? Then you would check the **Michaels** box. What is Michaels? It is a way to show a two-suited hand: A direct cuebid of a minor-suit opening bid shows a major two-suiter. So, the auction 1♣-(2♣) or 1♦-(2♦) shows a hand with length in hearts and spades. The strength requirements vary depending on partnership preferences. After a major-suit opening, a direct cuebid shows length in both the other major and a minor. The sequence 1♠-(2♠), therefore, shows length in both hearts and an undisclosed minor.

The next column is for Quasi-Natural ("Quasi") 1♣ or 1♦ opening bids, which could be balanced hands with two or more of the bid suit or natural length. Opponents who play a quasi-natural opening bid are required to pre-Alert along with announcing, "could be short as X." Again, you have the option of Michaels, Natural or Other for your direct cuebids.

The third and fourth columns are for Natural ("Nat") opening bids. If an opponent's 1♣ opening bid is two only if 4=4=3=2, it is deemed Natural. Note that if your direct cuebid is *not* Michaels, it requires an Alert. There is a line for you to describe your agreements.

If your opponent opens a "could be as short as zero" 1♦, does 2♦ by you show diamonds? Then you would check the **Natural** box. If a direct cuebid is something other than Michaels or Natural, you would check the **Other** box.

		Vs:			
		Art	Quasi	Nat	Nat
		♣♦	♣♦	♣♦	♥♠
DIRECT CUEBIDS	Michaels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Natural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe _____					
3-Level Style (Seat/Vul) _____					
PREEMPTS	Resp _____				
	4-Level Style _____				
	Resp _____				
♠ 4♣/4♦ Tfr <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____					

Some partnerships play that opening bids of 4♣ and 4♦ are transfers to 4♥ and 4♠, respectively. This convention is called **Namyats**; check the **Tfr** (transfer) box if that is your agreement. If those opening bids are something else besides a preempt, write it in the **Other** line.

This section is to indicate your partnership style when making a preemptive opening bid at the three or four level. Typically, these bids promise a hand below opening strength with a seven-card or longer suit. Suit quality and length can depend on seat and vulnerability. There is space to note your general preempting philosophy at these levels. How do you respond to such opening bids? For example, a new suit could be natural and forcing, a control bid in support or even ace- or key card-asking. A new-suit, below-game response that is non-forcing is Alertable.