



Conventional Wisdom - part 9

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.

This section allows you to briefly describe your conventional slam methods. Almost all of these treatments are Alertable, but they are "Delayed Alerts." All Delayed Alerts must be explained before the opening lead by either the defending or declaring side.

What is a Delayed Alert and why?

In any case where a bid is Alertable, but the bid is 3NT or higher, and the auction is at or beyond opener's rebid, delay the Alert until the end of the auction. Additionally, Control Bids should be Alerted at the end of the auction even if they are below 3NT. Alerts of passes, doubles and redoubles are not delayed regardless of the level of the auction. When behind screens or online, do not delay any Alerts. Because most artificial calls at high levels indicate some slam interest, immediate Alerts (or lack thereof) could potentially benefit the Alerting side more than the non-Alerting side.

4♣ Gerber

The Gerber convention is an ace-asking bid. Typically, it's a jump to 4♣ after an opening notrump sequence or after a notrump rebid. Some use it after a fit in a suit has been found. All three options are available for you on the new card:

Directly Over NT such as: 1NT-4♣ or 2♣-2♦; 2NT-4♣.

Over NT Seq such as: 1♦-1♥; 2NT-4♣

Non-NT Seq such as: 1♠-3♠; 4♣

Note that the first two examples are not Delayed Alerts, but the third one is.

A "Control Bid" is an ace or a king (or, if in a suit contract, a void or singleton). An ace or void is a first-round control, a king or singleton is a second-round control. Indicate your partnership style in the line provided.

Vs Interference When the opponents interfere with your ace- or key card-asking auction, there are conventional methods available to handle the interference. Use this line to describe your agreements, such as DOP1 (Double with zero, Pass with one) or DEPO (Double with Even, Pass with Odd).

SLAMS	4♣ Gerber: Directly Over NT <input type="checkbox"/> Over NT Seq <input type="checkbox"/> Non-NT Seq <input type="checkbox"/> _____
	4NT: Blackwood <input type="checkbox"/> RKC 0314 <input type="checkbox"/> RKC 1430 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Control Bids _____
	Vs Interference _____
	Other _____

4NT There are many ways to ask for aces and other high cards. Check the box that applies. Note that 4NT is not a Delayed Alert, but the responses are.

Blackwood Traditional Blackwood is one of the oldest conventional treatments. It asks specifically for aces only. After the 4NT asking bid, the responses are: 5♣ shows zero or four aces; 5♦ shows one; 5♥ shows two and 5♠ shows three.

RKC 0314 Roman key card Blackwood is a variation that asks not only about aces, but also the king of a specified suit. These five cards are referred to as "key cards." The 0314 responses are: 5♣ zero or three, 5♦ one or four; 5♥ two or five key cards without the queen of trump; 5♠ two or five key cards with the queen of trump.

RKC 1430 The same as above except the first two bids are reversed: 5♣ shows one or four; 5♦ shows three or zero.

Other Use this line to indicate other partnership agreements for slam bidding, such as "serious" or "non-serious 3NT," which is a Delayed Alert.