



**NEW SOUTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

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**A**  
**Handy Guide**  
**for New**  
**Congress Players**

When you feel ready, also ask about our

“Handy Guide for joining the Open Field” V10

## Blue and Green Systems Are Permitted

**Green** eg Standard American, Acol, “2 over 1”

- ◆ All one-level opening bids are natural.
- ◆ Opening bids 1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ show at least 3 cards in the suit named. Exceptions: Hands with 4♠ 4♥ 3♦ 2♣ or 4-3 majors either way 3♦ 2♣ may be opened 1♣.
- ◆ 1NT should be balanced or semi-balanced. This does not preclude individual assessment of some hands e.g. a hand with a singleton honour or a weak longer suit. The subsequent bidding methods should not be able to identify such hands.

**Blue** eg Strong Club/Strong Diamond and Precision, must satisfy all of the following:

- ◆ 1♣ or 1♦ is artificial, forcing and always strong (“strong” means 13+)
- ◆ One of a major is natural
- ◆ 1NT is non-conventional
- ◆ The one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids

For both Green and Blue Systems, the agreement must be that all one-level opening bids show at least 8 HCP.

Opening 2♦ (or 2♣) to show a hand with either a Weak 2♥ or a Weak 2♠ is acceptable as part of all systems even though no definite suit is shown. Any number of strong options may be added to these weak options.

As part of this agreement, 2♥, 2♠, 2NT are usually two suited. Such calls are OK providing at least 4 cards are being shown in at least one known suit.

**Brown Sticker** Conventions and Treatments are not permitted. This is a complex area, often involving bids that show 2 or more suits without identifying at least one definite 4+ holding.

➤ Please talk to a Director if you have any concerns about a system's classification.

### **Faced Opening Lead by Wrong Defender**

These can be very damaging to the defence and can almost be eliminated by always making the opening lead face down and waiting until partner confirms that he is happy for the card to be faced (because he has no questions). ***Call the Director.*** The presumed declarer has many options. Accepting the lead and being declarer or dummy. Declining the lead and having lead restrictions applied.

## Announcements

### **Responder announces immediately:**

- Green Systems - The number of clubs shown by partner's 1♣ opening bid. Say "2+ 3+ or 4+."
- Blue Systems - Say "Strong" together with the minimum hcp eg "16+."
- 1♣ is not alerted even when artificial
- Green & Blue Systems - The hcp shown by partner's 1NT opening eg 12-14, 15-17, 16-18.

### **Alerts During the Auction:**

These notify your opponents that your partner's call has a special meaning that they may not reasonably be expected to understand. Promptly say "alert" and circle your partner's call. Don't give an explanation unless an opponent asks.

#### Alert:

- ✓ conventional (or artificial) bids (unless self-alerting or announced) and conventional (or artificial) passes up to and including 3NT
- ✓ Only artificial opening bids above 3NT

#### Do Not Alert:

- x 2♣ in the specific sequence 1NT (P) 2♣ (only)
- x bids in a denomination already bid or shown by an opponent
- x calls above 3NT unless artificial opening bid
- x Doubles and Redoubles

These calls are considered to be self-alerting.

## Unauthorised Information (UI)

What Do I Do If.....

☺ Partner pulls a face, gestures, makes a comment, takes a long time to call etc any of which might suggest to me something about his hand or call?

◆ *To accidentally impart or receive unauthorised information is not an infraction. Make sure that your calls are based only on your hand and your system. **Calls must not be based on UI.***

☺ I learn something about a board I am yet to play or see cards belonging to an opponent before the auction begins?

◆ *Call the Director straight away.*

☺ I think an opponent's call may have been influenced by UI?

◆ *It is usually best to wait until the hand has been completed. Then, if you think you may have been damaged, call the Director.*

*It is OK to draw attention to an opponent's unauthorised information sooner, perhaps by telling your opponents that you may wish to call the Director later.*

*If there is any disagreement as to whether UI exists, call the Director straight away.*

## Assorted Q&A

What Do I Do If.....

☺ Partner does not alert my bid when I think he should have?

☺ I think partner has explained one of my calls incorrectly?

◆ *In both cases, during the auction, do and say nothing. Give no indication that anything is wrong. If you expect to be dummy or declarer, Call the Director after the auction has ended*

*If you are to be a defender, say and do nothing until the hand has been played out, then Call the Director.*

☺ I realise that I have failed to alert?

☺ I realise I have given a wrong explanation?

◆ *In both cases, your minimum obligation is to Call the Director before the opening lead is faced.*

*You may call sooner.*

☺ I am asked to explain partner's call but I have forgotten our agreement?

◆ *Call the Director. This is a very specific situation just for when you and your partner have an agreement but you have forgotten it and cannot explain it when asked to do so. Alert it immediately anyway If you know it is alertable.*

☺ I have revoked and neither I nor my partner has led or played to the following trick?

◆ *Call the Director. Your revoke is not yet established and must be corrected.*

☺ Someone draws attention to an irregularity?

◆ *Call the Director. If you allow your opponents to make rulings, and they are wrong, any errors are not going to be in your favour ;-)*

☺ I have made a wrong call according to our system? I have misbid.

◆ *This is not an infraction. It is important to do nothing that could alert partner to your call not being systemic. Your opponents are not entitled to be told about misbids. They are entitled to an accurate description of the system you and partner have agreed to play.*

☺ I want to know something about the opponent's auction or signalling agreements?

◆ *Ask at your turn to call or at your turn to play a card. You may ask about specific calls but this may create UI for partner. Often a more general enquiry is best eg "Would you explain your auction please?" After the opening lead has been placed face down, declarer and the other defender may ask about the auction.*

## Some Random Do's and Don'ts

### **Do:**

- ✓ Have Fun
- ✓ Call the Director if you have any concerns about something happening at your table
- ✓ Count your cards before you look at them
- ✓ Check that data entry is correct
- ✓ Make your opening lead face down and wait until partner confirms that he has no questions before you turn it face up
- ✓ Turn off phones, ipads etc during sessions
- ✓ Raise a hand when calling the Director
- ✓ Hand one copy of your system card to each opponent before starting to play.

### **Don't:**

- ✗ Be talked out of calling the Director if you think it is the right thing to do
- ✗ Discuss results in a loud voice while the session is in progress
- ✗ Look at your own system card after taking your cards from a board and before returning them at the end of play. An exception is that presumed dummy and presumed declarer may look at their system cards after the end of the auction and before the opening lead is faced.