

## **PERMITTED SYSTEMS AND AGREEMENTS [LAW 40]**

Clubs may permit or ban ANY agreement or system they wish for their own club duplicate events. However, they should have a policy and it is sensible to pick one of the EBU's levels as their basis. Normally, Level 2 is for novice and holiday bridge, Level 3 is for club bridge and Level 4 is for event and competition bridge. When they are running a heat of a National or County event, they must apply the regulations laid down by the governing body.

### **OPENING 2-Bids**

In England and Wales especially, players often claim to be playing 2-bids that show strong hands, but open pre-emptive type hands with these 2-bids. This misleads opponents and may be illegal. This occurs especially with bids purporting to show Acol Twos. These are meant to show strong hands, but players rely often on playing tricks only.

If they are natural, described often as Acol Twos themselves, then it is legal to open them on a wide range, but the opponents must be informed. The system card should indicate that they may be quite weak in high cards and they should be announced as "Intermediate to Strong, forcing". If they are artificial, such as a Benjamin 2 ♣, then really weak openings are illegal. To be legal, they must conform to one of:

- (A) Subject to proper disclosure, a hand that contains as a minimum the normal high-card strength associated with a one-level opening and at least eight clear-cut tricks.
- (B) Any hand meeting the Rule of 25 (points plus the length or two longest suits).
- (C) Any hand of at least 16 HCPs.

Each player should complete a System Card and make it available to his opponents at the table. Many bridge clubs do not insist on this requirement, allowing instead, one card to be shared between pairs. A System Card is not really required by pairs using very simple systems; however pairs using complicated methods like Precision Club with Relays, or Modern Scientific Acol, must each complete a System Card. Opponents may look at the System Cards whenever they like, except when they are dummy.

Note: all players in non-club events will be expected to complete a System Card. Failure to do so could prejudice a claim arising in a dispute.

### **OVERCALLS**

Players should disclose their overcalling methods on their System Cards. In the absence of such information, they will be considered to conform to historic standards:

A suit overcall should be of at least five cards, with some strength in the suit and approximately 8 to 15 points.

Any deviation from these standards **MUST** be indicated on the System Card.