

# ACBL GENERAL CONVENTION CHART

The conventions listed below must be allowed in all ACBL sanctioned tournament play (other than in events with an upper restriction of 20 or fewer masterpoints and events for which the ACBL conditions of contest state otherwise) and at club-level events with multiple-site overall masterpoint awards. Clubs have full authority to regulate conventions in games conducted solely at their clubs.

Conventional agreements permitted by the ACBL Convention Charts are subject to the regulations documented in the ACBL Alert Pamphlet. For a complete list of definitions see Alert Pamphlet-Definitions.

## DEFINITIONS

An opening bid of one club is natural if, by agreement, it may be exactly 4-4-3-2 with two clubs, three diamonds, and four cards in each major.

Otherwise:

1. An opening suit bid or response is considered natural if in a minor it shows three or more cards in that suit and in a major it shows four or more cards in that suit.
2. A no trump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it is balanced (generally, no singleton or void and no more than two doubletons).
3. A simple overcall in a suit is natural if, by agreement, it shows four or more cards in the suit named.
4. Doubles and Redoubles are natural if, by agreement, partner is requested to pass.
5. A sequence of relay bids is defined as a system if, after an opening of one of a suit, it is started prior to opener's rebid.
6. A convention is a bid or call that, by agreement, conveys a meaning not necessarily related to the denomination named or, in the case of Pass, Double and Redouble, the last denomination named.

*\*\*Unless specifically allowed, methods are disallowed\*\**

## OPENING BIDS

1. ONE CLUB OR ONE DIAMOND may be used as an all-purpose opening bid (artificial or natural) promising a minimum of 10 high-card points.
2. FORCING INT OPENING BID (15+ HCPs) indicating a strong hand, balanced or unbalanced.
3. TWO CLUBS ARTIFICIAL OPENING BID indicating one of:
  - a) a strong hand.
  - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP.
4. STRENGTH SHOWING OPENING AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER that asks for aces, kings, queens, singletons, voids or trump quality and responses thereto.
5. TWO DIAMOND ARTIFICIAL OPENING BID indicating one of:
  - a) a strong hand.
  - b) a three-suiter with a minimum of 10 HCP.
6. OPENING BID AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER indicating two known suits, a minimum of 10 HCP and at least 5-4 distribution in the suits.
7. OPENING TWO HEART OR TWO SPADE BID showing a weak two bid, with a four-card or longer minor.
8. OPENING NO TRUMP BID AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER indicating at least 5-4 distribution in the minors.
9. OPENING THREE NO TRUMP BID indicating one of:
  - a) a solid suit.
  - b) a minor one-suiter.
10. OPENING FOUR-LEVEL BID transferring to a known suit.

## RESPONSES AND REBIDS

1. ONE DIAMOND as a forcing, artificial response to one club.
2. ONE NO TRUMP response to a major suit opening bid forcing one round; cannot guarantee game invitational or better values.
3. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES WHICH GUARANTEE GAME FORCING OR BETTER VALUES. May NOT be part of a relay system.
4. TWO CLUBS OR TWO DIAMONDS response to third or fourth-seat major-suit openings asking the quality of the opening bid.
5. SINGLE OR HIGHER JUMP SHIFTS AND/OR NO TRUMP BIDS AT THE TWO LEVEL OR HIGHER to indicate a raise or to force to game.
6. JUMP RESPONSES TO AN OPENING BID OF ONE IN A SUIT that show one known suit with a minimum of five cards and one other known suit with a minimum of four cards.
7. ARTIFICIAL AND CONVENTIONAL CALLS after strong (15+ HCP), forcing opening bids and after opening bids of two clubs or higher. (For this classification, by partnership agreement, weak two-bids must be within a range of 7 HCP and the suit must contain at least five cards – See #7 under DISALLOWED.)

8. ALL CONSTRUCTIVE CALLS starting with the opening bidder's second call.
9. CALLS THAT ASK for aces, kings queens, singletons, voids or trump quality and responses thereto.
10. ALL CALLS AFTER A NATURAL NOTRUMP opening bid or direct overcall, EXCEPT for natural notrump opening bids or overcalls with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges). See #7 under DISALLOWED.

## COMPETITIVE

1. CONVENTIONAL BALANCING CALLS.
2. CONVENTIONAL DOUBLES AND REDOUBLES and responses (including free bids) thereto.
3. NOTRUMP OVERCALL for either
  - a) two-suit takeout showing at least 5-4 distribution and at least one known suit (At the four level or higher there is no requirement to have a known suit.) or
  - b) three-suit takeout (at least three cards in each of the three suits.)
4. a) JUMP OVERCALLS INTO A SUIT to indicate at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits and responses thereto.  
b) SIMPLE OVERCALLS INTO A SUIT to indicate a minimum of 10 HCP, at least 5-4 distribution in two known suits and responses thereto.
5. TRANSFER ADVANCES (responses to overcalls) where the call shows length or values in the suit of the transfer.
6. CUEBID of an opponent's suit and responses thereto, except that a cuebid that could be weak (fewer than 10 HCP) directly over an opening bid, must show at least one known suit.
7. DEFENSE TO:
  - a) conventional calls (except see #10 RESPONSES and REBIDS above and #7 under DISALLOWED below),
  - b) natural no trump opening bids and overcalls, except that direct calls, other than the following, must have at least one known suit.
    - Double
    - Two Clubs
    - Two Diamonds showing a one suited hand in hearts or spades
  - c) opening bids of two clubs or higher.
8. TRANSFER RESPONSES (responses after overcalls) where the call shows length or values in the suit of the transfer.
9. Numbers 4 through 10 under RESPONSES AND REBIDS above APPLY TO BOTH PAIRS.

## DISALLOWED

1. Conventions and/or agreements whose primary purpose is to destroy the opponents' methods.
2. Psyching of artificial or conventional opening bids and/or conventional responses thereto. Psyching conventional suit responses, which are less than 2NT, to natural openings.
3. Psychic controls (Includes ANY partnership agreement which, if used in conjunction with a psychic call, makes allowance for that psych.)
4. Forcing pass systems.
5. Relay (tell me more) systems.
6. Opening one bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP. (Not applicable to a psych.)
7. CONVENTIONAL RESPONSES, REBIDS AND A CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE TO AN OPPONENT'S CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE after natural no trump opening bids or overcalls with a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or with a range of greater than 5 HCP (including those that have two non-consecutive ranges) and weak two-bids which by partnership agreement are not within a range of 7 HCP and do not show at least five cards in the suit.

## CARDING

Dual-message carding strategies are not approved except on each defender's first discard. Except for the first discard only right-side-up or upside-down card ordering strategies are approved. Encrypted signals are not approved. In addition, a pair may be prohibited from playing any method (such as suit preference systems at trick one), when they are deemed to be playing it in a manner which is not compatible with the maintenance of proper tempo (much like dual message signals). This decision may be appealed to the tournament committee.