



African Bridge Federation
ABF SYSTEMS POLICY – Appendix 2

1. PREAMBLE

1. The objectives are to ensure that ABF Championships can be properly operated and adequately administered, with a fair and equal chance for all competitors, while at the same time affording proper consideration to progress and innovation; to ensure that players are in no doubt as to what is expected of them with regard to preparation and filing of systems material for ABF Championships.
2. Additions or amendments to this policy will normally be put into effect only after four months' notice.
3. References to High Card Points in this document are Milton Work Points.
4. In the following 'Weak' means 9 points or less and 'Strong' means 16 points or more.

2. POLICY

2.1 HUM Systems

For the purpose of this Policy, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that exhibits one or more of the following features:

- a. By partnership agreement an opening call of Pass shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities
- b. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be weaker than pass.
- c. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level may be made with 7 high card points or less.
- d. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows either three cards or more, or two cards or less in a specified suit
- e. By partnership agreement an opening bid at the one level shows either three cards or more in one specified suit or three cards or more in another. **EXCEPTION:** one of a minor in a strong club or strong diamond system.

2.2 Classification of Systems

In order to facilitate recognition and handling, systems material will be identified by one or more of the following:

- i. a WBF coloured sticker;
- ii. the appropriate named (hand printed or typed) colour;
- iii. a check mark on a system card next to the appropriate colour - in keeping with the following descriptions:

Green Natural methods

Blue Forcing Club/Forcing Diamond, where one club/one diamond is artificial, shows a hand with 13 high card points or more and is always forcing.

Red This category includes all systems that do not fall under the classifications of Green, Blue or Yellow (as defined herein).

Red 1 would be a system where one club shows one of three types - a natural club suit, a balanced hand of a specific range, or a Strong Club opener; or which uses specialised and artificial responses to an opening bid of one club.

Red 2 would be a system in which the basic one level methods (other than the no trump range and minimum suit-length requirements) vary according to position, vulnerability and the like; or a system that uses conventional 'weak' or 'multi-meaning' bids (with or without some weak option) in potentially contestable auctions, or a system where the opening bids are transfers to another suit.

Yellow Highly Unusual Methods ('HUM') as defined above.

2.3 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments

The following conventions or treatments are categorised as 'Brown Sticker':

- a. Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that:
 - i. could be made on 9 high card points or less AND
 - ii. does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: The bid always shows at least four cards in a known suit if it is weak. If the bid does not show a known four card suit it must show a hand with 13 high card points or more.

(Explanation: Where all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit, and the strong meanings show a hand with 13 high card points or more, it is not a Brown Sticker Convention.)

EXCEPTION: a two level opening bid in a minor showing a weak two in either major, whether with or without the option of strong hand types containing 16 high card points or more, or with equivalent values. Defensive measures are permitted for opponents as in 6 below.

- b. An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit.

EXCEPTION: A natural overcall in no trumps.

EXCEPTION: any cue bid suit that shows a strong hand.

EXCEPTION: a jump cue bid in opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.

- c. Any 'weak' two-suited bids at the two or three level that may by agreement be made with three cards or fewer in one of the suits.
- d. Psychic bids protected by system or required by system.
- e. None of the foregoing restrictions pertain to conventional defences against forcing, artificial opening bids or defences against 'Brown Sticker' or HUM conventions.
- f. For the avoidance of doubt an opening bid of one club which may be made on a doubleton or singleton club and which is ostensibly natural and non-forcing should be regarded as natural and not artificial.

Additional to the classification of systems in 2.2 above, any partnership using one or more 'Brown Sticker' conventions must indicate this alongside its system classification.

2.4 Encrypted Signals

Additional to the restrictions on bidding methods and conventions above, players may not use signaling methods by which the message or messages conveyed by the signals are hidden from the declarer because of some key available only to the defenders (i.e. encrypted signals are not allowed).

2.5 Random Openings

It is forbidden to open hands which, by agreement, may contain fewer than 8 high card points and for which no further definition is provided.

3. Systems allowed at ABF Championships

The use of both HUM systems and 'Brown Sticker' systems is prohibited.