

Alerting

Following the introduction of announcements, the rules on alerting should be easier to understand. Essentially this means any bid which is

- not announceable
- is artificial (does not promise the suit that is bid) AND is below 3NT should be alerted
- has unexpected meaning AND is below 3NT should be alerted
- is artificial AND is above 3NT AND occurs on the first round of bidding

Examples include 1C opening showing 16+ points, 2C overcall to 1NT as a conventional bid e.g. Astro, and 4C response to 1H/1S opening intended as a Splinter bid, etc.

Over 1NT, 2C Stayman and 2D/2H transfer bids are announced. Similarly a 2NT opening and 3C Stayman and 3D/3H transfer bids are announced. Any other responses to 2NT which do not show the suit that is bid are alertable.

Sputnik (negative) doubles are no longer alertable since the introduction of announcements. All doubles of a suit during the auction below 3NT are assumed to be takeout - you only need to alert penalty doubles. Conversely, any double of a NT bid is assumed to be penalties - so any double which is then for take-out needs to be alerted.

What about 1H-Dbl-2D where 2D shows a weak hand ? This also needs alerting on the basis that whilst it is a natural bid it shows something that the opponents would not be expecting i.e. a non-forcing bid. Similarly 1H-Pass-3H where 3H is preemptive raise is alertable on the basis that opponents would not be expecting it.

1S opening showing 5 card suit, a weak jump overcall or a double of an artificial bid for lead direction purposes, are NOT alertable, as they are "expected" meanings for these bids. Always read the convention card for your opponents or ask about their basic system before playing a round or match.