

Changes to EBU Regulations covering Alerting, Announcing and Bidding

The EBU has introduced some new alerting, announcing and bidding rules that have taken effect since 1 September. Full details are at this [link](#). Many of the changes are unlikely to be relevant to Club members but you may wish to review your system agreements with your partner if you are in any doubt. Key points are:

- Transfers to a minor after partner's 1NT opening should be announced if a specific minor is intended (for example where 2S is a transfer to 3C), or alerted if it could mean either minor (for example, where the 1NT opener is required to bid 3C which the responder may correct to 3D).
- 2NT opening bids that are natural and strong no longer need to have their range announced.
- The definitions of 'Strong' opening bids (Strong 1 Club and Strong Twos) have changed. In particular, a Strong Two now requires a minimum of 16 HCP, or 13 HCP in any two suits totalling 10+ cards. Members who play Strong Twos or a Multi 2D opener where a Strong Two is one of the options should note that '8 Playing Tricks' is not sufficient to justify opening a Strong Two in your system (and hasn't been for some time).
- The use of a 1NT response as a forcing bid must be alerted. If a 1NT response shows values greater than 10HCP then the maximum range must be announced as 'Up to 11 HCP (say)' by partner. 1NT responses that are non-forcing and show a maximum of 10 HCP are neither alerted nor announced.
- The use of a 'Two' over 'One' response that is forcing to game must be announced as such by partner (for example, 2C in response to 1S). No action is needed if the response has the traditional ACOL 1-round force meaning.
- Transfer responses to a prepared Club must be announced by partner.
- There are also some changes to the requirements for opening bids at the two or three level that have more than one meaning (such as the Multi 2D) and any players that adopt such methods are strongly advised to read the article by Stephen Green (vice-chair of the Laws and Ethics committee) at this link [here](#).

The EBU has issued a revised table summarising calls that must be alerted or announced and a copy is at this link [here](#).