

## **Conventions and alerting.**

Based on EBU Blue Book for on line play.

When playing bridge we must ensure our opponents are fully aware of all partnership agreements.

### **At Start of Play please declare your system to the opponents.**

Your profile is not a substitute for the following as it can differ from your partner's or you may play with different partners on occasion.

Declare :- 4/5 Card major, Weak/Strong NT, Discard system eg HiLo/McKenney etc, Transfers – Red Suit/Full, Blackwood/RKCB, Benji, Weak 2s/3s.

After you type the above you can copy it and paste it in for each new set of opponents.

Even though you declare the above you must still alert them, and briefly explain their meaning.

### **What do I Alert?**

Below is a guideline of what to alert so that players satisfy the principle of full disclosure.

#### **ALERT**

- Don't alert a 1C or 1D opening that shows at least three cards in the opened suit but alert a 1C opening bid if you are playing a Strong Club system, or if partner could have fewer than 3 clubs.
- Alert transfer bids. Alert all completions only if you are allowed (by your partner) to break the transfer since even a simple completion carries a message.
- Alert Stayman.
- Alert all Game Force bids (eg 2C) and conventional responses (eg denial, relay, step).
- Alert any forcing responses to opening bids or overcalls with a special meaning eg Ogust, splinters, cue bids, Jacoby 2NT, Inverted Minor Responses and alert non forcing change of suit responses to an opening suit bid if an unpassed hand.
- Alert Benji 2C and 2D bids and conventional responses.
- Alert any two- or three-suited calls (eg Lucas/Tartan 2s, Multi 2D, Michaels, UNT, CRO, some 1NT defences).
- Alert Strength of any 2-level openings showing one natural long suit.

#### **DON'T ALERT**

Don't alert doubles unless they have very unusual meanings. Very unusual doubles include (and are not limited to):

- Doubles of opponents' opening 1NT that are not for penalties
- Doubles of RHO's natural suit overcall of partner's suit opening that are for penalties (because most players use negative doubles here).

- Doubles that ask for a different lead than in the suit you have doubled (eg Lightner doubles, Non-lead doubles)

NT openers should be alerted, giving the range, and rebids in No Trump should also be alerted, with the range stated. 2NT opening that shows the minors must be alerted and specified.

Unlike bridge at the table, bids above 3NT must be alerted and explained, unless natural.

Remember that the opponents can see your alerts – your partner cannot.

If in doubt alert and explain.