

# The 2018 Convention Charts

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## What Are Bids Allowed To Mean?

New Charts To Become Effective Thanksgiving 2018

<http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/181AttachmentD.pdf>

# The Convention Charts

## Duplicate Governing Documents

- \* Four Documents Govern Duplicate Players:
  - \* 1. Laws Of Duplicate Bridge
    - bridge mechanics
  - \* 2. Convention Charts
    - partnership agreements
  - \* 3. Alert Procedures
    - disclosure of partnership agreements
  - \* 4. Zero Tolerance Policy
    - !! be nice !!

# The Convention Charts

## New Layout

- \* I. Introduction
  - identifies 4 charts: basic, basic+, open, & open+
- \* II. Usage
  - basic & basic+: MP limited events
  - open: most events
  - open+: NABC & some top-level Regional events
- \* III. Definitions
  - hand strength, natural vs. conventional, etc.
- \* IV. Charts
  - the details
- \* V. Examples

# The Convention Charts

## Common Definitions

- \* Control Points: Aces and Kings are controls  
Ace = 2 points & King = 1 point  
EG: ♠ Axxx ♥ Kxx ♦ xxx ♣ AKx = 6 Control Points
- \* Rule of N: The # of cards in two longest suits plus HCPs  
EG: ♠ xxxxx ♥ xxxxx ♦ AK ♣ Q meets Rule of 19
- \* Preempt: Jump bid NOT promising Average strength
- \* Purely Destructive Initial Action: is NOT:
  - 4+ cards in a known suit,
  - 5+ in one of two known suits,
  - 5+/4+ cards in two suits,
  - 3 suited,
  - Natural,
  - Average or better

# The Convention Charts

## Hand Strength Definitions

- \* **Very Strong:** 20+ HCPs  
or 14+ HCPs & 1 trick of game  
or 5 Control Points & 1 trick of game
- \* **Strong:** 15+ HCPs  
or 14+ HCPs & Rule of 24,  
or 5 Control Points & 1 trick of game
- \* **Average:** 10+ HCPs  
or meets Rule of 19
- \* **Near Average:** 8+ HCPs  
or meets Rule of 17
- \* **Weak:** even worse than Near Average!

# The Convention Charts

## Natural Bid Definitions

- \* An opening, overcall, or response in a suit, natural if:
  - 1-level: 4+ cards in the bid suit
  - 2-level: 5+ cards in the bid suit
- \* A 2-level rebid or response in a suit, natural if:
  - major suit: 4+ cards in the bid suit
  - minor suit: 3+ cards in the bid suit
- \* 1♦ opening, overcall, or response, natural if 3+ cards
- \* 1♣ opening, natural if 3+ cards or 4♠=4♥=3♦=2♣
- \* NT opening, natural if: no voids,  
& not more than 1 singleton (must be A, K, or Q)  
& not 10 cards in two suits
- \* A non-opening bid is Natural if it is to play

# The Convention Charts

## All Charts: Leading & Carding Agreements

- \* Encrypted signals are never allowed
  - if key is unavailable to declarer
- \* Opening leads, any method is OK
  - low from doubletons must be pre-alerted
- \* On first discard, any method is OK
- \* Later discards & following suit:
  - only relative carding signals are allowable:
    - EG: low-hi, low-mid-hi, hi-low for suit pref - OK
  - specific card meanings are disallowed:
    - EG: disallowed: 2-5 are low and 6-9 are high discards
    - EG: disallowed: 3579 "come-on", 2468 "switch"

# The Convention Charts

## Open: Forbidden Opening Agreements

- \* Pass if forcing, or required 3rd/4th openings
- \* Natural bids @1-level with  $<$  Near Average
- \* Artificial bids @1-level with  $<$  Average  
— OK in 3rd/4th with Near Average
- \* Artificial bids @1-level  
showing length only in other suits
- \* Natural INT with  $<$  10 HCPs or range  $>$  5 HCPs
- \* Non-Natural INT if non-forcing
- \* Artificial Pre-empt  $<$  3NT  
— except 2NT OK showing any 2 known suits



# The Convention Charts

Open: More Forbidden **Opening** Agreements

- \* Artificial bid showing two unknown suits

- \* Artificial 3-Suited bid with  $<$  Average OK in 3rd/4th with Near Average

- \* Bids @2-level with  $<$  Average showing known an unknown when unknown could be the suit opened

- \* Bids @2-level with  $<$  Average & range  $>$  9 HCPs OK in 3rd/4th with Near Average

- \* Purely Destructive Initial Action

- \* Artificial Psychic bid

# The Convention Charts

Open: Forbidden Responses, Overcalls, & Rebids

- \* After Natural suit opening, direct new suit overcall < 2NT:  
MUST BE: a known suit,  
or else an offer to play NT,  
or else for take-out of opening bid
- \* After Natural suit opening, direct Artificial NT overcall:  
MUST BE: Strong,  
or else 3+ cards in all three unbid suits,  
or else 4+/4+ cards in two known suits,  
or else 5+/4+ cards in two suits (one known)
- \* Purely Destructive Initial Action
- \* Artificial Psychic bid, and Psychic Controls