

Changes to ACBL's Alert Procedure

From January 2021 Bridge Bulletin, p. 35: "The ACBL Board of Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive update to the ACBL Alert Procedure at their November meeting, the first major overhaul in 20 years. The new procedures go into effect Jan 1, 2021." The full document is available [HERE](#) An excellent summary of the changes is found in the January Bridge Bulletin. ([LINK](#))



What does it mean for our online players? The same rules apply and players should make every effort to learn these new procedures. In online play, alerts and announcements are made by the bidder, not the partner.

Thanks to Charlie Bennett, here are a few of the more obvious changes in Alerts and Announcements. This is not a comprehensive list:

1. If you play a system that has artificial one-level opening bids, you must pre-alert at the beginning of the round - short club, strong Club, etc. This gives opponents time to discuss defense.
2. Jump shifts on any strength do not require an Alert in an uncontested auction.
3. A direct cue bid that is not Michaels, requires an Alert.
4. Support Doubles and Re-doubles no longer require an Alert.
5. Transfer's (an Announcement) - You now do not state 'transfer', but rather the name of the suit being transferred to, e.g., 1NT-2H proper Announcement is 'Spades'. Bids that show two suits or either of two suits must be Alerted. 1NT-2S - showing either or both minors.
6. When opening a non-forcing minor suit that could be short, (less than 3), proper Alert is 'Could be one'.