

Full Disclosure in Online Play

In online play, as in face-to-face bridge, you have a duty to disclose your methods fully to your opponents. However, the way that you do this is very different. Players alert and explain their *own* calls and plays, in a way that is visible to the opponents but not to partner. If you want an explanation of a call or carding agreement, etc, ask the player making the call or signal in private, not their partner.

As always, you are entitled to know all of your opponents' relevant *agreements*, and they yours, but not what is in their hand – if someone has psyched, forgotten an agreement, mislicked, etc, there is no obligation to disclose that.

You use a combination of the **Chat** feature and the **Alert** feature to communicate explanations and questions on BBO.

When you make a call, there is an optional text box in which you can type an explanation of your call, and an **Alert** button that indicates that you are alerting the call. Once again, anything you type in this box is visible *only* to your opponents. When you use this feature, your call will be highlighted in the auction. When you see a highlighted call, an explanation should also be visible initially and when you hover the mouse over the call. If you want to ask a player what an unhighlighted call means, you can click on that call – the player in question will see a pop-up box asking for an explanation, but will not know which opponent has asked. Use this mechanism for “standard” announcements: NT range, transfer, “could be short”, etc. Be aware that not all players make these announcements; if they do not, you could and should assume that they are playing Standard American Yellow Card agreements with respect to 1NT openings and responses and 1NT overcalls (so major-suit transfers and strong NT are assumed as default, but should be announced by the bidder anyway for clarity).

If you want to communicate outside this mechanism, you can select **->Opponents** as the destination of your chat message to ensure that your message is visible to both opponents but not partner, or you can click on a specific opponent at the table to direct a message only to them.

When a player asks you a question about your methods, explain as fully and accurately as time allows, even if you think that the answer should be obvious or that they should already know. An answer on the lines of “it’s just bridge” is neither helpful nor courteous. If you don’t have an agreement but expect partner to guess, say so (for example “Undiscussed, pd might guess GF with exactly 3 sp” or “Undiscussed but std is 5+ H, 1RF”). If you’re taking a shot in the dark, say so (“Undiscussed, pd has to guess”).

Finally, sometimes a director will ask you a question relating to a director call that someone at the table has made, or some other matter necessary for running the game. When this happens, you *must* respond promptly; unfamiliarity with the Chat mechanism is not an acceptable excuse, and failure to answer a TD may well result in a board adjustment that will not be in your favor.

Here are some useful abbreviations that are widely used in explanations (but the variety is endless!)

GF	Game forcing
1RF	Forcing 1 round (also just RF)
Inv	Invitational
Inv+	Invitational or better
Xfer	Transfer (also Trans, Tfer, etc)
KC	Keycard (also 0314, 1430, RKC, RKCB, etc)
3+	3 or more cards in the suit bid OR 3 or more points, depending on context