

"ANNOUNCING"

Announcements apply to **NATURAL** opening bids of:-

- a) 1NT,
- b) 2 of a natural suit opening bids.

They also apply to Standard Stayman (where 2♦/♥/♠/ are the only available bids) and Red-suit Transfers responses to a natural 1NT opening but NOT over 2NT

This is quite simple and the partner of the bidder announces only the basic meaning of the bid - opponents can ask for clarification if appropriate.

1NT

If partner opens 1NT then you announce only the point range (e.g. 12-14 or 15-17 etc.).

If you have an **agreement** that you may open 1NT with a singleton then you add that comment to your point range - "may have a singleton".

By definition, if your 1NT bid doesn't fall into this category then it is not natural and has to be alerted - as it has always been.

Over partner's 1NT:-

If you play Standard Stayman and bid 2C then your partner simply announces "Stayman". If you play one of the less usual versions of Stayman such as Five-card Stayman or Puppet Stayman then this must be alerted as before.

If you play Red-suit Transfers then if your bid of 2D shows at least 5 Hearts partner simply says "Hearts"; and if your bid of 2H shows at least 5 Spades partner simply says "Spades".

All other bids over 1NT that are not natural require alerting.

Any bid over 1NT that is not announced or alerted is, by definition, natural and is a weak take-out.

2 of a natural suit openings

If you open a 2 of-a-suit bid and it is natural then, instead of alerting, you announce in one of the following ways:-

- a) "weak" if you play weak 2s
- b) "strong, forcing" if you play strong 2s and partner must respond
- c) "strong, not forcing" if you play strong 2s but partner doesn't have to respond
- d) "intermediate" if you play anything between 'weak' and 'strong' such as a Precision 2C

All other 2 of-a-suit bids are alertable, such as an Acol 2C, a multi-2D or Lucas Twos.

There is now NO 2 level suit opening bid that does not have to be alerted or announced so if your opponents fail to alert or announce a 2 level suit opening they should be politely reminded that they have forgotten the new rules,

Changes to the Alerts Procedure

It is no longer required to alert a short suit opening that may contain only 3 cards. If less than 3 this must be alerted

All bids above 3NT except conventional openings and lead directing doubles that ask for a suit other than the suit doubled should not be alerted.

Doubles of natural suit opening bids (inc Short, Nebulous, Prepared & Phoney minor openings) are not alertable if for Take Out, Alertable otherwise.

Doubles of conventional opening bids that do not show the suit bid are not alertable if they show that suit. Alertable otherwise

Doubles of 1NT are not alertable if for penalties. Alertable otherwise

ANNOUNCING AND ALERTING SUMMARY

Opening Bid	Description	Announce	Alert	No Action
1♣ And 1♦	Could be on fewer than 3 cards		✓	
	Could be as few as 3 cards			✓
	Other (strong, artificial)		✓	
1NT	Balanced	“12 to 14” (or appropriate range) and, if relevant, “may contain a singleton”		
2♣	Strong, Acol, Benji Acol, etc		✓	
	Precision	“Intermediate”		
2♦	Weak with diamonds	“Weak”		
	Strong with diamonds	“Strong, forcing” or “Strong non-forcing”		
	Other (Benji, Multi, etc)		✓	
2♥/♠	Weak with hearts/ spades	“Weak”		
	Strong with hearts/ spades	“Strong, forcing” or “Strong non-forcing”		
	Other (Lucas, Flannery, etc)		✓	
Responses to 1NT				
1NT - 2♣	Simple Stayman (promissory or not)	“Stayman”		
1NT - 2♣ - 2♦	Denies 4 card major			✓
1NT - 2♦	Transfer	“Hearts”		
1NT - 2♦ - 2♥	Completion of transfer			✓
1NT - 2♥	Transfer	“Spades”		
1NT - 2♥ - 2♠	Completion of transfer			✓
Bids above 3NT				
Bids above 3NT	artificial opening bids		✓	
	Other bids			✓

Action over Opponents' calls				
Opponents Call ...	Meaning of their call ...	If your Double is ...	Alert	No Action
A suit at any level	Natural	Take-out		✓
		Anything else	✓	
	Does not show the suit (i.e. conventional or not natural)	Showing the suit doubled		✓
		Anything else	✓	
A suit opening	Prepared, Phoney, Short or Nebulous opening	Take-out		✓
		Anything else	✓	
No trumps at any level	Natural or conventional	Penalty		✓
		Anything else	✓	
Opponents Call ...	Meaning of their call ...	If your Redouble is ...	Alert	No Action
Double	Any meaning	for business, shows strength: partner is expected to pass		✓
		Partner is expected to remove	✓	
Opponents Call ...	Meaning of their call ...	Other actions ...	Alert	No Action
Above 3NT	Any meaning	Lead directing pass	✓	
		Lead directing double for a different suit to the one doubled	✓	
		Lead directing redouble for a different suit to the one redoubled	✓	
		Any other pass, double or redouble		✓