



SUNSHINE COAST BRIDGE CLUB

PRE-ALERTS

The ABF Alerting Regulations require players to pre-alert their opponents to any calls in their system that might have an unexpected meaning. These pre-alerts should be made known to the opponents at the beginning of each round.

Pre-alerts should be recorded on your system card in the section headed Pre-Alerts in the middle of the front page. You should also verbally tell your opponents of your pre-alerts, but this can be done briefly (e.g. "some of our low level doubles have special meanings") and refer them to the Pre-Alerts section of the card for full details if they are interested.

Just because you will be alerting a bid during the auction does not remove the need to pre-alert. In some cases, the opponents may want to work out a defence and once the auction has started it is too late.

Failure to pre-alert is similar to failing to alert during the auction, and the director may award an adjusted score when damage has occurred.

Below are some common conventions that we believe need pre-alerting.

Always pre-alert:

- **Basic system (Precision, Standard, Acol, 2-over-1 etc)**
- **Style 2-level opening bids (Multi-2's, all, Weak 2's, Benjamin 2's, Flannery etc)**

Pre-alert these if your system includes them:

- **Transfers responses after 1C opening i.e. 1C – 1H where 1H shows spades**
- **Transfer pre-empts e.g. Opening 2H which shows a weak spades hand, or NAMYATS**
- **Doubles or re-doubles with special meanings i.e. showing weakness**
- **Unbalanced 1NT openings**
- **Highly unusual carding e.g. leading low from a doubleton**
- **Unusual meanings for bids that have a generally accepted meaning e.g. 2C following 1NT that does not ask for majors**
- **Systemic penalty-oriented doubles that might look like take-out e.g. 1S – 2X - X**

If you're not sure if one of your conventions warrants a pre-alert, consider whether the opponents might need to work out a defence in advance. This may apply for example if you make 1-level transfer bids and they may want to assign a meaning if they double the bid suit or bid the requested suit. Also, in the case of bids that cannot be alerted like doubles and cues, consider whether an opponent may make a different call during the auction if they knew the meaning.

Remember, a general rule that applies to all alerts (pre-alerts, alerts and post-alerts), if in doubt, alert it.

Peter Busch, Games Director

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