

CHANGES TO ALERTING RULES

From August 1 2013, there will be an important change to alerting regulations in Australia.

When you open 1♣ or a natural 1NT, there will be no need to alert the bid by circling. Instead, opener's partner must automatically "announce" (without waiting to be asked) the essential meaning of the particular bid.

For a natural **1NT opening**, this announcement is the **strength range**.

Partner says – "15 to 17", or "12 to 14" (or whatever).

For a **"Standard American" type 1♣ opening** explanations vary according to the number of Clubs it guarantees. Partner announces "4+ clubs", or "3+ clubs" etc.

For a **strong 1♣ system such as Precision** the announcement will be the **point count range**.

Partner will announce "strong, at least 16 points".

AT ECBC ONLY "short club" openings (fewer than 3) and Precision "1C" openings **will still be circled when the announcement is made**. This is for recording purposes only for our bidding records maintained on the website. At all other venues the circling of the opening "1C" bid in these systems **must not be made** (simply make the announcement).

For other systems, such as Polish Club, where there are multiple meanings to a "1C", the announcement would be "Unusual". Opponents can then ask supplementary questions. Again, **at ECBC ONLY** this bid would also be circled.

Please note that announcements only apply to OPENING bids and not to overcalls, such as a 1NT overcall which is usually always strong (If it is not strong it must be alerted).

The need to ask questions about openings will largely be removed by the introduction of these announcements. It will avoid many of the inopportune and sometimes "pointed" enquiries which occur from time to time. Announcements have been successfully used in both England and the United States for a number of years, and it is felt that the use of the same approach will be beneficial in Australia.

OTHER ALERTING REMINDERS

The following bids **MUST** be **alerted** by the bidder's partner, who will **circle** the bid and saying "Alert"

1. Strong 2C openings (Standard American) and the initial response to that 2C bid
2. **Strong** 2D/2H/2S bids where they occur (as with some players at ECBC)
3. **Transfers** after a 1NT or 2NT opening (as well as the response by the NT opener!)
4. **Jacoby 2NT** responses to a major/minor opening.
5. **Inverted minors** where the normal "2C/2D" response to a "1C/1D" opening shows 10+ TP and "3C/3D" response to the "1C/1D" opening only shows only 6-9 TP
6. **"Forcing Passes"** or "Passes" where there is another meaning to the normal "nothing to say".
7. "Multi-Two" openings and their initial responses.

The following bids must **NOT** be alerted:

1. "Cue" bids (bids of a suit previously bid by the opponents). This includes all forms of Michael's Cue-Bids (e.g. "2C" overcall over a "1C" opening) and "Cue Raises" where an overcaller bids an opponent's suit to show a fit with partner and "10+ TP"
2. Stayman (2C response to a 1NT opening)
3. DOUBLES or REDOUBLES can never be alerted (standard rule of bridge)
4. Bids over the 3NT level (therefor includes all "Ace asking" bids and their responses)
5. Cue bids for slam (even below 3NT level)