

Alerts during the Auction

1. Announcing of 1C and Natural 1NT opening bids

The partner of a Player who makes a 1C or Natural 1NT **opening** bid, shall promptly alert the opponents by announcing their systemic agreement using the following descriptions:

For 1C opening bids in;

Natural (Green) systems

- The appropriate length of the club should be announced i.e. ("2 plus", "3 plus", "4 plus", etc)
- **For Strong Club (Blue Systems)**
The word "**Strong**" together with the minimum **HCP** holding (e.g. 16+) should be announced
- **For system options other than those above (e.g. a Polish 1C)**
The word "**Unusual**" should be used
- **For a Natural 1NT opening bid:**
"12 to 14" (or the appropriate range)
- **Note: For Mistaken Announcements**
 - The opening bidder may not correct the error during the auction nor may he/she indicate in any manner that a mistake has been made. If at the end of the auction he/she is to be declarer or dummy, then the Director must be called before the opening lead is made and his/her opponents informed that in his opinion an error has been made. If he/she is a defender, the Director must be called at the end of play, but not earlier **Law 20F5**.
 - The opening bidder must carefully avoid taking any advantage of unauthorised information arising from an incorrect announcement by partner, **Law 16B** may apply.
 - For calls made by opponent that are based on the incorrect announcement of the system agreement, **Law 21B** applies.

2. You must promptly alert any other call during the auction if it is conventional (see Alerting procedure below)

Delayed Alerts

At the end of the auction, the declaring side should draw attention to any unusual features, particularly any unusual non-alerted calls. Upon enquiry, you must disclose fully, not only the specific meanings of all calls, but also any inferences you have drawn from the auction based on partnership experience (as distinct from general bridge knowledge). These explanations may occasionally need to include negative inferences, such as hand types partner probably does not have for his/her bidding. Defenders must not, at this time, draw attention to their own calls, nor voluntarily offer explanations (they must of course fully disclose upon enquiry).

Takeout/negative-type doubles and penalty doubles do not require a delayed alert. If interested, the opening leader should enquire before leading, or his/her partner may enquire after the opening lead has been made face down.

Alerting Procedure

Any bid or pass that requires an alert must be alerted promptly by the partner of the person making the call using the method described in the Alerting Regulations/Written Bidding. when using written bidding, for alerts with bidding boxes without screens and page for alerts with screens, or as amended by supplementary regulations for the event.)

Note: Alerts are compulsory and you may not ask the opponents not to alert.

Self-alerting calls should not be alerted.

Delayed alerts should be indicated by a small plus sign (+) in one corner of the appropriate square of the bidding pad as evidence of the delayed alert. (If bidding boxes are in use, the declaring side should verbally indicate which unusual calls require a delayed alert.)

A Player may not be sure whether a call should be alerted. This could be because the Player has forgotten the agreement, has forgotten whether there is an agreement, or is unsure whether an agreement applies. In such cases, it is generally safer to alert the call and, if asked, explain the circumstances. However, the uncertainty about the meaning of the call is unauthorised information to the Player's partner.

Do not explain your alerted calls or delayed alerted calls unless a request has been made.