

Alerting Policy applicable when screens are not in use.

[Comments in italics are for clarification purposes only, they are not part of this policy.]

Procedure:

ALERTS

The partner of the player who has just made an alertable call says “ALERT” and (if bidding boxes are in use) displays the ALERT card.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regulatory Authorities may designate specific calls as requiring an announcement instead of an alert. The partner of the player who has just made an alertable call simply makes the designated announcement instead *[e.g. “Stayman”]*.

The ALERT card is not used.

MANDATORY

All alerts which satisfy the requirements for an alert must be alerted; Regulatory Authorities may not waive this requirement even for common bids. RAs are however encouraged to substitute announcements for such common bids.

[This is intended to assist players from outside the RAs region; they might not understand a particular announcement but they will recognise that an alert has been made].

Definitions:

NATURAL SUIT BID

A Natural Suit Bid is one that promises 3 or more cards in the same suit as that bid AND does not convey any further information.

[e.g. A multi-Landy 2H bid is ostensibly natural but it fails this test as it also promises 4 or more cards in a second suit. It does not matter whether the denomination of the second suit is specified or not.

A ‘fit jump’ fails for the same reason.]

BALANCED HAND

A hand that doesn’t contain a singleton or void and has no suit containing more than 5 cards.

Calls Required to be Alerted

OPENING BIDS

An opening suit bid is alertable if it is not a Natural Suit Bid.

An opening suit bid is also alertable if the bid is forcing.

[A suitable announcement may be "Natural and forcing".]

An opening NT bid is alertable if it does not promise a Balanced Hand.

[A suitable announcement might be "may contain a singleton" or "may contain a 6-card minor".]

SUBSEQUENT BIDS

A suit bid is alertable if it is not a Natural Suit Bid.

A bid of a new suit (not previously shown by the partnership via a natural or conventional bid) is normally considered to be forcing; the bid should be alerted if it is non-forcing.

[A suitable announcement may be "Natural and non-forcing".]

CALLS OTHER THAN BIDS

Doubles and redoubles are not normally required to be alerted; however, a Regulatory Authority can impose such a requirement

Passes must be alerted if they are forcing.

LIMIT of REQUIREMENT

Calls made above 3NT are not to be alerted unless they have a particularly unusual meaning.

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