

The following topics were discussed and approved by the SABF and are in force with immediate effect – The SABF supplementary regulations as well as the convention control regulations will have to be amended

- **Doubles:**

Doubles **not** needing an alert: (unless playing with screens)

Any double during the first 8 calls of an auction is assumed to be for take-out, except a double of NT opening which is deemed to be for penalties.

Any double after the first 8 calls of an auction that is penalty orientated.

Doubles needing an alert:

All other doubles including those that partially fall within the ambit of the above but carry an additional special meaning which is a partnership agreement, e.g. support doubles, snapdragon doubles etc.

- **Weak-bids**

The rules of 12 or 15 are no longer applicable. A weak 2 or 3 opening or overcall is deemed to be less than an opening bid. Players must announce their range which should be no more than six points; i.e. 0-5, 6-11. This range does not apply to opening or overcalling in third position as well as after a precision opening by an opponent.

- **Mis-bids for artificial overcalls**

Mis-bids of artificial overcalls which cause confusion to the opponents shall be treated as misinformation and a score adjustment may be necessary. The offending pair may also receive a procedural penalty. A second mis-bid will result in banning the players from using this particular convention.

- **Opening of 1nt as per acbl**

A NT opening or overcall is natural, if by agreement it contains no void, at most one singleton which must be the A, K or Q and no more than two doubletons. If the hand contains a singleton, it may have no doubleton. The 'new' announcement therefore only needs to state the range which may not exceed 4 high card points. Players who overcall NT with a SMALL singleton need to alert this as well as the range.

- **Bids over 3NT**

Artificial bids above 3NT during the first or second round bidding should be alerted.

- **Pre-alerting special bids**

The regulations require that players disclose their system at the start of play. Unusual systems are often not acceptable at club level without permission. Convention cards are a requirement at red point and national events. Players should carry a suggested defense to any special systems at Category A events and they must check with the Tournament Director whether their bids fall into the HUM **category when they need to be approved by the SABF.**

- **Alerting Passes** – in the pre-amble to the alerting paragraph in the regulations it already states that ALL bids whether conventional or natural should be alerted if they contain a specific meaning that the opponents may not be aware of. Passes that contain a specific meaning at the one or two level should be alerted. See the example below

1♠ (p) 1♥ (1♠) p by opener = does not have 4 or 3 of partner's ♥