

Changes To The EBU Blue Book – (Simplified)

Announcing

1. After a 1NT opening bid, if partners response of 2♠ or 2NT is a transfer to Clubs/Diamonds showing that suit, you should now announce “Clubs” or “Diamonds” (previously alerted). If 2♠ or 2NT shows both minors, or could be either minor, then the bid is still alerted – only announce if the bid shows just one suit.
2. For many pairs playing 5-card majors, a 1NT response to a suit opening bid can be wide-ranging (i.e. not necessarily a maximum of 10 points). In this case if the 1NT is wide ranging and non-forcing, it should be announced (“...up to 11 hcp” or “...up to a bad 12 hcp”. If wide-ranging and forcing it must be alerted.
3. If playing a “2/1” system, a new natural suit at the 2-level is “game-forcing, and this must now be announced “...game forcing”
4. If playing a transfer response to a 1♣ opening, the responder must now announce the suit shown by the response – e.g. 1♣ – p – 1♥ – this is now announced as “spades”. (Similar to the announcement of a transfer response to 1NT)
5. A natural strong 2NT opening bid is no longer announced.
6. A natural 1NT overcall in second seat, that by partnership agreement may be made on significantly less than 15 HCP, or contain a small singleton or doubleton in opener’s naturally bid suit, must now be announced.

Strong and non-strong opening bids

The definition of a “strong” opening bid has been changed. For a strong 1♣ (or strong 1♦) the requirement is now 13 or more HCP (previously 16 HCP or 12+ with 5 Controls). For other strong bids (for example, opening 2♣ or 2♦) the requirement is 16 or more HCP, except if there are two suits with 13HCP concentrated in the two suits. This also applies to strong artificial overcalls. The rules for non-strong bids at the two-level and three-level have also been simplified.

The full announcing and alerting summary can be viewed at <https://welshbridgeunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/announcements-table.pdf>

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