

Dear Foreign Player,

This information is intended to help you understand the systems and alerting regulations that are in force at bridge events in Poland. As you may expect, the main difference compared to WBF/EBL regulations, is that the artificial 1♣ opening, which is standard among Polish players, is not alertable. Another probably surprising difference is that the very popular artificial two-suited opening bids 2♦ and 2NT are not alertable either.

SYSTEMS POLICY

This document is based on international regulations. As you may know, the categories in WBF systems classification are: Green (natural), Blue (e.g. strong club), Red (Polish Club and some other systems) and Yellow (highly unusual methods). However in Poland, because Polish Club systems are treated as natural, we have only 3 types of systems: Green (natural or Polish-Club-based), Blue and Yellow.

You do not need a convention card if you play a Green system, provided that you do not play any special agreements, such as transfers in competition, 2♣/♦/♥ opening as weak with both majors, 1NT opening outside 11-18 range, etc. You do need a convention card if you play any of these special agreements or if you play a Blue system. Yellow systems are forbidden in most competitions.

The other important difference between PBU and WBF regulations is that both 2♦ wilkosz (weak 2-suiter) and 2♦ multi openings are the exceptions to the "Brown Sticker" definition (in WBF - only multi is an exception). The same exceptions work for 2♦ wilkosz/multi overcall after 1♣ opening. We didn't provide a full translation of this document. When in doubt, please ask TD about the details.

ALERTING POLICY

We did our best to create an accurate translation. However, the original Polish version is the only one officially in force.

The most important rules are as below. (This summary is not precise, we encourage to refer to the full translated document).

1. Openings:

- you don't alert Polish 1♣,
- you don't alert better minor 1♣ but you must alert better-minor 1♦ (1♦ without alert must promise 4+ diamonds),
- you don't alert 1NT if its range is contained in 14-18 (provided it shows no-trump distribution) but you must alert weak 1NT,
- you don't alert 2♣ precision, you must alert strong 2♣,
- you don't alert 2♦ wilkosz (weak 2-suiter), you must alert e.g. 2♦ multi (which is also very popular) or natural 2♦,
- you don't alert 2NT with both minors, you must alert natural strong 2NT.

2. Responses:

- you don't alert negative 1♦ after 1♣, you must alert the natural one,
- you don't alert 2♣ stayman and 2♦/♥ transfers after 1NT.

3. You don't alert Michaels cue bid or 2-suited 2NT jump overcall.
4. You don't alert almost all doubles (with a few exceptions).
5. You don't alert anything above 3NT, with the exception of artificial openings (such as 4♣/♦ showing ♥/♠) or overcalls (such as "leaping" and "non-leaping" 2-suiters).

POLISH BRIDGE UNION ALERTING POLICY

In all events held under the auspices of the Polish Bridge Union, each player is responsible for warning their opponents about their unusual bidding agreements. This responsibility should be fulfilled both before the round starts, by showing the convention cards to the opponents, and also during the play, by alerting the calls. This document specifies which calls require alerting.

The regulations specified here are in force unless the tournament organizer publishes their own rules. Moreover, tournament organizer (by making appropriate provisions in the conditions of contest) and PBU are allowed to publish extensions and interpretations of those rules.

The clause "you don't alert" means, additionally, that in the specified sequence you must alert all the other, even natural, meanings of a given call. In the sequences not specified here, you must alert artificial calls and those natural calls that could be surprising to the opponents (for example, because of non-standard agreements regarding strength). In special cases, such as playing against inexperienced or foreign opponents, you should always alert all the calls that could be surprising to the opponents, even if they are defined as non-alertable by the provisions below.

In doubtful situations, it is recommended that you alert, according to the general guideline that superfluous alert is less harmful than the lack of an alert.

Rules 1-3 are in force both with and without screens.

1. You do not alert the following opening bids:

- 1♣/♦/♥/♠ according to standard Polish systems ("Wspólny Język" or "Strefa") or other systems in which the lower limit of strength is consistent with generally accepted standards and the opening shows length in the suit bid 2+/3+ (but not 4+; 1♣), 4+/5+ (1♦), 5+ (1♥/♠);
- 1NT – with strength contained in 14-18, with no-trump distribution without shortage;
- 2♣ – with the strength of constructive opening (about 11-14), with distribution 6+♣ or 5♣4♥/♠ (*precision*);
- 2♦ – preemptive (about 6-10) two-suiter 5-5 with at least one major (*wilkosz*);
- 2♥/♠ – preemptive (about 6-10) with 6+ suit bid;
- 2NT – preemptive (about 6-10), two-suiter 5-5 with both minors;
- 3♣/♦/♥/♠ – preemptive with 6+/7+ suit bid, regardless of the agreements about strength and suit quality;
- 3NT – with solid 7-card minor (*gambling*), regardless of the agreements about stoppers in side suits.

2. You do not alert the following responses after partner's opening bid:

- 1♦ after 1♣ – negative (with possible additional variants: semi-positive with minor(s), strong (13+, 16+ etc.) without 4-card major);
- 2♣ after 1NT – Stayman convention, provided that bidding it promises 4-card major;
- 2♦/♥ after 1NT – transfer showing 5+ hearts/spades;

3. After opponent's 1-level opening you do not alert the following overcalls:

- natural preemptive jump overcalls;
- overcalls in opponent's suit, after natural opening showing 4+ cards, which show two-suited hand of at least 5-5 with the highest of the unbid suits and with an unknown second suit, regardless of the agreements about the strength of such overcall;

- 2NT overcall, after natural opening showing 4+ cards, showing a two-suited hand of at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits, regardless of the agreements about the strength of such overcall.

Rules 4-5 are in force only when playing without screens. When screens are in use, you should alert doubles and calls at the 4 level and higher if they have a non-standard meaning.

4. You do not alert any doubles, excluding the following (but see 5 below):
 - you must alert a "bi" double of an opponent's opening;
 - you must alert a lead-directing double of an artificial bid if that double doesn't encourage the lead of the suit of the doubled bid (e.g. "anti-double" or double that suggests leading specific suit other than the one doubled);
 - you must alert a double which is a transfer.
5. You do not alert any calls during the auction at the 4 level or higher, except artificial suit opening bids and artificial suit overcalls after opponent's opening bid.

Detailed Notes

Clarifications regarding the wording in Alerting Policy

1. By "no-trump distribution without shortage" (in the description of non-alertable 1NT opening) we mean: 4333, 4432, 5332 with any 5-card suit, 5422 with a 5-card minor, 6322 with a 6-card minor.
2. Regulation 2 of the Alerting Policy (about responses to partner's opening) applies only to uncontested bidding, so you must alert:
 - stayman and transfers after 1NT and opponent's double or overcall;
 - stayman and transfers after a 1NT overcall (not opening);
 - negative 1♦ over 1♣ and opponent's double.
3. Exemption from alerting for stayman and transfers applies to any 1NT opening, regardless of its strength.
4. Two-suited overcalls in opponent's suit are not alertable, provided that:
 - the opening showed 4+ suit (so after 1♣ from Polish systems and after natural 3+ 1♣ you do not alert a natural 2♣ overcall),
 - the overcall promises at least 5-5 distribution,
 - the overcall promises length in the highest of the unbid suits,
 - the second long suit is unknown (so if the overcall specifies both suits – you must alert).
5. Two-suited 2NT overcall after 1-level opening is not alertable if it shows 5-5 distribution with both lowest suits, excluding the suit specified by the opening as 4+ cards. For example, unalerted [1♣]-2NT after the opening from Polish systems or after 3+ opening shows both minors, but unalerted [1♠]-2NT shows diamonds and hearts if the opening promises 4+ clubs.
6. By "bi" double after an opponent's opening we mean a double, which may be made with less than the standard strength of constructive opening or with shortness in one of the unbid suits but without extra strength.

Other regulations

1. A response in a new suit after partner's opening in an uncontested auction (*one over one, two over one*) needs to be alerted if it is non-forcing.
2. A 1-level response in a new suit after partner's opening bid needs to be alerted (both in the uncontested auction and after an overcall, e.g. 1♦-[1♥]-1♠), if it promises a 5-card suit.
3. A 2♦ response after 1♦ opening bid needs to be alerted when it is forcing (e.g. 10+ or GF – *inverted raise*). You do not alert it when it is a non-forcing raise (with about 6-9 strength).
4. You do not alert preemptive raises of the opening suit (1♦-3♦, 1♥-3♥, 1♠-3♠). However, you do need to alert the invitational raises.
5. You do not alert a new suit jump response (e.g. 1♥-3♣) if it is natural and forcing. You do need to alert if the response is natural and invitational.
6. A 2♣ response to a 1 of a suit opening bid needs to be alerted if it does not promise 4+ clubs.

7. The artificial responses listed below need to be alerted despite being very popular:
 - a) 2♦ relay after 2♣ precision opening,
 - b) negative 2♦ after 2♣ acol opening,
 - c) 2♥ (also 2♠, 3♥, etc.) pass or correct after 2♦ wilkosz or multi openings.
8. Opener's 2♣ rebid after a 1♣ opening doesn't need to be alerted, neither as non-forcing, nor as forcing. Also a 2-level rebid in a new suit doesn't have to be alerted – neither as natural reverse (with long clubs), nor as showing strong hand with the suit bid.
9. The convention *fourth suit forcing* – operational bid – needs to be alerted.
10. After partner's opening and opponent's overcall bids by responder:
 - a) at 2 level – you do not alert when it is natural and non-forcing,
 - b) at 1 or 3 level – you do not alert when it is natural and forcing.
11. You do not alert the raise of opener's suit after opponent's takeout double (such as 1♥-[dbl]-2♥) neither as constructive (about 7-9), nor as weaker (about 4-6).
12. You do not alert "negative information", such as:
 - a) opener's pass showing strength 0-7 (when you open any hands with 8+ strength),
 - b) natural overcall in a minor suit denying 4-card major (when playing Raptor 1NT overcall).
13. After opponent's double of partner's artificial bid (such as 2♦ *multi* opening or overcall), you do not alert a pass showing the possibility to play in the suit doubled. You do need to alert other meanings.