Conventional Wisdom

Filling out the convention card — part 9



2 ◆ , 2 ▼ , 2 ♠ For each of these opening two-bids, write the high-card range in the spaces provided. Be sure to check the appropriate box to indicate the type of hand these bids describe. For example, if you play 2 ▼ as a weak two-bid, check the "Weak" box. If you like strong two-bids, check the "Strong" box. If you play 2 ◆ as Flannery, however, showing the majors, check the "Conv." (conventional) box.

A L E R T If you assign these twobids any meaning other than natural and weak, you must Alert the opponents. The Alert is required even for strong two-bids.

DESCRIBE Anything of relevance regarding your style for these opening bids goes here. For example, if you frequently open a weak two-bid with a five-card suit, make a note of it here.

RESPONSES/REBIDS There are many ways to respond to an opening two-bid. Briefly describe what the responses mean in this space.

mean in this space.

NOTE: Regardless of its
meaning, a 2NT response to an opening
bid of 2 ♠, 2 ♥ or 2 ♠ does not require an
Alert. Many of opener's rebids following a
2NT response, however, are Alertable.



Consider these auctions:

You Partner 2 ♦ 3 ♣

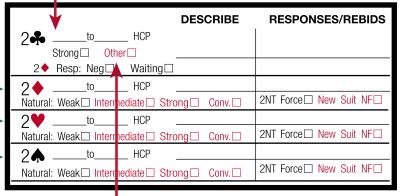
2♥ 2♠

In both cases, you have opened with a weak two-bid. Partner, who is not a passed hand, responds in a new suit. Most play that a new suit is forcing, but if you and your partner agree that opener may pass, you must Alert the opponents and check the RED New Suit NF (non-forcing) box.

2♣ Many players — especially those who employ "standard" or two-over-one systems — use 2♣ to show any hand that is very strong: everything from big, balanced hands to powerful one-, two- or three-suiters. If you play it this way, check the "Strong" box.

In the spaces provided to indicate the high-card strength of the bid, many players simply indicate the minimum number of points needed to open 2. For example, it's common to see players write "22 +" in the high-card range spaces.

RULE



While it is popular to define 2 • openers in terms of trick-taking ability, ACBL regulations and the General Convention Chart do not permit players to use a 2 • opening with hands that contain a long, strong suit, but that have little outside strength.

Players who use a big-club system such as Precision typically define $2 \clubsuit$ as a limited opening hand with a long club suit. If this is your approach, check the RED "Other" box, and Alert the opponents. If $2 \clubsuit$ shows, for example, 11 to 15 HCP, write the range in the spaces provided.

2 ♦ Resp: When your partner opens 2 ♣ (strong), what does 2 ♦ mean? Does it show a bad hand? If so, check the Neg (negative) box. If 2 ♦, however, is simply a waiting bid to allow opener to describe his hand, check the Waiting box. Neither treatment is Alertable.

DESCRIBE Anything else of relevance regarding your 2♣ openings goes in this space

RESPONSES/REBIDS Use this space to briefly outline other responses to 2. If, for example, your responses show number of high-card points or controls, write it here.

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