

# Lawson Bridge Studio News February 2021

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In light of the Shelter-in-Place order and the reopening stages as well as the current surges in COVID-19 cases in Chicago, there will be no games scheduled until it is safe to hold them.

Thanks to those who are enjoying playing bridge online and designating Lawson Bridge Studio as their club to support.

**Lawson Bridge Studio website:** The dropdown menus are not working on the home page. This has happened sometime within December as I was able to post the December 2020 newsletter. Since the website was posted in January 2013 and host company updates have been maintained, with the changes in web structures it appears that the website will need to be upgraded structurally.

**Marlene Shatkin** passed on December 31, 2020.

**Gerald “Gerry” Landy** passed January 10, 2021. Gerry, club owner and club manager with the ACBL, started the club from the Lawson Bridge Club when the then director passed. Gerry was active player and promoter of bridge. Hopefully we will be able to play in-person later this spring and then we will hold a charity game in his honor.

**Lawson Bridge Studio operations:** Gerry Landy was slowly transferring ACBL operations to Jerry Scholle, primary director, and finalized all operations with the transfer of club manager to Jerry in January of 2020. Thus, Lawson Bridge Studio will continue under Jerry’s direction.

**ACBL Convention Charts—Open Chart:** (This completes the open chart instructions started with the November 2020 Lawson Bridge Studio newsletter and continued each month.)

Examples

Definitions

7. **“Rule of N”:** A hand with 11 High Card Points and 5-4-3-1 distribution would meet the “Rule of 20” (11 + 5 + 4 = 20), but not the “Rule of 21” or higher.

**Alert Changes:** in the January 2021 Bridge Bulletin the following announcement was noted. “The ACBL Board of Directors unanimously approved a comprehensive update to the ACBL Alert Procedure at their November meeting, the first major overhaul in 20 years. The new procedure goes into effect Jan.1, 2021. The full document is available at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org) under the Tournament tab. Look for the green Alert Procedures tab.” If you are playing online, you should be using and when we reopen, you will be expected to be in compliance. As with anything new, you will need to work at it realizing that mistakes will be made until it is ingrained.

Using the Chrome browser this was the steps once I opened the ACBL home page:

1. Click on **Tournaments**.
2. On the left click on **Helpful Documents**.
3. Then under the heading **Tournaments**: click on **Alert Procedures**.
4. Also listed under this heading is the **New Convention Charts (effective 11/22/18)**. This is the 2/12/2020 revision from which the information for the newsletter has been taken. This revision may also be found at ([http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/CONVENTIONCHARTS2\\_2020.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/CONVENTIONCHARTS2_2020.pdf)).

The **rules for Alerts** change when playing online. Appendix O (<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AppendixO.pdf>).

The following are quoted from the 11/8/2020 Alert procedure:

The **objective of an Alert** is to indicate to the opponents that the meaning of a call is unexpected. In an ideal world we would just Alert “what the opponents don’t know.” In the real world, we don’t know what the opponents know, so we must use a set of rules instead.

**Alerts** must be made verbally by saying the word “Alert” and visually by tapping the “Alert” strip or showing the “Alert” card in the bidding box. When a call has been Alerted, an opponent, at their turn to call may ask about its meaning. The preferred form of the question is a simple “Please Explain.”

**Penalties** for failing to Alert are not automatic. However, a player who is misinformed by an opponent’s failure to Alert will be protected. A player who does not ask about an Alerted call will not be protected, even if the meaning of the call is not what they expect.