

# Lawson Bridge Studio News January 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. I working to determine the reason and how to correct.

## ACBL Convention Charts—Open Chart:

### Lead and Carding Agreements

Encrypted Signals are never allowed when leading, following suit or discarding. Otherwise:

1. Opening lead: Any method may be used on opening lead. (Leading low from doubletons must be pre-alerted.)
2. First discard: Any method may be used on the first discard.

Following Suit & Discarding: Except for the first discard, only high-to-low or low-to-high ordering strategies are allowed when following suit or discarding.

- Note: Distinct meanings for middle cards (vs. highest and lowest) are permissible.
- Note: Defining meanings for specific spots (2,4,6...), as opposed to relative high/low agreements, are permissible only on the first discard.

In addition, a pair may be prohibited from playing any carding method when they are deemed to be playing it in a manner that does not maintain proper tempo. A decision that prohibits a pair from playing a particular carding method may be appealed to the tournament committee.

## Examples

### Definitions

1. **“Natural”**: A 2H opening showing both hearts and a minor is still Natural as long as it shows a heart suit of 5 or more cards.
2. **“Quasi-Natural”**: Many, but not all “could be short” 1C or 1D catchall openings fall into this category. A “could be short” 1C or 1D that could contain a singleton below a queen in the opened minor is not Quasi-Natural.
3. **“Purely Destructive Initial Action”**: The intent here is to eliminate bids which have little or no redeeming constructive merit. Note that just because a call is not Purely Destructive does not mean that it is allowed; many calls are restricted that do not meet the definition of Purely Destructive. An overcall showing hearts or both spades and diamonds is not a Purely Destructive Initial Action, regardless of High Card Points, because it meets condition “d”, using condition “a” twice. (It contains 4+ hearts or it contains 4+ spades.) Similarly an overcall showing both red suits or both black suits is not a Purely Destructive Initial Action because it meets condition “d”. A “Cappelletti/Hamilton” 2C overcall showing a 1 suited hand is not a PDIA, as it meets condition “d” by choosing option “b” twice. An example of a PDIA overcall would be a 1S “fert” overcall, showing any 13 cards and Pass=spades. An example of a PDIA opening bid would be 1C showing 0-7 HCP any shape.
4. **“Encrypted Signal”**: This definition is lengthy and will be in next issue.
5. **“Psych”**: Generally, 2 cards fewer or an Ace weaker than the minimum expected for a bid would meet the definition of a Psych, as would an Ace stronger than the maximum expected.
6. **“Range”**: “15-17” is a range of three points (15, 16, and 17). “10-12 or 15-17” is a range of 8 points. (The difference between the extremes of 10 to 17 inclusive.) If a pair plays one NT range when Vul. or in certain seats (e.g., 15-17) and another NT range when Not Vul. or in other seats (e.g., 10-12), those are two distinct ranges of 3 points. It is only when a bid could be either 10-12 or 15-17 at the time making the bid that the range would be considered to be 8 points.

To be continued in a future Newsletter.