

Lawson Bridge Studio News March 2022

Jerome "Jerry" Scholle, editor lawsonbridgestudio@gmail.com 773-209-7089

Club Games – Rates are for each player

Games: 6:20 pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 909 West Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL

Mar 2	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 4	2021	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12
Mar 7	2021	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 6	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12
Mar 9	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 11	2021	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12
Mar 14	QTR	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 13	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12
Mar 16	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 18	2021	Upgraded OP Club Championship—\$12
Mar 21	2021	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 20	2021	Upgraded O/I P Club Championship—\$12
Mar 23	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 25		Swiss Teams ACBL Charity Fund—\$13
Mar 28	2021	Open Pairs Club Championship—\$12	Apr 27		O/I Pairs ACBL Charity Fund—\$13
Mar 30	2021	O/I Pairs Club Championship—\$12			

Special Games

To track the added special games by the league, I am identifying them by the year and our regular quarter games by QTR. The revised schedule will be posted on the website. All identified games are subject to revision when we are notified of Sectional at the Club (STaC) games. Our Unit 123 has not announced these for 2022.

COVID-19 Update

All indications are that we have passed through the worst of the pandemic and now are entering the endemic phase. There still is uncertainty about another variant of omicron known as B.2. From other countries it is not causing a wave as the previous variants. It is starting to look like creating a longer tail on the end of current wave, other words the level will be slightly higher than anticipated for the end of the wave. All indications from health officials are that we will be returning to masks being optional depending on your comfort when in a group, such as our bridge games.

Alert Procedure

The November and December 2021 Newsletters started the review of the new Alert Procedure being effective on 1/1/2021. This was the first major revision in 20 years. The synopsis of changes noted as Red Alert, may be found at <https://www.acbl.org/red-alert/> and the revision <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf>. Continuing from the December Newsletter, the final key summary of changes affecting most club play and the introductory paragraphs of the revision are:

Delayed Alerts

The rules for delayed Alerts have slightly changed, with the main difference being that at the end of the auction, the declaring side should explain any delayed Alerts and point out any control bids that were made during the auction without a requirement for the defense to ask about them. By having the declaring side explain these calls without prompting, there should be fewer cases of the person not on lead asking about calls before they should.

Learning curve

In any time of change, there will be people who make honest mistakes trying to apply the new rules, and there are no automatic penalties for making a mistake. As with the old rules, be guided by the principle that the goal of the Alert procedure is to let the opponents know what you play.

Revision Introduction

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 are not the only mechanism that provides the opponents access to information. Upon the request of an opponent, a player must fully explain the meaning of any of their partner's calls including any inferences from related auctions and from partnership experience.

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.

If you are not sure whether to Alert a call, err on the side of Alerting it. You should Alert a call that requires (or may require) an Alert even if you do not remember its meaning. However, do not Alert any call that this document says not to Alert.