

Lawson Bridge Studio News November 2021

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Club Games – Rates are for each player

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

Nov 1	Open Pairs ACBL Membership Game —\$12	Dec 1	O/I Pairs Club Championship —\$12
Nov 3	No Game Mid-Week Regional Northfield, IL	Dec 6	Open Pairs—\$12
Nov 8	O/I Pairs ACBL Membership Game —\$12	Dec 8	O/I Pairs—\$12
Nov 10	O/I Pairs—\$12	Dec 13	Swiss Teams Grass Roots Fund —\$13
Nov 15	Open Pairs Grass Roots Fund —\$13	Dec 15	O/I Pairs Grass Roots Fund —\$13
Nov 17	O/I Pairs Grass Roots Fund —\$13	Dec 20	Open Pairs—\$12
Nov 22	Open Pairs—\$12	Dec 22	O/I Pairs—\$12
Nov 24	O/I Pairs—\$12	Dec 27	Open Pairs—\$12
Nov 29	Open Pairs Club Championship —\$12	Dec 29	O/I Pairs—\$12

In Memoriam Paul Hamper and Delores Baumgart.

Mid-Week Regional:

Nov 2-4, 2021, Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, IL. Game times: 10:00 am and 2:30 pm each day.

Alert Procedure

In November 2020 the ACBL approved a new Alert Procedure taking effect on 1/1/2021. This is 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 Newly Revised Procedure at <https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures2.pdf>. The key summary of changes affecting most club play are:

Alert changes

The new Alert procedure starts from the principle that natural calls are not Alerted, and that artificial calls are Alerted. It then gives the deviations from that principle, spelling out the natural calls that must be Alerted (for example, a response to a one-level opening bid that is not forcing), and the artificial calls that do not require Alerts (for example, Stayman). The most common calls that have had their Alertability changed are as follows:

- In an uncontested auction, no natural jumpshift (whether weak, intermediate or strong) requires an Alert.
- A direct cuebid that is not Michaels (showing both majors over a minor, or a major and an unspecified minor over a major) requires an Alert.
- Support doubles and redoubles no longer require an Alert.
- An opening 2♣ bid that does not meet the definition of Very Strong requires an Alert. (This tends to apply to partnerships who agree to open 2♣ on hands with good playing strength, but many fewer high cards than normal. See the Convention Chart for the exact definition to see if it applies to you.)

Announcement changes

There were also a few changes to Announcements, with the biggest change for transfers. Instead of saying the word "transfer," the Announcement is now the name of the suit being transferred to. For example, in the auction 1NT–2♥, where partner's 2♥ showed spades, instead of Announcing "transfer," you will now Announce "spades."

This Announcement is used in any situation where your partner is showing length in a specific other suit, as well as for doubles or redoubles that show the next suit up. For example, if you play that 2♠ shows clubs in the auction 1NT–2♠, then you would announce "clubs." However, if you play that 2♠ shows either minor in the auction 1NT–2♠, then you must say "Alert," even if the 1NT opener is expected to always bid clubs.

An example of the rule for doubles is if you play that after a 1♣ opening is overcalled with 1♦, that a double shows hearts (and says nothing about spades as a traditional negative double would), then you would announce "hearts" when your partner doubled. Traditional negative doubles are never Alerted or Announced.

Instead of saying "could be short" for a non-forcing minor-suit opening that might contain fewer than three cards, you must say the minimum number of cards in the suit, as in "Could be one."

If you have the agreement to routinely bypass a four-card spade suit to bid a forcing or semi-forcing 1NT over 1♥, then you add "could have four spades" to the "forcing" or "semiforcing" Announcement. This is most likely applicable to pairs playing Flannery.