

Section 10 E Legal control of non-conventional bids

effectively replaces some very detailed restrictions, at all levels 2 – 4 with the following:

A partnership may NOT agree

- (a) to open 1♥ or 1♠ on 3 cards,
- (b) to overcall on 3 cards,
- (c) to overcall solely to show strength in the suit bid rather than length.

These rules do not necessarily apply to any artificial bids allowed by other sections.

Section 11 Permitted Agreements [Level 2 plus]

11 F2 1NT Natural opener [Level 2+] [2010] Can include (7222) with 7 card minor

11 L3 Four or more of a Suit Opening Bids [New text 2011]

Now states: South African Texas

4♣ shows a good 4♥ opener and 4♦ shows a good 4♠ opener
(text had previously caused confusion by use of word 'Strong')

11 N Defence to Natural One of a suit Opening

11 N3 Doubles [New text 2010]

These may be played as either take-out or penalty. This includes the practice of doubling on balanced hands with (near) opening values or with 3+ in any unbid major(s) without any other distributional constraints.

11 N9 No Trump Overcalls [Levels 2, 3 and 4]

1NT overcall for takeout:

1NT may be played as takeout bid (similar to a T/O X) of any agreed strength.

Natural jump overcalls: These are permitted.

Roman Jump Overcalls:

2NT shows a strong two-suiter with any unbid suits, minimum Extended Rule of 25 (see 10 B 4).

Note that other jump overcalls showing a limited two-suiter with specified suits are permitted by 11 N 7.

11 N17 [New section 2010 old N 17 et seq renumbered] – levels 3/4]

Doubles as suit transfers: It is permitted to double to show length in any one specified suit provided that the quality of the suit, and, as a minimum, its strength conform to the standards generally played for a natural call at the level that would result from the completion of the transfer.

Section 11 Permitted Agreements [Level 4]

11 C One of a Suit Opening

11 C14-17 Amended. Main change is to require any opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ to guarantee at least 4 cards in the bid suit – whether forcing or not [OB p48]

There remain other amendments to 11 C G & H which regulate the following openers:

Strong Major @ 1 level; Balanced Major @ 1 level; Either/or [Two-way] 1 club

Mixed (strong + alternatives) 2 of a suit and 2NT

Players interested in details should refer to the EBU website.

N.B. New section [2010] 11R details what is permitted at Level 5 [OB p65]

ORANGE BOOK CHANGES 2007 – 2011

Since publication of the printed version of the Orange Book 2006 each year some corrections and additions have been made. The revisions have always come into effect in August including the latest on 1 August 2011. If you download the pdf text from the EBU you will obtain the fully amended booklet. Below we summarise what has changed over the last five years; abbreviating those made in earlier years to leave space for those made in 2010 and 2011. Please note that any subsequent changes announced by the EBU will not apply in LCBA competitions in the 2011 – 12 season.

Section 3A DISCLOSURE of SYSTEM: Requirements

3 A2 Delete cross-reference to 3 B 10 (exception to requirements) - rescinded in 2008.

Section 3E Asking Questions: UI and the Potential to Mislead

This very important section was completely rewritten in 2008, but has not subsequently been changed. Having subsequently been reproduced each year in the LCBA booklet we now this year give only a very brief outline and advise any who are new to this to read the full text in the updated EBU OB on their website.

3 E1 Warns of the risks of asking unnecessary questions, and in particular leading questions – especially giving UI (unauthorised information) to partner.

3 E2 - possibly misleading declarer

3 E3 - covers fact one may in no way use partner's explanation, uncertainty, tempo or mannerisms:

3 E4 Gives an example.

3 E5 - specifically of the need to ask neutral questions. For example when asking about a 3♣ response to 2NT it is recommended to say "What does 3♣ mean?", rather than "Is that Stayman?".

3 E6 Reminder that advise also applies to for example declarer's questions about leads, signals and discards which could illegally mislead the defenders.

Section 5 D2 ANNOUNCEMENTS - Of NATURAL opening bids of 2 of a suit – A Clarification

It is permitted to make a wide-ranging **NATURAL** opening bid (in any suit) that covers more than one of the four basic announced categories (listed under **5 D 1**).

e.g. (1) Some may agree to use a natural 2 level suit bid to show a hand that might not fully meet the requirements to be called **STRONG** (see section **10 B 4** below).

As this is a **NATURAL** bid it should be announced as '**INTERMEDIATE to STRONG**' adding '**FORCING**' or '**NON-FORCING**' as appropriate.

e.g. (2) Others may agree to use a natural 2 level bid to show a weakish hand but one that might be above the upper limit of a traditional weak 2.

This should be announced as '**WEAK to INTERMEDIATE**'.

Section 5 G4 & 5 E2 DOUBLES – which must be ALERTED - Clarifications

[2011] 5 E2 Doubles are also alertable if they convey a potentially unexpected meaning in addition to take-out or penalties as defined above,

In (a) & (d) the word 'show' is defined as follows; 'It is natural, or shows willingness, in the context of the auction, to play in the suit, or it is followed by two passes (sic)'.

DOUBLES of SUIT BIDS

Normally Doubles of **NATURAL** low-level suit bids, responses or overcalls are for take-out; they **must be alerted if they are NOT for take-out**. Please note in particular that

- (i) any 'competitive', 'cooperative' or 'optional' double **MUST be alerted as these are NOT take-out doubles**, because although partner **MAY** take them out there is not a high expectation on him to do so.
- (ii) the double in the sequence 1♣ (1♦ overcall) Double **MUST** be alerted if it shows a specific suit – as this is **NOT** a take-out double either. (see **OB 4 H**)

HOWEVER if the suit bid (response or overcall) did **NOT** show **THAT** suit, then the double must be alerted unless it shows the doubled suit.

and **[2011]** 5 G4 (what must be alerted) now reads

- (g) A double of 1♦ in the sequence 1♣ (1♦) X, if it shows one specific suit since this is a potentially unexpected additional meaning.
and 5 G5 (what must not be alerted) now reads
- (a) Any 'negative' or 'responsive' double played in a traditional manner, such as 1♣ (1♠) X showing four hearts since these are examples of T/O Xs. &
- (c) (this and (d) below are new items inserted in the OB in 2011)
A take-out double of a transfer completion such as (1NT) pass (2♥) pass (2♠) X since this is deemed to show the suit bid.
- (d) A take-out double of a 'pass or correct' bid such as (2♦ multi) pass (2♠) X since this is deemed to show the suit bid.

DOUBLES of NO TRUMP Bids

General: Doubles of these bids are **ALERTABLE** unless they are **FOR PENALTIES**. In addition a so-called **PENALTY DOUBLE** of an opening natural 1NT **MUST** be **ALERTED** if the double **may have less than 15 HCP** (or compensating distribution), as it is **NOT** a **REAL** penalty double – there is not a sufficiently high expectation of it being left in by doubler's partner.

Section 6 D Scoring a Fielded Psyche, Misbid or Deviation [New 2010]

This is advice for Directors – see fully amended booklet or **[OB p32]**

Section 7 Procedures

7 A3 [New 2010] A reminder that it is an offence to remove own cards from board unless either an opponent or the Director is present. **[OB p33]**

7 B11 Bidding Box Procedures [New 2011]

Some players do not always complete the auction properly by laying a pass card on the table in the pass out seat. Usually this does not cause a problem. When a player acts in such a way as to indicate they have passed and an opening lead is faced they have passed. An action may be deemed by the TD to be a pass in the pass out seat (e.g. General 'waft' of the hand, tapping cards already there, or picking up the cards).

7 F Pauses at trick one

7 F1 It is normal for declarer to pause before playing to trick one. No inference can be or should be taken from such a pause.

7 F2 It is normal for third hand to think before playing to trick one. Such thought is normally while declarer is thinking about his play. However, sometimes declarer plays quickly from dummy. At such a time third hand may legitimately think whatever his holding in the suit, and no inference can be or should be taken from such a pause. e.g. third hand has a singleton and declarer plays quickly from dummy, it is entirely legitimate for third hand to consider the hand generally.

Section 9 Regulation of Agreements

[2010] see OB p38 & later: A new higher Level 5 has been defined and will apply to a small number of National events, which include the Tollemache. The impact on LCBA events is that a small number of methods are now precluded from Level 4 - see **11** on p4

9 B Defined Levels 9 B2 [2011]

- (a) relates to 'Novice' events played at Level 2 or Simple System events
- (b) (after) Otherwise events run by National Authorities should be at Level 4 or 5 **[2011]** (now states) **The Committee believe that this approach is better for all events and asks all authorities to consider this**

9 D9 Simple Systems Describes the changed EBU Simple System Convention Card – applicable in EBU but **NOT** LCBA events. Players intending to play in Simple System events outside the county should refer to the EBU website.

Section 10 A PAIR PLAYS AN ILLEGAL AGREEMENT [new 2010]

What to do -this is advice for Directors – see fully amended booklet or **OB p44**

Section 10 B 4 STRONG OPENING BID – CHANGE IN DEFINITION[2010]

Delete original wording **AND** changes made in 2007 and replace by:

10 B4 Strong openings are often described as '**Extended Rule of 25**' which means the minimum allowed is any of:

- a) subject to proper disclosure, a hand that contains as a minimum the normal high-card strength associated with a one-level opening and at least eight clear-cut tricks, or
 - b) any hand meeting the Rule of 25 or
 - c) any hand of at least 16 HCPs (for Examples: see revised OB.)
- Clear-cut tricks are clarified as tricks expected to make opposite a void in partner's hand and the second best suit break. (for Examples: see revised OB.)

Remember:

To be described as **STRONG** a hand **MUST** meet the "**Extended Rule of 25**". Only totally natural bids (see 5D2 above) may overlap the Intermediate - Strong boundary. See 5D2 for how to announce such hands. Although some artificial bids (e.g. Multi 2♦) may have both strong and either weak or non-strong options none of these bids may be "wide ranging strongish". (i.e. overlapping boundary in other than a specified suit)]

10 C Overall Rules for Agreements: 10 C Options 10 C2 added [2011] states

There are occasions where a call might show, e.g. 'spades and a minor'. The Laws and Ethics Committee confirms that this is 'one meaning' within the context of the regulation.