

VIII. SYSTEMS AND CONVENTIONS

A. Methods Allowed

1 In Long Knockout Matches

Any method included on the ACBL Super-Chart is allowed in a Knockout match of 60 or more boards.

2 In Round Robins and Short Knockout Matches

Only methods included on the ACBL Mid-Chart are allowed in any Round Robin phase or in a knockout match of fewer than 60 boards.

B. System Summary Form and ACBL Convention Card

1 System Summary

Each pair is required to complete a System Summary Form (SSF) on the USBF website <www.usbf.org> at least 2 weeks in advance of the Championship and have it available for their opponents the day before a match, immediately before play and during a match. If a pair files the SSF late, or fails to file it, that pair's team will lose seating rights in one segment for every day the SSF is late. The System Summary Form is attached to these General Conditions of Contest as Appendix A.

Each participant in the Championship is responsible for reviewing his or her opponents' System Summary Forms in advance. Any time in excess of 5 minutes spent at the table on preparation for methods properly described on the System Summary Form shall be charged to the players preparing for the methods and not to the players using the methods.

2 ACBL Convention Card

Each pair is required to complete an ACBL Convention Card and submit it to Jan Martel for posting on the USBF website 2 weeks in advance of the Championship and each player is required to bring the ACBL Convention Card to the table.
Provision of System Summary and Convention Card to Opponents

Upon arriving at the table, each player should give the partnership's System Summary Form and ACBL Convention Card to his or her screen mate for the screen mate's use during the match.

C. Advance Submission Form and Recommended Defense

1 Requirement for Advance Submission Forms and Defenses

Any pair employing an ACBL Super-Chart opening bid or overcall must submit an Advance Submission Form describing the method and provide a Recommended Defense to the method. Advance Submission Forms are to be completed online at www.usbf.org. The forms are attached as Appendix B to these General Conditions of Contest. Instructions for completion of Advance Submission Forms are included on the forms. Note that although unusual responses and methods for which there is an ACBL Approved Defense do not require an Advance Submission Form, they must be clearly described on the System Summary Form under "Methods that May Require Advance Preparation."

2 Methods for Which ACBL has an Approved Defense

If there is an approved defense to a method posted on the ACBL website at the closing date for entries to the USBF Championship, that defense will be acceptable as the Recommended Defense for that method and will be deemed adequate. Players using such methods are not required to file an Advance Disclosure form or recommended defense in advance, but must make that defense available to their opponents at the tournament, both on the day before a match and at the table.

3 Submission Procedure

Advance Submission Forms and Recommended Defenses shall be completed on the USBF website at least four weeks in advance of the Championship. Upon completion, they will be subject to section 4 below.

4 Review and Adequacy

Each participant in a USBF Championship is responsible for reviewing the Advance Submission Forms and Recommended Defenses submitted by other participants. Any participant who has an objection to the completeness of the Advance Submission Form or the adequacy of the Recommended Defense shall make that objection to the Conventions Committee of the USBF Championship within 1 week after the date upon which the Advance Submission Form or Defense was posted on the USBF website or 3 weeks prior to the Championship, whichever is later. If the Conventions Committee deems that the Advance Submission Form or Recommended Defense is not adequate it will require the players submitting the Advance Submission Form or Recommended Defense to improve it. No pair may employ a method if an objection has been made to the Advance Submission Form or Recommended Defense unless and until the Conventions Committee approves the Advance Submission Form or Recommended Defense.

If no objection is made to a Recommended Defense by 1 week after the date upon which it was posted on the USBF website or 3 weeks prior to the Championship, whichever is later, the Recommended Defense shall be deemed adequate, unless there were serious errors or omissions in the Advance Submission Form describing the bid for which the defense is recommended.

5 At the Championship

Each pair employing a method requiring an Advance Submission Form and Recommended Defense must bring copies of the Advance Submission Form and Recommended Defense to the Championship and make them available to their opponents both on the day preceding a match and at the table immediately prior to play.

D. Use of Written Defenses at the Table

Players may bring their own written defenses to unusual methods to the table and may refer to their own written defenses or the recommended defense provided by the opponents. For purposes of this rule, “unusual methods” are:

- 1) Any artificial opening bid that does not promise above average values
- 2) Any artificial response that promises neither 4 or more cards in a known suit nor game invitational values, except a response to a Strong, Artificial opening bid.
- 3) Any artificial overcall that does not promise 9 or more cards in two known suits.

E. Exception to Advance Submission Requirement

If any pair desires to employ a Mid-Chart or Super-Chart method for which they did not submit an Advance Submission Form and Recommended Defense as required under section C above, they may do so if and only if:

- 1) at least one other pair in the Championship submitted an Advance Submission Form and Recommended Defense for the method in a timely manner, and
- 2) if the pair desiring to play the method had submitted an Advance Submission Form it would have been identical to that submitted with regard to weak meanings for any bid.

F. Additional Convention Regulations

1 Use of Method without Compliance with Section C above

If a pair uses a method requiring an Advance Submission Form and written defense without having complied with Section C above, in addition to any possible score correction under the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, the DIC shall

impose a 3 imp procedural penalty for each offense. Requests for application of this penalty shall expire at the beginning of the next segment of play.

2 Accessibility of System Notes.

If requested by a director, appeals committee or recorder, pairs shall produce any written agreements or system notes. Pairs who do not make their notes available or do not have their system notes on site may get the worst of any ruling or inquiry dependent on partnership understandings.