

ALERT!

What bids are alertable? Any convention in **RED** on the current ACBL convention card. Also, alert any **partnership agreement** not obvious to your opponents. (Conventions in **BLUE** are announced, as in *Transfer, Forcing, 15-17* or *Could be short*.)

What bids are NOT alertable? Any convention in **BLACK** on the ACBL Card.

CUE BIDS are self-alerting. No need to **Alert**.

What should you say when partner makes an alertable bid? **Alert.** Nothing more. Give no explanation unless one is requested.

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Inquiring about an Alert

Good query: *Please explain the alert.*

Bad query: *Is that Michaels? Is that Drury? Is that Jacoby? Is that weak? Is that ...?*

Guideline: Never suggest an explanation.

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A player may request an explanation during the auction only when it is that player's turn to bid.

It is usually preferable to wait for the auction to be completed, then ask for an explanation of the entire auction: *Please explain the auction.*

Asking about a specific bid may give UI (Unauthorized Information) to your partner (and may warn the opponents about your specific concern).

Of course, if you intend to bid (rather than pass) you may have good reason to request an explanation before you choose your bid.

Kerfuffles

What if partner fails to alert your bid? Continue bidding as tho it had been alerted. Partner knows but neglected to announce it.

If you or your partner become **declarer**, you should announce the omission before the opening lead is selected.

If your side is **defending**, keep quiet. After play is completed, call the director & explain. An adjustment may be warranted.

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What if partner gives an incorrect explanation? Keep quiet. Curiously, you are not responsible for knowing your card!

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What if partner correctly alerts your bid, and you then realize you forgot that convention and you meant something else.

Don't react. (That's difficult, but try.) Continue bidding as though no alert had been made. Do not alter your intended bids because of UI (Unauthorized Information). The opponents have received a correct explanation of your agreements. You have no obligation to explain your brain cramp.

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If a **defender** explains a missed alert before the play of the hand is completed, that defender has given UI (Unauthorized Information) to partner.

Director, please!

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What if an explanation (requested or not) is given and explainer's partner reacts in an agitated manner?

Calmly, call the director.

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Disclaimer

ACBL rules evolve and change. Consult a director for current policies.