

ALERTING BIDS WHEN PLAYING 2/1

The ABF Alerting Regulations apply for our club sessions. There has been some confusion and mis-information about alerting bids by partnerships playing 2/1. The below summarises the more common situations:

Pre alerts

Tell the opponents your basic system is “2 over 1”, and the HCPs for your 1NT response and whether forcing, semi-forcing or non-forcing.

Alerts during the auction

2-level response to a 1- level opening	Not alertable if the bid guarantees at least 3 cards in that suit. Alertable if it doesn't.
1NT response – forcing	Alertable
1NT response – semi forcing or not forcing	Not alertable

Generally

The general rules about alerting apply to all partnerships:

- pre-alert any of your agreements for which the opponents may want to discuss a defence before it comes up;
- alert any bid that has a meaning that the opponents may not expect and which may impact on their bidding during the auction, or declaring the hand if you are defending;
- if your side is declaring, explain the auction before the opening lead is chosen, highlighting anything that the opponents may not have been aware, especially whether certain bids deny a major.

Remember, pre-alerting an agreement does not remove the need for the bid to be alerted, and not does the fact that it is on your system card remove the need to alert.

If in doubt, alert!