

FULL STANDARD AMERICAN YELLOW CARD (SAYC) CONVENTION CARD

(This follows the EBU20A Convention Card format.)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM

Bidding System:	Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC)
Leads:	4 th highest, top of sequence (leads are variable by agreement)
Signals:	Attitude (<i>Alternative method: usdca</i>)
Discards:	Attitude (<i>Alternative method: Italian</i>)
Strength of 1NT openers:	15-17
2C Response to 1NT opener is:	Stayman (Normally with a 4 card major)

FULL DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM

OPENING BIDS

Opening bid	Point range	Min length	Conventional Meaning	Special Responses
1C	12*-21	3	See notes 1-2	1NT response 6-10 HCP non-forcing
1D	12*-21	3	See notes 1-2	2NT response - see note 5
1H	12*-21	5	See notes 1-2	2 over 1 change of suit 11+
1S	12*-21	5	See notes 1-2	
1NT	15-17			Stayman, Jacoby (red suit) transfer
2C	22+		Strong, artificial	See note 3
2D	5-11	6		2NT is game interest. Opener bids a feature or 3NT if maximum.
2H	5-11	6		Change of suit forcing.
2S	5-11	6		Stayman, other bids natural.
2NT	20-21			Stayman, other bids natural.
3NT	25-27 (Gambling?)			Stayman, other bids natural.
3 bids	6-10	7	Pre-emptive	
4 bids	6-10	8	Pre-emptive	

OVERCALLS

Simple	Natural, wide-ranging. 8-16. Change of suit by responder non-forcing
Jump	Weak - 6 card suit at 2 level. Usually 7 at 3 level.
Cue Bid	Michaels (see note 6) - but natural if ops have bid 2 suits
1NT Direct	15-18, responses: Stayman, natural as per 1NT opening
1NT Protective	10-15, responses: Stayman, natural as per 1NT opening
2NT Direct	Unusual if a jump - see Note 6. Responses are limit bids.
2NT Protective	See above

DEFENSIVE BIDS

Opponents open:	Defensive methods:
Strong 1C	Natural
Weak 1NT	Double = Penalties, Overcalls are natural
Strong 1NT	As above
Weak 2	Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
Weak 3	Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
4 of Minor	Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
4 of Major	Double = penalty
Multi 2D	Natural

ACTION OPPONENTS INTERVENE WITH

Simple Overcall: Doubles are:	Take-out over bids up to 2S, promises 4 cards in any unbid major
Bids are:	New suit forcing. 2 of a major is 5+cards and 11+ pts.
Jump Overcall: Doubles are:	Take-out over bids up to 2S, promises 4 cards in any unbid major
Bids are:	New suit forcing
Double:	Redouble is: 10+
	New suit is: Forcing at 1 level - not at 2 level
	Jump in new suit: Pre-emptive - to play
	Jump raise is: Pre-emptive
	2NT is: Good raise

SPECIAL USES OF DOUBLES:

Doubles of opening NT bids or NT overcalls are for penalties, following which all subsequent doubles are for penalties. Otherwise, all doubles of suit contracts up to and including 2S are for take-out.

Eg 1S Dbl 2S Dbl - both doubles are for take-out

Doubles of artificial bids show the suit bid

Redoubles are SOS up to 3S except when an artificial bid has been doubled.

SLAM CONVENTIONS

Convention	Meanings of Responses	Action over interference
Blackwood	5C = 0/4, 5D = 1, 5H = 2, 5S = 3 aces	DOP1
Gerber - see note 7	4D = 0/4, 4H = 1, 4S = 2, 4NT = 3 aces	DOP1
5NT Grand Slam Force		

OTHER CONVENTIONS

FSF (Fourth Suit Forcing)	- but after 1C (No) 1D (No) 1H (No), 1S is natural and 2S is "Fourth suit"
UCBs (Unassuming Cue Bids)	- opposite partner's overcall, a cue bid shows a good raise

OPENING LEADS

Normal leads against **suit contracts**: 2nd and 4th highest

<u>A</u> K	<u>A</u> Kx	<u>K</u> Q10	<u>K</u> Qx	K <u>J</u> 10
K <u>10</u> 9	<u>Q</u> J10	<u>Q</u> Jx	<u>J</u> 10x	10x <u>x</u>
<u>10</u> 9x	<u>9</u> 87x	10x <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>
Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	Hx <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>

Normal leads against **NT contracts**: 2nd and 4th highest

<u>A</u> Kx(<u>x</u>)	A <u>J</u> 10x	<u>K</u> Q10	<u>K</u> Qx	K <u>J</u> 10
K <u>10</u> 9	<u>Q</u> J10	<u>Q</u> Jx	<u>J</u> 10x	10x <u>x</u>
10x <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>10</u> 9x	<u>9</u> 87x	Hx <u>x</u>	Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>
Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	Hx <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>	<u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u> <u>x</u>

SIGNALS AND DISCARDS

Describe primary method. State alternatives in brackets

Signals on Partner's lead: Attitude: high = encouraging, low = discouraging

Signals on Declarer's lead: Attitude

Discards: Attitude

Exceptions to above: Count

Alternative method: UPSIDE DOWN CARDING (Malmö-Schneider)

Signals on Partner's lead: Attitude: low = encouraging, high = discouraging

Signals on Declarer's lead: Count: low- high = even

Discards: First discard = Italian (Odd-Even)
others = attitude when needed

Lavinthal when obvious

SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS

Note 1

Balanced Hands not 15-17:

With 4-4 in the minors, open 1D. With 3-3 in the minors, open 1C.

1D is only three cards if shape is 4432.

Unbalanced Hands:

Always open the longest suit. With two five-card-or-longer suits, always open the higher

Note 2

After a one-level response, 1NT = 13/16, 2NT = 19/21

Note 3

2C - 2D response is a relay but other bids are positive and specific (2NT=8points balanced)

2C - 2D - 2NT is 22-24

After 2C - 2D, bidding is forcing to 3 of opener's major or 4 of opener's minor.

Note 4

Transfer breaks are only by jumping in the agreed suit

1NT (No) 2S = Jacoby Transfer to 3C

This will be passed or converted to 3D (to be passed),

1NT (No) 2NT = Invitational to 3NT

1NT (No) 3C or 3D are invitational to 3NT with a 6+card suit

1NT (No) 3H or 3S are 6+ card suit with slam interest

After 1NT (Dbl), Stayman and transfers apply

After 1NT is overcalled, Stayman and transfers do not apply, but a cue bid is strong and Staymanic.

Note 5

2NT response to 1H or 1S opening bid is Game Forcing, agreeing trumps, with slam interest

Opener bids 3 of a non-trump suit to show a singleton or void, or else shows point count by.

jump to 4 of trump suit to show max 14, 3NT 15-17, 3 of trump suit 18+.

This convention does not apply after interference by opponents

2NT response to 1C or 1D opening bid is 13-15 and forcing; 3NT response is 16-17

Note 6

Michaels Cue Bid / Unusual 2NT

1C 2C or 1D 2D shows at least 5-5 in the majors, 8+ points

1H 2H or 1S 2S shows at least 5-5 in the other major and one minor, 10+ points

1 any 2NT shows at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits

Values range from enough for a minimum overcall up to a very strong hand

Note 7

Gerber is used only directly when partner has opened or rebid 1NT or 2NT. 5C asks for kings.