



# Background & Explanation Of New Announcing Regulation

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As there has been some confusion about the recently introduced Announcing Regulation this document provides additional information to the Bulletin recently circulated re the new Announcing Regulation.

## **Background**

A problem arises when a player opens and the next player does not know the meaning of the bid. This is information to which they are entitled.

If they have a hand with few values, they will pass regardless of the meaning of the bid. However, suppose they have some values and would bid if the opening bid was a normal opening bid, but not if it was a strong hand.

Also, suppose they have a hand with which they would compete over a weak NT, but not over a strong NT.

If the player enquires about the meaning of the bid, or the NT range, and then passes, then they have conveyed information to their partner.

They have said, "I have more than a few values and would have bid if the 1C was an Acol 1C but now that I know it promises 16+ HCP, I will pass" or "I have enough values to compete over a weak NT but now that I know it is strong, I will pass". Their partner, with a marginal hand, may now be tempted to bid, which they would not have done if the pass had been made without the enquiry.

How then, can this issue be avoided?

## **Pre-alerts**

These were introduced so that some basic information about the system is conveyed to the opponents at the start of play. This should include the basic system and NT range and clearly would avoid this problem.

## **System Cards**

These should include the appropriate information and as long as they are reviewed before bidding starts, there will be no problem. However, looking at the card and then passing can create the same difficulties as an enquiry does, as outlined above.

## **Announcing**

This has been done in England and the US for some time and is widely accepted as the best method to avoid the difficulty created by enquiring, or considering the Systems card, and then passing.

Announcing is now required when a **1C** or **1NT Opening Bid** is made. This regulation has been introduced to make the process of correctly informing your opponents of the meaning of these bids and is quick and simple. Failure to announce will not result in an automatic procedural penalty but a reminder that the Regulations do now require **Announcing**.

If an **Announcement** has not been made and the information will influence a players decision to bid or not, then a gentle reminder to the player will result in the **Announcement**.

Issues do arise when an **Announcement** made is incorrect. If the announcer becomes declarer, the director should be called before the opening lead. If a defender announces incorrectly, call the director at the end of play. The director will rule accordingly.

## **SUMMARY**

NZ Bridge has decided to introduce **Announcing** to ensure that the nature of a **1C** or **1NT** opening bid is immediately clear. The opponents will have no need to make an enquiry or closely inspect the System card when they have a "will I or won't I bid" hand and then follow with a pass, except if the **1C** is announced as "unusual" when they may need more information before deciding on their call.

The intent is to implement a quick, simple and largely unobtrusive procedure that is easily adopted and which will become 'second nature' in a relatively short time.



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