



Further Clarification of "Announcing" Regulation

24 May 2013

There is some confusion about whether 1C or Natural 1NT Opening Bids should be alerted by circling or using an "Alert Card" as well as by "Announcing".

The Regulation states:-

1. Announcing of 1C and Natural 1NT opening bids

The partner of a player who makes a **1C or Natural 1NT opening bid**, shall promptly *alert the opponents by "announcing"* their systemic agreement...

The phrase in Italics makes it quite clear that 1C and Natural 1NT opening bids are alerted by **"announcing"**.

Consequently, 1C and Natural 1NT Opening Bids do not need to be alerted using the alerting procedure, whether by producing the Alert Card (where Bidding Boxes are in use) or by circling (where Written Bidding is in use).

2. Players must promptly *alert any other call during the auction if it is conventional*

This phrase (in Italics) makes it clear that any **other** conventional call must be alerted using the alerting procedure. The **Alerting Regulations** are clear that players must also alert any natural bid which by agreement has a meaning that their opponents are unlikely to expect.

Summary

- The partner of a player making a 1C or Natural 1NT Opening Bid must **"Announce"** the meaning of the bid as set out in the Regulation, according to their partnership agreement.
- The 1C bid should not be further alerted regardless of the agreed meaning. The opponents are able to seek a further explanation of the bid's meaning.

- A 1NT Opening Bid will only need further alerting if it is not natural and is not covered by the "Announcing Regulations".

"Announcing" has now also been introduced in Australia on an identical basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alister Stuck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Alister Stuck
National Secretary**