

ACBL Verbalizations

ACBL rules require the partner of the person making any special meaning bids to ALERT. Alerts and having to ask for explanations about some bids became so frequent that they slowed down auctions. Requirements for ACBL announcements or verbalizations were added to the rules for some bids to reduce the number of alerts to speed up auctions. Alerts and verbalizations are required to be made by the partner of the person making these calls/bids prior to the next player making a call/bid. The player making the call/bid must remain silent and not indicate in any way if his/her partner missed an alert or announcement, or gave an incomplete or incorrect explanation. If any incorrect or incomplete explanation was made by the declaring side, it must be corrected prior to the opening lead.

Conventions shown in **RED** on the ACBL convention card require an ALERT. Required verbalizations are shown in **BLUE** on the ACBL convention card. Items in black do not require either.

The following list of verbalizations are required based on the 2008 ACBL convention card **blue** items:

- 1NT opening bid - point range must be verbalized ("11 to 15", "15 to 17", "16 to 18", etc.)
- 1C opening bid - "Could be short" any time the expected minimum number of cards is less than 3
- Bid asking for a transfer bid - "Transfer"
- 1NT response in 2/1 GF system - "Forcing" or "Semi-Forcing"
- Alertable bid - "ALERT" must be verbalized. Just displaying and tapping an Alert Card is insufficient.