

# INTERNATIONAL WACHAU BRIDGE WEEK RELOADED

Sun 4 August to Sat 10 August

**2019**

Venue:

**Römerhalle | 3512 Mautern**



# 51<sup>st</sup> International Wachau Bridge-Week

## Mautern, 4 to 10 August 2019

### Information by the ÖBV Sport Affairs – and Ruling Committee (SRA)

**1. General:**

This event is subject to the valid WBF Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017 as well as to the ÖBV Regularity of Competition (WKO) of May 1, 2019.

**2. Basis system restrictions:**

The organizer expressly points out that so-called 'highly conventional systems', which are classified by the EBL/WBF as 'Highly Unusual Methods/HUM' or as 'Yellow Systems', are forbidden without exception for all tournament events of the Wachau Bridgeweek.

**3. Brown Sticker provisions:**

All openings or overcalls are forbidden after a natural opening of one in a suit from 2♣ up to and including 3♠, which:

- a. can be made with hands of below average figure strength according to system-related agreement AND
- b. do not promise at least four cards in a known suit (e.g. convention 'Bamberger', 2NT as preempt in any minor, etc.)

3.1 A weak two-suiter overcall, which can be made as agreed with 3 or fewer cards in one of the advised suits, is forbidden.

3.2 Bluff calls that are prescribed or protected by the system are forbidden: thus explicitly agreements that a bluff is expected or calls that protect the partnership from the possibility of bluff, such for example, when a player is expected to open each hand at favorable vulnerability in third seat.

**4. Convention Card:**

The tournament organization draws attention to the fact that at least one complete convention card filled in with the name of the pair is obligatory per pair at all tournament events of the Wachau Bridgeweek. Convention cards of the ÖBV, DBV and the EBL or the WBF are approved. Failure to comply with this provision entitles the TD to impose a disciplinary sanction on the pair responsible.

**5. Rule of 18:**

This is applicable in all pair tournaments and in the MINITEAM tournament for first and second seat openings of '1 in suit' as well as 2♣ or 2♦ (so these openings show normal opening-bids, such as 2♣ after Precision or Blue Club or when using 2♦ as so-called Flannery/Anti-Flannery convention).

**6. Alert-conditions:**

With the exception of any artificial four-level openings (e.g. 4♣/♦ as so-called South African Texas Convention), calls in Austria shall be alerted up to 3NT only. For the sake of good order, the ÖBV points out that sometimes striking differences to various alert regulations of other national federations may exist. In general, calls always have to be alerted if, within a partnership, they provide uncommon information in the context and must thus be assumed that the opponents may be harmed in case when unaware of such information, i.e. any possible decision on this shall be taken by the TD or, in the case of an appeal by the appeals-committee.

In a nutshell, the following bids are mandatory to alert:

- 6.1 Basically all bids in a suit – from both the opener and the responder – which can be made either with less than three cards in the specified suit as agreed or that promise at least three cards in another (known or unknown) suit, resp. four or fewer cards in exclude an unbid suit; inter alia, the following are effected:
  - a. Any kind of strong club (diamond) – systems
  - b. The opening of 1♣, if according to the system it can also contain other patterns than explicitly a 4-4-3-2 distribution (e.g. Polish Club).
  - c. Openings of 1♥ and 1♠ showing less than **four** cards in the bid suit.
  - d. Canapé openings and responses (e.g., Blue Club)
  - e. 2♣/2♦ as forcing openings in any denomination
  - f. Weak-Two openings (incl. via Multi) which may also be made according to the system with only 5 cards in the Weak-Two suit.
  - g. Multi
  - h. Flannery/Anti-Flannery
  - i. Two-suiter openings which are not subject to Brown Sticker regulations
  - j. 2NT as an explicit pre-empt in club or diamond
  - k. Three-suiter openings, where at least one of the three suits must be known
  - l. Any opening in the sense of transfer preempts
- 6.2 Opening of 1NT, if it deviates from the agreed range 15-17 HCP and may not correspond to the generally arbitrary, balanced distribution patterns 4-3-3-3, 4-4-3-2, 5-3-3-2 or 5-4-2-2; in the event that, as agreed, also any 6-3-2-2 distribution can be possible, it is necessary to point out to this option by alert in compliance with the aforementioned range.
- 6.3 An overcall of 1 NT shall be alerted if it is agreed that it can contain less than 15 HCP or more than 18 HCP in second seat or less than 10 HCP or more than 15 HCP in fourth seat (after 1X - PASS - PASS); or if it has any other meaning than the proposition, to play 1NT; in addition, the aforementioned restrictions on distribution patterns shall likewise prevail.
- 6.4 A rebid of 1NT by the opener shall be alerted if it can contain more than 15 HCP (e.g. according to the ACOL-System).
- 6.5 Every other 1NT-bid shall be alerted if – regardless of the aforementioned conditions – it promises four or more cards in a particular suit.
- 6.6 An opening of 2NT shall be alerted if it does not show at least 19 to a maximum of 22 HCP (e.g. 20/21 HCP); in addition, the same distribution conditions apply as for the opening of 1NT.
- 6.7 An overcall of 2NT shall be alerted if it is agreed that it can contain less than 17 FP or more than 20 HCP in second seat or less than 15 HCP or more than 20 HCP in fourth seat (after 1X - PASS - PASS); or if it has any other meaning than the proposition, to play 2NT (e.g. a 2NT-overcall call shows both minors, etc.); in addition, the aforementioned restrictions on distribution patterns shall likewise prevail.
- 6.8 A jump rebid of 2NT by the opener shall be alerted each time, if on partners first-level response, this is not showing a tendential, at least semi-balanced hand in appropriate strength of 1 up to 4 HCP over the agreed HCP-range of the own 1NT opening, and does not contain any conventionally agreed information about possible hand types of the opener.
- 6.9 A rebid of 2NT by the opener shall be alerted in each case if this shows both an additional HCP strength and otherwise includes further, a conventionally agreed information about possible hand types of the opener.
- 6.10 Every other 2NT-bid shall be alerted if – regardless of the aforementioned conditions – it promises four or more cards in a particular suit.

- 6.11 2♣ resp. 3♣ after an undoubled opening of 1NT resp. 2NT, shall be alerted in each case, if this bid, in the style of the Stayman-Convention, however not obligatory according to the own system used, must not promise the possession of at least one 4-card major; all other conventional queries (e.g. Puppet-Stayman, Baron, etc.) must be likewise alerted.
- 6.12 An opening of 3NT shall generally be alerted if it has a different meaning within the partnership agreements – regardless of the existing distribution – than the proposition to play 3NT, but showing rather a conventional, explicitly determined distribution pattern (e.g. any solid suit, two- or three-suiter, pre-empt in one minor, etc.).
- 6.13 An overcall of 3NT shall be alerted if it has a different meaning than the proposition to play 3NT (whether second, third or fourth seat).
- 6.14 2 or 3 level-openings, which may also include types of hands with more than 16 HCP.
- 6.15 Non-forcing responses in a new suit by an unpassed player (even after opponent's intervention).
- 6.16 Responses at level one showing less than four cards of the bid suit after an opponent's immediate intervention (including after a take-out double).
- 6.17 Inverted raises of opening-bids.
- 6.18 Purely defensive jump-raises on partner's openings.
- 6.19 Any kind of transfer responses to partner's NT-openings/overcalls; possibly also after an intervention by the opponent (e.g. Rubensohl).
- 6.20 Transfer responses on suit-openings of the partner; possibly also after an intervention by the opponent.
- 6.21 A PASS shall be alerted if:
  - In the first or second bidding round, the pass is forcing or promises a minimum strength of more than 0 HCP.
  - Any form of so-called competitive, within the partnership agreed 'Forcing-Pass' bidding sequences up to and including 3NT.
  - This bid requires a certain action by the partner as agreed (e.g. if possible, an obligatory re-double after opponent's take-out double).
- 6.22 A DOUBLE shall be alerted if:
  - This bid is weaker in this situation than pass.
  - This bid shows five or more cards in a (definite or indefinite) other suit than the one being doubled.
  - This bid, in competitive bidding situations, promises an honor (ace/king) in the suit bid by the partner (e.g. inhibitory-double).
  - This bid suggests the play of a different suit than the suit lastly bid by the opponent.
  - This bid after opponent's opening shows a conventionally agreed hand pattern (e.g. 1NT – DBL. shows a two-suiter with a 5-card minor plus a 4-card major).
- 6.23 In this context, the following doubles are not subject to any obligation to provide alerts:
  - Any form of so-called 'Negative-Doubles'.
  - Any form of so-called 'Support-Doubles'.
  - Any form of so-called 'Responsive-Doubles'.
  - Any form of so-called 'Competitive-Doubles'.
  - Any form of so-called 'Cooperative-Doubles'.
- 6.24 A REDOUBLE shall be alerted if:
  - This bid is weaker in this situation than pass (e.g. SOS-Redouble).
  - This bid shows five or more cards in a different (definite or indefinite) suit.
  - This bid, in competitive bidding situations, promises an honor (ace/king) in the suit bid by the partner.

**7. NT-openings:**

In all tournaments, the opening of 1NT – regardless of the existing partnership-agreement, whether this opening shows a balanced or possibly even an unbalanced distribution – promises strength of at least 10 HCP, i.e. such openings with less than 10 HCP are prohibited! The agreed range shall not exceed 6 HCP (e.g. 12-17 is allowed); the range must not be interrupted (e.g. either 10-12 or 17-19 is prohibited); deviations of more than 2 HCP from the agreed limits of the range are prohibited (however, not less than 10 HCP).

As regards distribution, the following restrictions apply:

- a. It may NOT contain a void
- b. A maximum of one single may be included, in which case the second shortest suit of the hand must be at least three cards; bidding methods within the partnership agreements, to show such a shortness where necessary in the conventional way are not permissible

For higher openings in NT (from 2NT), which conventionally showing unbalanced distributions (e.g. 2NT opening for a two-suiter with both minors), are permissible under consideration of other restrictions (e.g. any Brown Sticker conventions).

NT-openings, which may as agreed include both balanced and unbalanced types of hands, are prohibited.

**8. Minimum strength and range of sub-primary calls:**

A minimum strength or a delimited range of HCP of sub-primary calls – whether single- or multi-colored – is not prescribed, though, as a rule, hands of up to max. 10 HCP are to be classified as sub-primary; regardless of this, the system-related details of possible hand-patterns and the range in question must be specified in the convention card.

Legal notice:

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