

ACBL SAYC SYSTEM BOOKLET

The ACBL Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC) was created to be the required system to be used in a Standard Yellow Card event. The object was to provide a simple, modern method that will lead to a good, solid understanding in a partnership when both players have read this booklet.

Because this system was to be used by each pair, the game was free of a wide variety of possibly complex systems. There was no necessity to Alert or ask questions since everyone was playing the same method.

When play began on the Internet, players needing a quick way to establish the method to be used in a relatively casual partnership adopted the SAYC. It is also used by players who meet at the partnership desk a few minutes before the game starts.

General approach:

Normally open five-card majors in all seats.

Open the higher of long suits of equal length: 5–5 or 6–6.

Normally open 1D with 4–4 in the minors.

Normally open 1C with 3–3 in the minors.

NT openings show a balanced hand and may be made with a five-card major suit or a five-card minor suit.

1NT = 15–17

2NT = 20–21

3NT = 25–27

Strong conventional 2C opening (22+ pts)

Weak two-bids in diamonds, hearts and spades

A 2C OPENING, RESPONSES, AND LATER BIDDING:

A 2C opening shows at least 22+ points, or the playing equivalent. Responses:

2D conventional, could be “waiting” with a good hand not suited to a positive response.

2H, 2S, 3C, 3D = natural and game forcing. At least a five-card suit and 8 points.

2NT = a balanced 8 HCP.

If opener rebids 2NT after a 2D response (showing 22–24 points), the same responses are used as over a 2NT opening:

2C — 2D

2NT — 3C = Stayman.

3D, 3H = Jacoby transfers to hearts and spades, respectively.

4C = Gerber.

4NT = Quantitative bid inviting a slam in notrump.

