



EBU BLUE BOOK (changes regarding announcing and alerting rules)

As from 1st. August 2013, the new EBU Blue Book comes into force. This EBU publication (automatically adopted by the WBU) replaces the older 'Orange Book'. Also the 'Tangerine Book' has been discontinued (if you ever knew it existed).

Experienced Tournament Directors should download the new booklet from the EBU/WBU site, but for club directors a summary of the **major** implications is given below:

Announcing:

An opening bid of 2NT should be announced as '**20 to 22**' (or whatever the range is).

Furthermore, over an opening 2NT, **simple Stayman** (2NT - 3♣) and **transfers** (2NT - 3♦, 2NT - 3♥) should be announced.

Artificial 'short' 1♣ or 1♦ bids should be announced as '**may be x cards**' (where x = 0,1,2). Previously these were alerted. This does not apply to 'strong' club or diamond bids (alertable, as before), nor to 'better minor' – which by definition contain 3 or more cards (neither announced nor alerted, as before).

Alerting:

Above 3NT, **artificial suit bids** on the **whole** of the **first round** of bidding should be alerted (i.e. the opening bid and the next three subsequent calls). One of the main consequences of this is that responder's splinter bid needs to be alerted (e.g. 1♠ - pass - 4♣ (splinter) ... - the 4♣ needs to be alerted). Similarly if 4♣ is Swiss or Gerber, this needs to be alerted (on the first round only)

Other Changes

Level 3 licensing has now been abandoned. The only effect of this is where clubs have written into their constitution/standing orders, the licensing level allowed within their club. I would suggest they now replace with 'Level 4'. In simple terms level 4 does permit the 'multi', but level 2 prohibits many bids and conventions currently used by most clubs.

Holiday companies should also note this change (a few currently restrict their licensing to level 3 – no longer valid).