This system of bidding and defensive carding is based on the standard methods taught by Richard Pavlicek, plus a variety of popular conventions. The outline presented here follows the ACBL convention card.

**Conventions Included**

**Stayman**

**Jacoby and Texas transfer bids**

**Minor-suit Stayman**

**Limit major raises**

**3 NT forcing major raise**

**Splinter bids**

**1 NT forcing**

**Two-over-one game force**

(Unless responder rebids suit)

**Reverse Drury**

**Weak jump shift responses**

**Inverted minor raises**

**Fourth suit forcing**

**New minor forcing**

**Strong artificial 2 ♣ opening**

Cheaper minor 2nd negative

**Weak two-bids**

**Negative doubles**

**Landy or Cappelletti (you choose)**

**Michaels cue-bid**

**Blackwood**

D-O-P-I over interference

**Gerber**

**General Approach**

Standard with 5 Card Majors

Strong forcing opening: 2 ♣

**Notrump Opening Bids**

1 NT = 15-17 HCP

2 ♣ = Stayman; if followed by:

2 ♠ or 2 ♦ = invitational

3 ♠ or 3 ♦ = game forcing

Jacoby transfer (off with any interference)

2 ♠ = minor-suit Stayman (at least invitational)

3 ♠ or 3 ♦ = weak

Texas transfer (also in comp. through 3 ♠)

After a double:

All suit bids are natural to play

After an overcall:

All doubles are penalty

Cue-bid of real suit = Stayman

2 NT = 20-22 HCP

Stayman; Jacoby; Texas

3 ♠ = both minors, slam try

3 NT = 25-26 HCP

Stayman; Jacoby

4 ♠ = both minors, slam try

**Major Openings**

5+ cards

Double raise = limit (also in competition)

3 NT = balanced forcing raise (off in competition)

Splinter bids (in comp. must be a jump cue)

1 NT = 6-12 (forcing)

2 NT = 13+ unlimited (11-12 in competition)

Two-over-one GF unless responder rebids same suit

Reverse Drury

**Minor Openings**

3+ cards

Single raise = 10+; forcing (also in competition)

Double raise = weak (also in competition)

1 NT = 6-10

2 NT = 13-16 (11-12 in competition)

3 NT = 17-18

**Two-Club Opening**

Strong (typically 23+); artificial

2 ♦ = 0-7 HCP; may be waiting with awkward hand

Other responses = 8+ HCP (suit bids at least Qxxxx)

Cheaper minor (3 ♠ or 3 ♦) 2nd negative

**Weak Two-Bids**

5-11 HCP; 6 cards (or strong 5)

2 NT only force; asks for feature if not minimum

**Other Conventional Calls**

Weak jump shifts (always)

Splinter rebids (3 ♠ or higher jump) over majors only

In competition splinters apply in enemy suit only (other jumps are weak)

Responder’s 2nd round jumps game forcing by unpassed hand

New minor forcing (11+ points)

Fourth suit forcing (11+ points)

**Special Doubles**

Negative through 4 ♦
Direct Notrump Overcalls

1 NT = 15-18 HCP (10-15 in passout)
   Respond as to 1 NT opening
2 NT nonjump = 16-19 (14-17 in passout)
   Respond as to 2 NT opening
2 NT jump = unusual for two lower unbid suits
3 NT = natural; can be long minor
   All responses natural (except a cue-bid)

Simple Overcall

Typically 8-17 HCP
Simple response = 8-11
Jump response = invitational
Cue-bid response = game forcing

Vs. All Notrump Openings

Double = 14+ HCP; optional (penalty oriented)
Landy* (all seats):  
   2 ♠ = majors  
   2 NT = minors  
   all other = natural
or Cappelletti* (all seats):  
   2 ♠ = any 1-suiter  
   2 ♢ = majors  
   2 ♣ = hearts + minor  
   2 ♦ = spades + minor  
   2 NT = minors

*You can play Landy or Cappelletti but not both. You and partner must decide.

Jump Overcall

Weak (like a weak two-bid or preemptive opening)
Respond as to same opening

Over Opp’s Takeout Double

New suit = nonforcing
Jump raise = 8-10; 4+ trumps
Redouble = 10+ HCP or 11+ support points

Opening Preempts

Light; based on rule of 2, 3 or 4

Vs. Enemy Preempts

Double = takeout through 4 ♢
Double of 4 ♠, 4 ♣, 5 ♠ or 5 ♢ = optional
4 NT over 4 ♢ = all suit takeout
4 NT over any other major bid = minors

Psychics

Rare (never initial actions)

Direct Cue-bid

Michaels (two suits)

Slam Conventions

Gerber 4 ♣/♣ 155♣ (must be a jump after partner bid notrump)
Blackwood 4 NT
   D-O-P-I over interference

Opening Leads vs. Suits

Fourth best
Low from three small
King from A-K (except doubleton)
Standard honor leads

Opening Leads vs. Notrump

Fourth best
High from three small
Ace asks for unblock or count
Standard honor leads

Signals

Attitude when partner leads
Count when declarer leads

Additional Agreements