SYSTEMS AND SYSTEM CARDS

Each pair is required to have two current ABF approved, systemically identical system cards on the table for the opposing pair before the start of each round. Overseas players will be permitted to use New Zealand and WBF system cards in addition to ABF cards. ABF system cards and guide to completing them are available at this site:

http://www.abf.com.au/member-services/system-cards/.

GREEN and **BLUE** systems are permitted without restriction.

RED systems and **BROWN** STICKER conventions are permitted in the **Open** events but not in the **Restricted Swiss Pairs**. In addition, in these events, the CTD may also further restrict a pair from playing any method which the Director judges may not be readily understood by a significant proportion of players in the field.

Eligible pairs may claim Protected Pair status in the Open events.

GREEN Natural systems: All one-level opening bids are natural, not conventional.

Typical Green systems will include **Goren**, **STD American** (including **Two over One** varieties) and **Acol**.

BLUE Strong Club / Strong Diamond Systems, including systems where

(a) one club / one diamond is artificial and always strong; and
(b) one of a major and 1NT are natural; and
(c) the one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids.

This Blue category encompasses **Precision**, **Shenken Club**, **Blue Club** and the like.

RED Artificial Systems including:

(a) All systems employing artificial one-level openings that do not fall under the definition of Yellow (HUM) systems [see below], other than Strong Club / Strong Diamond (Blue) systems.
(b) Any system in which the basic structure (other than the no trump range) varies according to position and/or vulnerability

Common Red systems include variants of **Moscito**, **Polish Club** and **Power** as well as methods that employ **1-level transfer opening bids**.

Red Systems are not permitted in the **Restricted Swiss Pairs.**

YELLOW Systems which exhibit **Highly Unusual Methods (HUM)**

Predominately these would include (but are not be limited to) **'Forcing Pass'** and **'Intermediate Pass'** methods.

Yellow Systems are not permitted in any of the events.

BROWN STICKER conventions and treatments: This is a separate category which relates specifically to **weak unanchored** multi-meaning **2- and 3-level opening bids** as well as certain **unanchored overcalls** (when employed against non-conventional openings).

Typical Brown Sticker Conventions include **RCO** twos, **Myxomatosis** twos and **Twerb** or **Suction** overcalls.

If your partnership uses these types of gadgets then **in addition** to the coloured spot that identifies your system classification, you will need to affix a **second Brown** spot to indicate the use of 'Brown Sticker' methods.

Brown Sticker conventions are not permitted in the **Restricted Pairs**.

PROTECTED PAIR STATUS: A pair, playing a **Green** system without the use of any **Brown Sticker** conventions throughout the **Open Swiss Pairs** or the **Open Swiss Teams** events at the Gold-in-the-Goldfields Congress, which has both of its players below the rank of Life Master or one player below State Master, may apply to the Chief Tournament Director to be a Protected Pair; identified by an **ORANGE** sticker on the front of their system card for that event.

Pairs playing **Brown Sticker** methods must ascertain before the start of each round whether their opponents are a 'Protected Pair'. If so, the pair playing the Brown Sticker methods must not employ any Brown Sticker convention or treatment during the round in question. Pairs who have been granted Protected status will be easily identified by the presence of both **Green and Orange** spots on their System Cards.

Finally, the onus rests with all players to classify their systems appropriately. If, after reading this article, you are still unsure of your system colour, the full regulations are available on the ABF's Web site (abf.com.au)