

# Pronto Strong Club System by *Pierre Dutoit*



*Pronto, Governing Regulations, Blue System Category*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 System Classification

Systems are classified according to the characteristics of their opening and overcalling structures, and will be identified by colour coding. In determining the classification of a system, the green, blue, red and yellow criteria are to be applied in that sequence until the appropriate classification is determined. All entrants in ABF events shall display on their partnership's system cards a coloured dot indicating the classification of the system being played. In addition to these primary colour classifications, certain individual conventional calls and treatments are defined as, and require an additional, Brown Sticker.

## 1.2 Definitions

**Average Hand**= A hand containing 10 HCP with no distributional values. **Weak**= High card strength below that of an average hand. **Strong**= High card strength a king or greater than that of an average hand (i.e. 13+ HCP) **Natural**= A call or play that is not artificial or conventional (i.e. not a "special partnership understanding" as defined in Law 40B1). **Length**= Three cards or more. **Shortage**= Two cards or fewer **Artificial**= An artificial bid is one, which carries information concerning a denomination other than the one named or a bid concerned with values or controls without necessarily a preparedness to play in the named denomination. **Distributional Values**= A hand with distributional values contains one or more shortages. **Balanced**= For the purpose of classifying NT openings, balanced shall mean a hand with no more than one (1) shortage and that shortage shall be not fewer than two (2) cards in length. **Semi-Balanced**= A hand with no more than two (2) shortages where each shortage shall be not fewer than two (2) cards in length. **Published**= A System will be considered as published if it has been recorded in an accessible form and made available in that form to officials of the ABF and all registered players in an ABF event.

## 2. CLASSIFICATION OF SYSTEMS

### 2.1 Green (Natural) Systems

- a) All one-level opening bids are natural and non-forcing
- b) An opening bid of one of a suit guarantees length (3+ cards) in the denomination named (Exception: 4-4-3-2 and (4-3)-4-2 shaped hands may be opened 1 ♣)
- c) 1NT should be balanced or semi-balanced (Note: this does not preclude individual assessment of some hands, e.g. a hand with a singleton honour or a weak longer suit. The subsequent bidding methods however, should not be able to identify such hand types)
- d) All one-level opening bids, must by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

**2.2 Blue (Strong Club/Strong Diamond) Systems** This category includes systems that satisfy all of the following criteria:  
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- a) One club/one diamond is artificial, forcing and always strong
- b) One of a major is natural and non-forcing
- c) 1NT is non-conventional
- d) The one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids
- e) All one-level opening bids, must by agreement, promise at least 8 HCP.

**2.3 Red Systems** This category includes:

- a) All systems employing 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 1-level opening structure (other than the length of natural suit bids or the point range of openings) varies according to position and/or vulnerability.

**2.4 Yellow (HUM) Systems** For the purpose of these Regulations, a Highly Unusual Method (HUM) means any System that has, as a matter of partnership agreement, one or more of the following features:

- a) A Pass in the opening position that shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.

- b) An opening bid at the one level that may be made on high card strength a king or more below that of an average hand (i.e., ~ 0-7 HCP and insufficient compensating distributional values).
- c) An opening bid of one of a major with alternative possible meanings that the hand may be long or short in a specified suit (i.e., the use of 'wonder' style bids).
- d) An opening bid of one of a major with alternative possibilities that show length in one specified suit or length in another specified suit.

**2.5 Brown Sticker Conventions and Treatments** Certain types of conventional calls or treatments are considered to place demands upon the opponents' defensive preparations. The conventions/treatments in question are categorized as 'Brown Sticker' (BS). Any one of the following characteristics qualifies a convention/treatment as BS if it is a matter of partnership agreement: a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that: could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit. Exceptions: (i) Where all the weak meanings guarantee at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong ones do not.

**ABF Regulations** *There are NO set systems, there are only regulations that govern System Classification. Players are responsible for correct system classification of their biddings systems.*