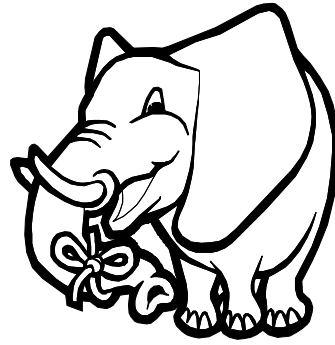


# DON'T FORGET



*LAST-MINUTE CHECKLIST OF NECESSARY THINGS TO  
DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER. IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE  
A CLEAR AGREEMENT IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING  
AREAS, YOU SHOULD DO SO NOW.*

## DO YOU HAVE AN AGREEMENT?

1. How do we run from 1NTX? (May we play in 1NTX or are we required to redouble or run out?)

2. 4<sup>th</sup> Suit is a Game-Force? If not, how far are we forced? When can we get out below game?

*(Suggestion: Either of us may pass a 2-level rebid, but a 3-level rebid is forcing to game.)*

3. What strength is required for a three-over-three negative or responsive double? Does such a double create a force?

*(Suggestion: At least game-invitational strength is required, and a competitive force is created.)*

4. When do we make a light response to partner's opening bid?

*(Suggestion: Never pass the opening bid with any of the following hands:*

- a) A singleton in opener's minor*
- b) An Ace*
- c) A five-card major (after 1m opening)*
- d) non-vul: 0-3 hcp (if you can't beat 3NT facing a weak NT don't give them a free run in the bidding)*
- e) 4-4 in the majors*
- f) A marginal response (4-5 hcp) with a doubleton in opener's minor and a 4-card major)*

5. When raising an overcall or preempt in competition, how do we distinguish a raise with defense from a hand which merely wants to save. (In other words, how do we say, "I probably want to defend unless you have no defense." And how do we say, "I really want to save if you have any extra offense?")

*(Suggestion: All NT calls are either normal, or suggest a hand with no defense to the next level of the opponents' suit. Raises always suggest some defense. After a raise, overcaller (or preemptor) normally passes, but may bid on with extra offense and may double with extra defense.)*

6. How do we ask for Aces (not Key Cards)?

*(Suggestion: On the first round of the auction, Blackwood is never KeyCard. Afterwards, BW is always RKC.)*

7. Do we ever have six KeyCards? If so, how do we show the Queens?

*(Suggestion: Beginning with 5H response: 2 KC with none, low, hi, both. Respond the same way to the Queen Ask.)*

8. Do we have consistent patterns for showing singletons. Always natural? Always Hi-Middle-Low? Always Lo-Middle-Hi?

*(Suggestion: Be consistent - no exceptions. No matter how good the reason may be for different structures it is an unnecessary memory strain and prone to accidents.)*

9. What are unsolicited doubles by a preemptor?

*(Suggestion: If partner is on lead: Always lead directing - Lightner. If preemptor is on lead: "I have a good save in my own hand, but some defense also - you make the decision.")*

10. After our preempts, do we have a way to ask about trumps? To ask for a singleton?

*(Suggestion: 4C is always a trump ask. 4D is always a singleton ask. After 4C, respond 0,1,2,2 w Q - next step by responder is Queen ask when needed. After 4D, respond no or lo, middle, hi - next step by responder asks which, when needed)*

11. When is 4NT takeout, and when is it natural? What is the partnership rule?

*(Suggestion: 4NT is takeout when the opponents are in 4-of-a-major and partner has bid no suit above the one-level.)*

12. What do we do when they open 3NT? How do we make a slam try?

*(Suggestion: Double with defense - creates a force. 4C is takeout - major suit oriented. 4D is a slam-try transfer with any suit - respond WMP. 4H, 4S etc. all natural, no slam interest.)*

13. How do we respond to our own 3NT overcalls? How does responder make a slam try?

*(Suggestion: No Stayman. 4C is a slam try transfer to any suit - respond WMP. 4D, 4H, 4S, 4NT are transfers with no slam interest - 4NT transfers to diamonds, 5C is Gerber. To invite in NT responder must first bid 4C then follow with 4NT.)*

14. What do we do when following suit in trumps with two or three small cards?

*(Suggestion: Give either a Suit-preference signal, or Smith Echo about the opening lead. The infrequency of a trump echo to indicate the ability to ruff, plus the information it may give declarer, makes it not a useful agreement.)*

15. What do we lead from xxxx vs. notrump contracts?

*(Suggestion: NOT 4<sup>th</sup> best. Smith echo will not solve all of your problems - lead hi or second hi.)*

16. What's the difference: 2♥-4NT? vs. 2♥-2N; 3x-4NT?

*(Suggestion: One should be RKC in ©'s. The other should merely ask for Aces - no ©K.)*

17. Discuss "PASS&BID" & "PASS & DOUBLE". That is, what does it mean if we pass after an opponent's opening bid, then make a voluntary bid on the next round?

*(Suggestion: Use these unusual sequences to show strong unbidable hands with primary length in RHO's first suit.)*

18. After opener's 2NT rebid, how does responder get out at the three-level?

*(Suggestion: Walsh Signoffs. 3♠ relays to 3" - responder may pass 3D or signoff in any suit at the 3-level. All else, other than immediate 3♠, is GF.)  
(2nd suggestion: (more difficult but better). 4-suit transfers by responder. Ask ktm for notes.)*

19. When do we NOT lead the Ace from AK?

*Suggestions: Always lead the King from AK in the following situations:*

- 1. At the five-level or higher (to ask for count - Ace asks for attitude about the King) - This would also apply to any clear cashout situation.*
- 2. In partner's suit or "our" suit. The Ace should ask for attitude about the King. Lead King from AK.*
- 3. When planning to shift to a singleton - lead the King to alert partner that there is something unusual going on.*

20. Do we have good agreement vs. Strong NT? Something that allows us to show all one-suiters and two-suiters? (If not, make a new agreement now.)

*(Suggestion: MODIFIED CRASH vs. Strong NT. Double is Red suits or Black suits. 2♠ is shape (♠'s+♣'s OR "'s+<sup>a</sup>'s). 2" is majors. 2NT minors. All else natural.)*

21. When they overcall 1NT (natural), and we don't want to double with a good unbalanced hand, how does responder make a game-try in partner's suit? How does he show a GF 2-suiter?

*(Suggestion: 2NT by responder is either a limit raise with shape, or a GF 2-suiter. Clarify on next round.)*

22. What is the difference between DOUBLE-DOUBLE and PASS&DOUBLE. Which is a stronger penalty statement? Which is more cooperative?

23. Assuming PASS IS WEAKEST ACTION is our agreement in a force, does it apply when fit has not yet been found?

*(Suggestion: Yes. Forcing pass suggests a fit, and may be quite weak. Raise shows interest in higher contracts.)*

24. Assuming RETURN TO TRUMPS IS WEAKEST ACTION in a force, does it apply when a fit has not yet been found?

*(Suggestion: Yes. Raise is weakness - forcing pass suggests a fit.)*

## DEFENSE AGAINST

*Be sure you know how you play against the opponents common conventions:*

MICHAELS

UNUSUAL NO TRUMP

Any Common Notrump Interference (Natural And/Or Artificial)

LANDY (And Other Major Suit Takeouts)

CAPPELETTI

DON'T

ASTRO

CRASH

TRANSFER OVERCALLS

SUCTION (one suit above or two suits below the bid suit)

FORCING CLUB

TWO-WAY CLUB

STRONG NOTRUMP

WEAK NO-TRUMP

MINI-NOTRUMP (10-12)

MULTI 2♦

2♦ - BOTH MAJORS

PRECISION 1♦

SHORT ♣

GAMBLING 3NT

NAMYATS

DISCUSS:

- Doubles
- Follow-ups
- Level of force
- How to Q-bid (i.e., to make a strong game invitation)
- How to invite game
- How to sign off
- How to play in a major when they've shown both majors (or the one major you want to play)

If you don't have written defenses, make them now

If you don't have an agreement, or don't like the one you're using - see me.

## YOUR OWN CONVENTIONS

Be sure you know your follow-ups to your own artificial bids in the following common situations

MICHAELS

UNUSUAL NO TRUMP

YOUR CONVENTIONAL BIDS OVER THEIR NOTRUMP OPENINGS

YOUR CONVENTIONAL DEFENSES TO STRONG CLUB

DISCUSS:

- Follow-up sequences
- How to force
- Running from doubles
- Passing their doubles of your artificial bids
- No trump responses
- Jump responses
- How to q-bid (i.e., to make a strong game invitation)
- How to make a mild invitation
- How to sign off
- How to play in your own suit when partner has shown two others
- Pass or Correct sequences (e.g., does conventional bidder have to correct if not doubled?)

If you don't have written agreements, make them now

If you don't have an agreement, or don't like the one you're using - see me.



## SPLINTER or NATURAL?

Discuss all the following and be sure you know whether they are splinters or natural (or something else)

1♣-3♦?            4♦?            5♦?

1♣-3♥/♠?        4♥/♠?

1♦-4♣?            5♣?

1♠-4♥?

1♥-4♠?

1♥-5♣/♦?

1♠-(X)-4♣?

1♠-(X)-5♣?

1♣-1♥; 4♠?

1♣-1♠; 4♥?

1♠-2♣; 4♥?

1♣-1♥; 1♠-4♣?

1♣-1♦; 1♥-4♦?

Do you have a general rule to distinguish a splinter from a natural bid (or from Kickback, etc. if you use unusual jumps in this manner), that will cover any new situation that may occur at the table? If not, make one now.