

## Summary Regarding Self-Alerts

Since we can explain our calls (bids, doubles, redoubles, passes) in private to the opponents, at the same time we make them, by typing the explanation into the bid box prior to clicking on the call, we should strive to “over alert”. It is expected that you will explain your methods to the opponents. If there is any doubt as to the meaning of your call, you should type an explanation.

If you do not explain your call, and an opponent is damaged by taking a reasonable inference from the lack of explanation, you will likely suffer an adjustment against your interest.

However, there is a strong presumption that if there is doubt as to the meaning of a call that is not alerted, the opponent will ask, which can be done simply by clicking on the call. If your partner opens 1N, and your RHO bids 2D, without alerting, it should be automatic to inquire. Yes, they should have alerted (probably, we don't know for sure), but some situations are obviously likely to be artificial in some way. Likewise, if you fail to ask about RHO's range if they open 1N with no announcement, you are not likely to obtain redress when you claim later that you didn't know they played weak no trumps.

In summary:

- 1) Offer timely explanations of your bids, even if they seem obvious.**
- 2) Ask about unalerted calls, especially in situations where we know it is likely not natural.**
- 3) When you fail to do either of the above, live with the adverse ruling that may result.**