GET YOUR CONVENTION CARD READY

At the Cotton Club Sectional, you and your partner should arrive with **matching, completed convention cards**. Think of the card as a summary of your partnership agreements—not a test you have to pass before playing.

At our regular **NELABC games in Monroe and RDBC club games in Ruston**, we've generally been pretty relaxed about requiring players to have completed convention cards at the duplicate bridge table. **Tournament play is more formal.** ACBL regulations call for each partnership to have two identically completed cards available to the opponents.

♠ BOTH PARTNERS NEED A CARD

Each player should have a completed card. The cards should:

- Include **both players' names**
- Show the **same partnership agreements**
- Accurately reflect **the methods you currently play**
- Be **readily available to your opponents**

♥ EXPECT OPPONENTS TO LOOK AT IT

Don't be surprised if opponents ask to see your convention card **as soon as you sit down and introduce yourselves.**

They may quickly check your:

1NT range	**Opening system**
Two-level openings	**Conventional bids**
Responses/rebids to 2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠ openings	**Leads and carding**
Defensive methods	**Other unusual agreements**

For example, suppose you open a strong **2♣** and your partner responds **2♥**. Does that show hearts—or have you agreed that 2♥ shows a very weak or **"bust"** hand? An opponent may want to know, and an artificial 2♥ response of that type requires an **Alert!**

We'll have more on "Alerts and Announcements" in Tournament Tip #3.

Opponents may keep your card close at hand and consult it again during the auction or play when permitted. **That's normal tournament bridge.**

♦ YOUR CARD IS FOR YOUR OPPONENTS

Here's the important distinction:

Your opponents may consult your convention card during the game. You may not consult your own card during the auction or play to remind yourself what you and your partner play.

The convention card is a **disclosure tool for your opponents**, not a memory aid for your partnership.

♣ DON'T JUST CHECK BOXES

Some agreements require additional information. For example, simply checking **"2/1"** doesn't describe every partnership agreement associated with the system.

Make sure your card accurately describes what you actually play.

If the Director is called to the table over a question involving a bid, Alert, explanation, or partnership agreement, the Director may examine your convention card as part of determining what your partnership agreement is.

BEFORE OCTOBER 28

- Compare your cards with your partner
- Make sure both are complete and match
- Update agreements you've changed
- Resolve anything you're uncertain about
- Bring both cards to the tournament

NEED A CARD OR AN EXAMPLE?

NELABC Convention Card Editor	Online Convention Card Editor on our Skills Builder page
ACBL Convention Card	Blank, fillable/printable card
ACBL Classic Convention Card	Blank classic-format card
Basic 2/1 Card	Completed 2/1 example
ACBL "Fat Free" Card	Completed basic-system example
SAYC Card	Completed SAYC card and instructions

THE SHORT VERSION

Two matching, completed cards | Both names | Current agreements | Don't just check boxes | Expect opponents to consult your card | Don't consult your own card during the auction or play