FULL STANDARD AMERICAN YELLOW CARD (SAYC) CONVENTION CARD

(This follows the EBU20A Convention Card format.)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM

Bidding System: Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC)
Leads: 4th highest, top of sequence (leads are variable by agreement)
Signals: Attitude (Alternative method: usdca)
Discards: Attitude (Alternative method: Italian)
Strength of 1NT openers: 15-17
2C Response to 1NT opener is: Stayman (Normally with a 4 card major)

FULL DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM

OPENING BIDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening bid</th>
<th>Point range</th>
<th>Min length</th>
<th>Conventional Meaning</th>
<th>Special Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>12*-21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>See notes 1-2</td>
<td>1NT response 6-10 HCP non-forcing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>12*-21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>See notes 1-2</td>
<td>2NT response - see note 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1H</td>
<td>12*-21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>See notes 1-2</td>
<td>2 over 1 change of suit 11+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>12*-21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>See notes 1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1NT</td>
<td>15-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stayman, Jacoby (red suit) transfer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>22+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Strong, artificial See note 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2NT is game interest. Opener bids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>a feature or 3NT if maximum.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Change of suit forcing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2NT</td>
<td>20-21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stayman, other bids natural.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3NT</td>
<td>25-27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stayman, other bids natural.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Gambling?)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 bids</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pre-emptive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 bids</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pre-emptive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERCALLS

Simple Natural, wide-ranging. 8-16. Change of suit by responder non-forcing
Jump Weak - 6 card suit at 2 level. Usually 7 at 3 level.
Cue Bid Michaels (see note 6) - but natural if ops have bid 2 suits
1NT Direct 15-18, responses: Stayman, natural as per 1NT opening
1NT Protective 10-15, responses: Stayman, natural as per 1NT opening
2NT Direct Unusual if a jump - see Note 6. Responses are limit bids.
2NT Protective See above
DEFENSIVE BIDS

Opponents open: Defensive methods:
Strong 1C Natural
Weak 1NT Double = Penalties, Overcalls are natural
Strong 1NT As above
Weak 2 Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
Weak 3 Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
4 of Minor Double = take-out - Cue = Michaels
4 of Major Double = penalty
Multi 2D Natural

ACTION OPPONENTS INTERVENE WITH

Simple Overcall: Doubles are: Take-out over bids up to 2S, promises 4 cards in any unbid major
   Bids are: New suit forcing. 2 of a major is 5+cards and 11+ pts.
Jump Overcall: Doubles are: Take-out over bids up to 2S, promises 4 cards in any unbid major
   Bids are: New suit forcing
Double: Redouble is: 10+
   New suit is: Forcing at 1 level - not at 2 level
   Jump in new suit: Pre-emptive - to play
   Jump raise is: Pre-emptive
   2NT is: Good raise

SPECIAL USES OF DOUBLES:

Doubles of opening NT bids or NT overcalls are for penalties, following which all subsequent doubles
are for penalties. Otherwise, all doubles of suit contracts up to and including 2S are for take-out.
Eg 1S Dbl 2S Dbl - both doubles are for take-out
Doubles of artificial bids show the suit bid
Redoubles are SOS up to 3S except when an artificial bid has been doubled.

SLAM CONVENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Meanings of Responses</th>
<th>Action over interference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackwood</td>
<td>5C = 0/4, 5D = 1, 5H = 2, 5S = 3 aces</td>
<td>D0P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerber - see note 7</td>
<td>4D = 0/4, 4H = 1, 4S = 2, 4NT = 3 aces</td>
<td>D0P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5NT Grand Slam Force</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER CONVENTIONS

FSF (Fourth Suit Forcing) - but after 1C (No) 1D (No) 1H (No), 1S is natural and 2S is "Fourth suit"
UCBs (Unassuming Cue Bids) - opposite partner's overcall, a cue bid shows a good raise
OPENING LEADS

Normal leads against **suit contracts**: 2nd and 4th highest

- **A**K  A\text{x}  **KQ10**  **KQx**  K\text{J}10
- K\text{109}  Q\text{J10}  Q\text{Jx}  J\text{10x}  10\text{x}
- 10\text{9x}  9\text{87x}  10\text{xxx}  H\text{xxxx}  H\text{xxxx}
- H\text{xxx}  H\text{x}  xx  xxx  xxx

Normal leads against **NT contracts**: 2nd and 4th highest

- A\text{Kx}(x)  A\text{J10x}  **KQ10**  **KQx**  K\text{J10}
- K\text{109}  Q\text{J10}  Q\text{Jx}  J\text{10x}  10\text{x}
- 10\text{xxx}  10\text{9x}  9\text{87x}  H\text{x}  H\text{xxxx}
- H\text{xxxx}  H\text{x}  xx  xxx  xxx

SIGNSALS AND DISCARDS

Describe primary method. State alternatives in brackets

Signals on Partner's lead: **Attitude**: high = encouraging, low = discouraging
Signals on Declarer's lead: **Attitude**
Discards: **Attitude**
Exceptions to above: **Count**

**Alternative method**: **UPSIDE DOWN CARDING** (Malmö-Schneider)

Signals on Partner's lead: **Attitude**: low = encouraging, high = discouraging
Signals on Declarer's lead: **Count**: low- high = even
Discards: **First discard = Italian** (Odd-Even)
Lavinthal when obvious
SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS

Note 1
Balanced Hands not 15-17:
With 4-4 in the minors, open 1D. With 3-3 in the minors, open 1C.
1D is only three cards if shape is 4432.
Unbalanced Hands:
Always open the longest suit. With two five-card-or-longer suits, always open the higher

Note 2
After a one-level response, 1NT = 13/16, 2NT = 19/21

Note 3
2C - 2D response is a relay but other bids are positive and specific (2NT=8points balanced) 
2C - 2D - 2NT is 22-24 
After 2C - 2D, bidding is forcing to 3 of opener's major or 4 of opener's minor.

Note 4
Transfer breaks are only by jumping in the agreed suit
1NT (No) 2S = Jacoby Transfer to 3C
This will be passed or converted to 3D (to be passed),
1NT (No) 2NT = Invitational to 3NT
1NT (No) 3C or 3D are invitational to 3NT with a 6+card suit
1NT (No) 3H or 3S are 6+ card suit with slam interest
After 1NT (Dbl), Stayman and transfers apply
After 1NT is overcalled, Stayman and transfers do not apply, but a cue bid is strong and Staymanic.

Note 5
2NT response to 1H or 1S opening bid is Game Forcing, agreeing trumps, with slam interest
Opener bids 3 of a non-trump suit to show a singleton or void, or else shows point count by.
jump to 4 of trump suit to show max 14, 3NT 15-17, 3 of trump suit 18+.
This convention does not apply after interference by opponents
2NT response to 1C or 1D opening bid is 13-15 and forcing; 3NT response is 16-17

Note 6
Michaels Cue Bid / Unusual 2NT
1C 2C or 1D 2D shows at least 5-5 in the majors, 8+ points
1H 2H or 1S 2S shows at least 5-5 in the other major and one minor, 10+ points
1 any 2NT shows at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits
Values range from enough for a minimum overcall up to a very strong hand

Note 7
Gerber is used only directly when partner has opened or rebid 1NT or 2NT. 5C asks for kings.