



INFORMATION SHEET: Transfer Responses To 1 C

Purpose: The NVBA approved the use of transfer responses to 1 Club at all unit games except the 199er game effective 10 February 2011. The purpose of this information sheet is to give players the opportunity to familiarize themselves with this convention.

What Are They? After a Standard American or Two-Over-One 1 C opening bid and a pass at opener's left, a 1 D response shows hearts and a 1 H response shows spades. A 1 S response denies a 4-card major and suggests that opener bid 1NT. **These are alertable.**

- A. Transfer responses in auctions not forcing to game are considered Mid-Chart Conventions and are already permitted in Flight A/X of tournaments.
- B. "Not forcing to game" is an important distinction; Strong Club players may use transfer responses in any event where their system is permitted because the transfers are positive responses forcing to game.

Why Do It? The transfer creates extra bidding space. With heart or spade support, the opener can accept the transfer; without support, opener bids normally. Instead of confirming a 4-4 major suit fit at the 2-level (1 C - Pass - 1 S - Pass - 2 S), the pair does it at the 1-level (1 C - Pass - 1 H - Pass - 1 S), leaving more room for exploration.

Why Did The NVBA Approve This Convention?

- A. Transfer responses are encountered more frequently at area games. Players should not have to change their agreements to play at the NVBA unit game.
- B. The defense is simple and does not present a difficult problem for players, even those with limited experience.
- C. The ACBL does not require a written defense, but **NVBA requires a prealert at the beginning of the round and that the written defense be available.**

What Is The Defense? Opener's side gains a level of bidding, but the defenders gain an extra bid as well. **A double of the artificial bid shows that suit and a bid of the transfer suit is takeout for the other two suits. No other changes to your current partnership agreements are necessary.** Details:

- A. After 1C - Pass - 1D, double with diamonds and bid 1H for spades & diamonds.
- B. After 1C - Pass - 1H, double with hearts and bid 1S to show hearts & diamonds.
- C. The auction 1C - Pass - 1S (denies a 4-card major) is similar to the natural auction of 1C - Pass - 1NT and requires no special defense.
 1. Double in the natural auction would be a takeout double of 1C and can have the same meaning in the transfer auction.
 2. Show both majors by 2C (Michaels), as most pairs would do over 1NT.

Is There More To It? Transfer responses may be used with weak or strong NT bids. They allow a pair to distinguish between 3- and 4-card raises and balanced and unbalanced hands, if they choose to do so. No matter how a partnership fleshes out its agreements, 1D and 1H responses show hearts and spades, respectively, and a 1S response denies a 4-card major. There are several web sites that discuss transfer responses and other defensive ideas; a good one is <http://bridgebuff.com/bestever.html>.