

# Carding Signals Summary

## GENERAL RULES OF DEFENSIVE SIGNALS

- When following to a suit or when discarding in a suit, the relative height of a card is used to send signals.
- Signals are usually given with cards from two to nine.
- A signal can be fully interpreted from the bidding, from the cards seen on the dummy and from the cards held in your hand.
- It is sometimes necessary to wait until partner plays to the second round in a suit to fully understand a signal.
- It is not always appropriate to signal, especially with a strong defensive hand,
- It is not mandatory to follow your partner's signals when not suitable given the context of a hand.
- It is usually profitable to signal as much as possible against less experienced players.
- It is recommended to always signal on the opening lead.

## ATTITUDE SIGNAL

The attitude signal indicates the level of interest toward the suit in which the signal is given. Common practice are positive and negative attitude signals.

- A relatively high card shows positive attitude toward the suit being led, or
- A relatively high card shows negative attitude toward the suit being led,
- An echo is a positive attitude signal consisting in a high card followed as soon as possible with a lower card.

## COUNT SIGNAL

The count signal is used to show the number of cards held in a suit being led.

- A relatively high card shows an even number of cards in a suit being led,
- A relatively low card shows an odd number of cards in a suit being led.

Count is given by playing high-low from two cards, low from three or five cards and second-high followed with third-high from four cards.

## **PREFERENCE SIGNAL**

The preference signal is used to show a preference for one of the two suits outside the trump suit and the suit being led.

- A relatively high card shows a preference for the higher-ranking suit outside the trump suit and the suit being led,
- A relatively low card shows a preference for the lower-ranking suit outside the trump suit and the suit being led.

## **PRECEDENCE WHEN SIGNALING**

a) When following to a suit led by your partner:

- signal attitude with your first card,
- signal preference with your second card.

b) When following to a suit led by the declarer:

- signal count with your first card,
- signal preference with your second card.

c) When discarding in an suit not led yet:

- signal attitude with your first card,
- signal present count with your second card.

d) When discarding in a suit already led:

- signal present count.

## **ROMAN DISCARDS (ODD/EVEN)**

- a) An odd discard encourages continuation of a suit being led.
- b) An even discard discourages continuation of a suit being led.
- c) A relatively high even card suggests a shift to the higher-ranking suit other than the trump suit,
- d) A relatively low even card suggests a shift to the lower-ranking suit other than the trump suit.

### **Advantages:**

When wishing continuation of a suit but lacking an odd card to encourage, trying to give a preference signal would look inconsistent.

## **LAVINTHAL DISCARDS**

- a) A relatively low card shows a preference for the suit ranking immediately below the suit being discarded (Clubs ask for Spades),
- b) A relatively high card shows a preference for the suit ranking immediately above the suit being discarded (Spades ask for Clubs).

### **Advantages:**

- Allows suggesting a shift to a given suit from two other suits,
- Avoids wasting a high card in a suit you wish your partner to shift,
- Reduces the possibility of false carding by declarer.

## **REVERSE SIGNALS (UDCA)**

- a) A relatively low card encourages the continuation of a suit being led.
- b) A relatively high card discourages the continuation of a suit being led.

### **Advantages:**

- Avoids wasting a high card to signal positive attitude in a suit,
- Reduces the possibility of false carding by declarer.

## **RUSINOW LEADS (JOURNALIST LEADS)**

Lead the second higher-ranking honor from a sequence of two or more honors. Applies only against suit contracts in suits not declared by your partner during the auction. Leads other than the opening lead are standard.

### **Advantages:**

- Reduces the ambiguity of leads from Ace-King or King-Queen.

## **MUD LEADS**

MUD means **M**iddle-**U**p-**D**own (when leading from xxx). MUD leads do not apply to suits declared by your partner during the auction.

## **JOURNALIST (LEAD OF AN HONOR AGAINST NO TRUMP)**

Each lead of an honor has a special meaning:

- the lead of a Jack denies a higher-ranking honor,
- the lead of a ten promises the ace, the king or the queen,
- the lead of a nine promises the ten or no higher-ranking honor or
- a doubleton (lead the eight from 987),
- the lead of an Ace shows AKJxx or AKQ10x or AK109x,
- the lead of a King shows AK or KQ,
- the lead of a Queen shows QJ10 or KQ109 and requests unblocking the Jack when held.

### **Advantages:**

Journalist leads eliminate the ambiguity of leading from the top of inner sequences (lead of the Jack from KJ109).

## **CODED NINES AND TENS**

Coded nines and tens leads are used against No Trump contracts.

- The lead of a ten promises the Jack plus another non-consecutive higher-ranking honor or shows top of a sequence without a higher-ranking honor,
- The lead of a nine promises the ten plus another non-consecutive higher-ranking honor or shows top of a sequence without a higher-ranking honor.