

OTHER SPECIAL CONVENTIONS WHEN BIDDING SLAMS

by Maritha Pottenger

Showing Voids in Response to (Roman Key Card) Blackwood

The most common agreement is that an answer of 5NT showing 2 Key Cards AND a void (unspecified). A bid at the 6-level (below your trump suit) shows a void in that suit AND one Key Card. A jump to the 6-level shows one Key Card AND a void in a higher-ranking suit.

Interference over Roman Key Card Blackwood: DOPI and DEPO—see handout on RCKB.

Grand Slam Force

First invented by Josephine Culbertson (and still called Josephine in some areas of Europe), a JUMP to 5NT agrees to the last-bid suit and asks partner to bid 7 (Grand Slam) if s/he has two of the top three honors in that suit. (Bid 6 of trump suit with less.) Eddie Kantar and others have suggested variations for this. If your suit is a major you can use:

6C to show Ace OR King of trumps with minimum (expected) length. [If you opened by bidding, minimum expected length is five. If, however, you bid over a preempt, minimum expected length is six card.]

6D to show Ace OR King of trumps with extra length (at least one card more).

With this variation, if each of the partners has EITHER the King or the Ace and extra length, they can bid the Grand Slam, knowing that the Queen will almost certainly fall.