# USBF Defense to Multi

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### Introduction

This document is designed to be used at the table where written notes for defenses to Multi are allowed. At the time of writing this document, that includes all ACBL events and WBF events where Multi is allowed.

The basic structure is similar to the "Option 2" defense from the ACBL defense database: direct bids are natural, Dbl is a split ranged balanced hand or strong, 2NT is natural. What those defense are missing are notes for extended situations; examples include: how do we show stoppers when we don't know the suit? How do we cuebid with no known suit? How do we respond to balanced doubles?

This document is quite complex; it is recommended you review it thoroughly before attempting to play it in competition.

### **Direct Actions**

#### 2.1 Direct Bids over 2 \( \times \)

C	pener Overcaller Responder Advance	r				
2	♦ ?					
Dbl	13-15 or 19+ Bal, or 18+ Unbal (13-16 if partner is a	PH)				
2♡/♠	Natural. Cheapest bid in OM is <i>natural</i>					
2NT	16-18					
3♣	Natural. 3 Artificial, like a cuebid.					
3 ♦	Natural. $3\%$ 2-way, see below.					
<b>3M</b>	Strong, OM is a cuebid.					
3NT	Based on long minor. $4 \clubsuit$ asks, LH. +1 over that is RKC.					
	4♦/♡ Texas Xfer					
4♣	<b>4♣</b> ♣ & Major, 4♦ asks. GF					
<b>4</b> ♦	$\Diamond$ & Major, $4 \heartsuit$ P/C. GF					

### 2.2 Overcalls

#### 2♡/♠

Natural overcall with no cuebid below game available. Some special meanings:

2♥-2♠ Natural

2♠-3♥ Natural

2♥-3♠ Cuebid, GF

2♠-4♥ Spl

3m 4+ F1; May take the place of a below-game cuebid

4m Jumps are spl, except 2♠-4♣ = bal or spl slam try.

	)pener $\Diamond$	Overcaller 2♥/♠	Responder Double <sup>1</sup>	Advancer ?	
1. Pass of	r Correct				
XX	Good Hand				
2NT	Running				
Suits	Natural				
P (P)	Opener should probably run				

#### 2NT

16–18, systems on as per 2NT opener. If Responder bids  $3 \, \text{?}/\text{AP}$  Pass or Correct, both direct and delayed doubles are takeout. Everything else is natural.

#### 3♣/◊

Over  $3\clubsuit$ ,  $3\diamondsuit$  is artificial and similar to a cuebid. It might be the start of a NT probe, it might be a club raise.  $3\heartsuit/\spadesuit$  is natural.

	Opener 2 ◊ Pass	Overcaller 3?	Responder Pass	Advancer 3 $\Diamond$	
3♡	Natural or $\heartsuit$	stopper w/o a	♠ stopper		
	$3 \spadesuit : 4 \heartsuit s$ , now $3NT = NF w / \heartsuit stop but no \spadesuit stop$				
	3NT: $\blacktriangle$ stop, no interest in playing in $\heartsuit$				
3♠	Presumed Na	atural, F			
3NT	Natural w/ ♠	stopper, $\heartsuit$ sto	opper unknown		

Over  $3 \diamondsuit$ ,  $3 \heartsuit$  is a multi way bid.  $3 \spadesuit$  is natural.

	Opener 2◊	Overcaller $3 \diamondsuit$	Responder Pass	Advancer ?	
3♡	Natural or a 🛚	stop and no	stop		
	3♠: Interest i	n playing in $\heartsuit$ ,	now 3NT = 0s	top w/o ♠ stop	
	3NT: ♠ stop,	no interest in 🤇	9		
	4 $♡$ : 4 card $♡$ ,	no \land stop, NF			
3♠	Natural, F				

#### **Further competition**

If they make a pass or correct type bid over Overcaller's action:

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	Opener 2◊	Overcaller Bid	Responder 2♠/3x	Advancer ?	
Dbl	Cards				
4♡	Natural, even over 3♡				

### 2 **♦** −Dbl

This chapter will deal with responding to the split range double. Dbl is 13-15 bal, 19+ bal or 18+ unbal.

### **3.1 2 ♦ -Dbl-P/XX**

Opener 2◊		Overcaller Double	Responder Pass/XX	Advancer ?	
Pass	Willing to d	lefend 2 $\Diamond$ X or	XX, might not b	pe a big diamond hand	
	Major Q aft	ter Pass = ask	stop		
2M	Nat, Comp. $3 \diamondsuit = Q$ , other NAT				
2NT	5+ \$, requests $3$ \$ when Dbl is $13-15$				
3 ◊ / ♡	Xfer, inv+				
3NT	11-16 w/ ◊	stop			
4m	Strong invite				
4M	NF				
4NT	Straight Bla	ackwood			

### **Choosing between Pass and 2NT with a weak hand:**

Generally, avoid bidding 2NT since it will often get NT played from the wrong side. If responder's P/XX showed  $\Diamond$ , bid 2NT with 3325 or 6+  $\clubsuit$ ; if responder's P/XX was neutral, usually pass.

	Opener 2 ♦ Pass	Overcaller Double ?	Responder Pass/XX	Advancer 2NT
3♣	13-15 bal			
	3♦ is a 1-suit	ed 🌲 GF, other	is natural and (	GF
3 ◊	Art, 19+ Bal.	Forcing to 3NT	or higher. (4 $\clubsuit$	ok)
	3♥ Waiting, n	night be weak.		
	3NT NF			

	Opener 2 ♦ Pass	Overcaller Double ?	Responder Pass/XX	Advancer 2NT	continued
	4♣ Nat GF				
	4NT Quant.				
3♡	Nat 18+ unba	al, Forcing to 3N	NT or higher (4 $\P$	<b>6</b> ok). 3 <b>♦</b> =Q	
3♠	Nat 18+ unba	al, Forcing to 3N	T or higher (4	<b>6</b> ok) 4♡=Q	
4M	Slam try				

2	pener ◇ ♡/♠	Overcaller Double ?	Responder P/XX	Advancer Pass
Dbl	<b>Dbl</b> 19+ Bal, Takeout with Lebensohl			
<b>2NT</b> 19-21 Bal, stop in opener's M. Respond as per 2NT opener.				s per 2NT opener.
Other	Other Nat, 18+			

2	pener ◇ ♡/♠	Overcaller Double Pass	Responder P/XX Pass	Advancer Pass ?
Dbl	Values, 2+	cards in M, no	clear direction	
3M	Spl			
Other	Nat			

2	dbl <sup>1</sup>	Overcaller Double ?	Responder Pass	Advancer Pass
P Other	Neutral Nat, 19+			

Opener 2 ♦ Rdbl <sup>1</sup>	Overcaller Double Pass	Responder Pass 2♡/♠ <sup>2</sup>	Advancer Pass ?		
1. Specific Major					
2. Can be same or different from major shown by XX					
<b>Dbl</b> Needs definition. Placeholder: cards, takeout.					

## **3.2 2 ○-Dbl-2** ♡

This section is all about bids after  $2 \lozenge - Dbl - 2 \heartsuit$  where  $2 \heartsuit$  is P/C.

C	pener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer	
2	$\Diamond$	Double	2♡	?	
Pass	NF (Dbl of	correction = T/	(O)		
Dbl	10-12 Bal o	r Semi-Bal, son	ne defensive tole	erance	
2 🏟	NF, typicall	y 5+			
2NT	Semi-Puppet to 3♣; either minor signoff (6-9), GF minor or bal with onl			(6-9), GF minor or bal with only	
	♠ stop				
3♣	GF Staymar	n, does not pro	mise a major		
3 ◊ / ♡	Inv+ xfer.				
3♠	GF with sho	ort $\heartsuit$ and 0-3 $\spadesuit$	٠.		
3NT	11-16, both	Majors stoppe	d		
4m	Strong Invite				
4M	Nat NF				
4NT	Straight Bla	ackwood			

	Opener 2 ◊ P/2 ♠	Overcaller Double ?	Responder 2♡	Advancer Pass	
Dbl	19+ Bal, T/O w/ Lebensohl				
2NT	19-21 Bal, $\heartsuit$ stop; bid as over 2NT overcall of 2 $\heartsuit$				

	Opener 2 ◊ Pass	Overcaller Double ?	Responder 2♡	Advancer 2NT <sup>1</sup>	
1. Semi	-puppet to 3♣				
3♣	13-15 Bal				
3 ◊	Art, 19+ Bal,	GF			
3♡	Nat, 18+ Unl	bal; $3 \triangleq = Q$ , $4m$	Nat		
3♠	Nat, 18+ Unl	bal; $4\heartsuit = Q$ , $4m$	Nat		
3NT	Nat, good hand with a long minor				
4m	Nat, 18+ Unbal				
4M	Slam try				

	Opener 2 ◊ Pass	Overcaller Double 3 <b>*</b>	Responder 2♡ Pass	Advancer 2NT ?	
Pass	How to play 3♣				
3 ◊	NF, expected	d end of auction	n		
3♡	GF ♣				
3♠	GF ♦				
3NT	Bal GF, only ♠ stop				

2 0 D		Overcaller Double 3 ♦	Responder 2♡ Pass	Advancer 2NT ?	
3♡	♣, 8-9, slam interest				
3♠	♦, 8-9, slam	interest			
3NT	NT NF				
4m	12+ Nat; +1	RKC, 4NT Nat	t		
4NT	Nat, highly i	nvititational			

	Opener 2◊	Overcaller Double	Responder 2♡	Advancer Double		
	Pass	?				
2 🌲	4 ♠, denies a	maximum with	a ♡ stop			
2NT	NF min					
3m	NF min					
3♡	Max w/ 4 ♠ 8	🕏 ♡ stop <b>OR</b> 19	+ (Semi-)Bal w	/ 4 ♠.		
	3 <b>♦</b> →3NT, 4 ♡	→4 <b>(</b> bid more	with 19+)			
3♠	Max, 0-3 ♠, no stop <b>OR</b> 20+ Bal (bid again)					
3NT	Max, 0-3 ♠, stopper, NF					
<b>4m</b>	Nat, $19+$ ; $4 \otimes$ RKC, $4$ NT Nat					

### 3.3 2 ◊ - Dbl - 2 ♠

As in the previous section,  $2 \spadesuit$  is P/C.

2	)pener ♦	Overcaller Double	Responder 2♠	Advancer ?		
Pass	Pass NF, Dbl of correction is T/O					
Dbl	10-12 Bal or Semi-Bal, some defensive tolerance					

Opener 2◊		Overcaller Double	Responder 2 ♠	Advancer ?	continued
2NT	Semi-puppe	t to 3♣: 6-9 m	inor NF, GF mir	or or Bal with	only ♡ stop
3♣	GF Stayman, does not promise a major				
3 ◊/♡	Xfer				
3♠	GF with ♠sl	hortness, 0-3 🛚	)		
3NT	11-15, both	Majors stoppe	d		
4m	Strong invite				
4M	Nat NF				
4NT	Straight Blackwood				

	Opener 2 ◊ Pass	Overcaller Double ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer Pass	
Dbl	19+ Bal, T/O w/ Lebensohl				
2NT	19-21 Bal, ♠stop; bid as over 2NT overcall of 2♠				

Open 0 2 ♦ 3 ♡	er Overcaller Double ?	Responder 2 ♠	Advancer Pass
<b>Dbl</b> 19	+ Bal		
Other Na	t, 19+		

	Opener 2 ♦ Pass	Overcaller Double ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer 2NT <sup>1</sup>		
	i-puppet to 3♣	•				
3 *	13-15 Bal					
3 ◊	Art, 19+ Bal,	GF				
3♡	Nat, 18+ Un	bal, GF; 3♠=Q,	4m Nat			
3♠	Nat, 18+ Unbal, GF; $4 \heartsuit = Q$ , 4m Nat					
3NT	Γ Nat, good hand with a long minor					
4m	Nat, 18+ Unbal					
<b>4M</b>	Nat, Slam try	7				

#### 3.4 $2 \diamondsuit - Dbl - 3x$

For this section, most of our bids are going to be natural in nature with doubles being responsive/cards. We have far less room to have delicate artificial auctions. There may still be some transfers when available.

	Opener $2 \diamondsuit$	Overcaller Double	Responder 3♣	Advancer ?
Dbl	Cards			
3 ◊	Xfer to $\heartsuit$ , inv+. (3 ♠ is Nat, not a cuebid.)			
3♡	Xfer to ♠, inv+			
3♠	$\Diamond$ , $4 \Diamond$ by Dou	bler only Non-	GF call	

	Opener 2◊	Overcaller Double	Responder 3 $\Diamond$	Advancer ?
Dbl	Responsive, wide ranging			
3M	Forcing 1 round by UPH			
<b>4</b> ◊	Cuebid			
<b>4</b> x	Nat			

	Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer
4	2 ♦	Double	3 🗸 -	<i>?</i>
1. Pass	or Correct			
3♠	Nat, Forcing 1 round by UPH			
4m	Nat, Forcing 1 round by UPH			
4♡	Natural, not a cuebid			
Pass	3 ♠-P-P-Dbl: Takeout			

	Opener 2◊	Overcaller Double	Responder 3 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Advancer ?
1. Pass	s or Correct			
Dbl	Responsive, wide ranging			
4 ♠	Cuebid			
4m	Nat, Forcing 1 round by UPH			
4♡	Nat			

## 3.5 Stayman/Transfers

In general, responses to the double resemble typical NT methods.  $3 \clubsuit$  is Stayman (GF),  $3 \diamondsuit / \heartsuit$  are Transfers.  $3 \spadesuit$  is not defined in all auctions.

Opene 2 \( \rightarrow \) Pass	Overcaller Double 3 ♦	Responder any Pass	Advancer 3♣¹ ?
1. GF Stayman			
3♥/3♠ Showing a stop, worried about a suit. If Pass/XX is neutral, the other sui is the other major. If Pass/XX shows ♦ then that is the suit.			

Ope: 2 \( \rightarrow \) Pass	Double	Responder any	Advancer $3 \diamond^{1}$
1. Xfer to ♡	1. Xfer to ♡		
3♡	13-15, reject invite		
3♠	Q, choice of games		
4m,4NT	Nat, 19+		
3NT,4♡	13-15, accept invite		
4 🏟	RKC for $\heartsuit$		

Ope: 2 \( \rightarrow \) Pass		Overcaller Double ?	Responder P/XX/2M	Advancer $3  {}^{\circ}\!\!\!/  {}^{1}$
1. Xfer to ♠	1. Xfer to ♠			
3♠	13-15, reject invite			
4m,4NT	Γ Nat, 19+			
3NT/4 ♠	7/4 ♦ 13-15, accept invite			
4♡	Cuebid, 18+, fit. 4 ♦ -4NT is RKC			

$$2 \diamondsuit -P-Bid$$

This chapter is dedicated to auctions where "advancer" is the first person to act for our side in a typical multi auction.

#### **4.1 2 ○-P-2** ♥

 $2 \ensuremath{\heartsuit}$  is assumed to be pass or correct for this entire section.

	pener <	Overcaller Pass	Responder $2\%$	Advancer ?
Dbl	Either T/O	of ♡or 18+; Le	b applies; migh	t be light with short ♡
2 🌲	Nat, limited	d by failure to Γ	Obl	
2NT	14-18, respond as to 2NT opener			
3♣/◊	Nat, resp as to direct overcall. See section 2.2, p. 3			n 2.2, p. 3
3NT	Nat, 22-24 or equivalent with long suit			
4♣/◊	5+ 5+ GF in bid minor and unknown major. See section 2.1, p. 2			
3♡/♠	Natural. Other major = cuebid			
4♡♠	Natural. Ot	ther major = cu	ıebid; 4♠ is RK	C if you play Kickback

	Opener 2 ◊ 2 ♠	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder $2  ^{\circ}$	Advancer Double
Dbl	Pen opp T/O	of hearts, now 3	B♠ = Strong T/0	O of •
2NT	Nat			
3♡	Nat but assu	ming doubler is	short in $\heartsuit$	
3♠	Short ♠			

	Opener 2 ◊ Pass	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder $2  \%$	Advancer Double	
2NT	T Lebensohl				
	3♠ rebid by 2NT hand shows 5♠, good hand				
	3NT rebid by 2NT hand shows 4 $\spadesuit$ , $\heartsuit$ stopper				

2	pener	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder $2  \%$	Advancer 3NT
4 ♣	Asking, the	n		
	4 ◊: Bal			
	4♡: ♣			
	4 ♠: ◊			
4 ◊ /♡	Texas			
<b>4</b> •	Both Minors	S		

## **4.2 2 ○ -P-2 ♠**

 $2 \spadesuit$  is assumed to be pass or correct for this entire section.

	)pener $\Diamond$	Overcaller Pass	Responder 2♠	Advancer ?
Dbl	T/O or any 2	18+; Leb; may	be light with sh	ort •
2NT	14-18, resp	ond as per 2N	Γopener	
3♣/◊	Nat, resp as to direct overcall. See section 2.2, p. 3			n 2.2, p. 3
3NT	Nat, 22-24 or equivalent with long suit			
4♣/◊	5+ 5+ GF in bid minor and unknown major. See section 2.1, p. 2			
3♡/♠	Natural. Other major = cuebid			
4♡♠	Natural. Ot	her major = cu	ıebid; 4♠ is RK0	C if you play Kickback

	Opener 2 ♦ 3 ♡ <sup>1</sup>	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2 •	Advancer Double	
1. Or c	other bid which show	ws ♡			
Dbl	Cards				
3♡	Shortness, when available.				
3♠	Nat, assuming partner is short in spades				

Opener 2 ♦ Pass	Overcaller Pass Pass	Responder Double ?	Advancer 3♡
<b>Dbl</b> 18+ T/O			

Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer	
2 ♦	Pass	2♠	Double	
(bid)	Pass	3♡	?	
<b>Dbl</b> 18+ T/O				

2	pener ass	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer 3NT	
4 &	Asking, the	n			
	4 ◊: Bal				
	4♡: ♣				
	4 ♠: ◊				
4 ◊/♡	Texas				
4 ♠	Both Minors	S			

# Other Sequences

# 5.1 Balancing

Opener 2 ♦ Pass		Overcaller Pass ?	Responder $2\%$	Advancer Pass	
Dbl	T/O; Lebensohl				
2NT	Minors, moderate values				
Other	Natural, weaker than direct				

O <sub>1</sub> 2 3 2 4		Overcaller Pass ?	Responder $2\%$	Advancer Pass	
Dbl	T/O; Lebensohl				
2NT	Any 2 suits, moderate values. 3NT over 2 ⋄ -p-3 ⋄ -p-3 ♠ same				
Other	Natural, weaker than direct				

2	pener ♢ ass	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer Pass	
Dbl	T/O; Lebensohl				
2NT	Any 2 suits, moderate values. 3NT over 2 ⋄-p-3 ⋄-p-3 ♠ same				
Other	Natural, weaker than direct				

Opener $2 \diamondsuit 3 \heartsuit^{1}$	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer Pass	
1. Or other bid which	shows ♡			
<b>Dbl</b> T/O; Lel	bensohl			·

3	1	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2♠	Advancer Pass	continued
3NT		derate values			

O: 2 · 2 ·		Overcaller Pass Pass	Responder 2♡ Pass	Advancer Pass ?	
Dbl	T/O, 10-17 HCP. With more direct Dbl of 2♡; Leb				
2NT	Any 2 suits, moderate values. 3NT over 2 ⋄ -p-3 ⋄ -p-3 ♠ same				
Other	Natural, weaker than direct				

## **5.2 Preemptive Responses**

Opener 2♦	Overcaller Pass	Responder 3♡/♠/4♡/♠	Advancer ?	
Dbl	T/O or 18+ any			
Pass then Dbl	T/O			
Pass then 3NT	2 suits			
3NT	Natural, see 4.1, p. 13			

#### Over 4♣/♦Artificial, commonly played as Transfer/Bid your suit:

	Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer	
	2 ◊	Pass	4♣/◊	?	
Dbl	<b>Dbl</b> Shows the bid suit, values to compete				

Opener 2 ♦ 4x	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 4♣	Advancer Pass	
<b>Dbl</b> Lead Direction				

Opener	Overcaller	Responder	Advancer	
2 ♦	Pass	4♣/♢	Pass	
4x	Pass	Pass/4M	?	
<b>Dbl</b> T/O assuming final bid is natural				

### 5.3 2NT Asking

This section is for actions over a positive asking bid by Responder.

	pener	Overcaller Pass	Responder 2NT	Advancer ?	
Dbl	15+				
3♣/◊	Natural. Se	e 2.2 p. 3			
3♡/♠	Natural				
3NT	Tricks				
4♡/♠	Strong Nat				
4♣/◊	5+ 5+ in bi	d minor + unk	known major. See	e 2.1 p. 2	

Opener 2 ◊ 3 ♣/◊ 1	Overcaller Pass ?	Responder 2NT	Advancer Pass	
1. Shows a specific Major				
<b>Dbl</b> Lead direction				

### 5.4 Multi Passed

Over 2  $\Diamond$  -P-P, bid as over a weak 2  $\Diamond$