No-Frills Overcalling

At the 1 level - could be your hand — lead-directing — suggests defense

* 5+ card suit
* 7+ points

Suit quality consideration: # of cards in suit + # of honors in suit = 7 or more

Advancer's response: 7-11 points and a 3+ card fit — raise partner's suit. 12+ points — cuebid opponent's suit — the conversation continues

At the 2 level

Without a jump shows a hand with opening values

* 5+ card suit
* Opening values

With a jump is pre-emptive — descriptive — lead-directing — suggests defense • 6 cards in the suit

* 6-9 points

Suit quality: 2 of top 3 or 3 of top 5 honors in suit

Advancer's responses: Estimate partner's points - add yours and determine possibilities.

Take-out doubles - Opponents have opened the bidding and you have:

* Opening strength
* 3+ cards in all unbid suits (preferably with an honor in each)
* Shortness in opponents' suit (void, singleton, doubleton)
* Neither you nor partner has bid anything other than pass

Responding to partner's TAKE-OUT double

Take it out if your RHO passes. Repeat: Take it out! You must bid.  0—8 points bid best suit at lowest level

* 9— 11 points jump a level, bid best suit e 12+ points cuebid opponent's suit

No-Trump responses to take-out double require more points

* 8 — 10 points and at least one "stopper" in opponent's suit— bid NT at lowest level possible
* 11 — 12 points and more than one "stopper" —jump in NT
* 13+ points and more than one "stopper" — bid 3NT

If your RHO bids something other than pass, a bid by you is voluntary and shows values, so Doubler can bid again without extra values. If, however, advancer has been forced to bid and has shown 0-8 points, a rebid by T-O doubler shows 17+ points.