**Elements of the bidding conversation – quick review**

Opening 1 heart or 1 spade – what is promised?

Assume the lowest point value until given further information.

Responding to partner’s opening 1 heart/spade – what is promised?

Assume the lowest point value until given further information.

Clarify 2NT

Describing/limiting your hand – the concept of “captaincy”

Opener Responder

Minimum 12 - 14 6 - 9/10

Medium 15 - 17 10 – 12

Maximum 18+ 13+

Minimum + minimum = partial score

Minimum + medium = *possible* game

Minimum + maximum = game

Medium + minimum = add the points and consider the possibilities (invitational bids)

Etc.

*Consider last week’s hands.*

North 13 HCP South 13 HCP

**KQ**xxx **J**x

**A**xx **KJ**xxx

Xx **KQJ**x

**A**xx **Q**x

East 19 HCP West 7 HCP

**QJ**xx **AK**xx

**AQ**xxx xx

**K**x xxx

**AK** xxxx

**Opening a minor at the one level**

* 12-21 points
* No 5+ card major
* 3+ cards in suit – 4/4 open diamonds, 3/3 open clubs

*Handout: Responding to Partner’s 1* *****or 1* **** *Opening Bid*

**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
* 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.