

IMP Odds

Consider the sequence 1 -2 -3 -?

You bid 4 in preference to playing 3 . What are the odds on your 4 bid?

Tricks	Your Score	Alternative score	Net Score	Your IMPs
10	+620	+170	+450	+10
9	-100	+140	-240	-6

Make good bets

Avoid bad bets

When you calculate IMP odds, you must consider the score in both your own contract and at least one alternative contract. Suppose the 4 contract happens to go down 2 instead of 1, Once again, your contract is 4 , and your option was to pass in 3 and collect that score.

Tricks	Your Score	Alternative score	Net Score	Your IMPs
10	+620	+170	+450	+10
9	-100	+140	-240	-6
8	-200	-100	-100	-3!

IMP Odds

Consider the sequence 1 -2 -4

You bid 4 in preference to playing 2 . What are the odds on your 4 bid?

Tricks	Your Score	Alternative score	Net Score	Your IMPs
10	+620	+170	+450	+10
9	-100	+140	-240	-6
8	-200	+110	-310	-7

When the alternative is a 2 partial, down 2 in 4 costs 7 IMPs. Why the difference? In scenario 1, taking only 8 tricks greatly affected the score in the alternative contract (3), reducing its score by 240 points (from +140 to -100). In this scenario, taking only 8 tricks didn't impact the score in the alternative contract much (it went from +140 to +110) and that is why the IMP scores for the two scenarios differ so much.

What can we learn? When calculating odds think carefully about scores in alternative contracts! More importantly, we must remember that IMP odds are the odds on a *decision* (the choice between two contracts), and not on one contract. Change the choice and the odds will change.

IMP Odds

You get poor odds in invitational part-score auctions. When your possible contracts are 2 or 3, and partner rejects your invite, bidding 3 will earn 0 IMPs when it makes, and lose 4 or 5 IMPs when 3 goes down 1. The IMP odds are 0-to-4 or 0-to-5 and those odds aren't good.

Since 3 is an undesirable contract, we do not want to play there if we can avoid it. One way to avoid playing 3 is to *invite conservatively*.

It reduces the number of times you are in position to face bad odds (as compared to aggressive invites)

When you do invite, partner can accept most of the time

Conclusion – Invite rarely – accept frequently

Just like a dinner party!