



# Competing in the Protective Position

11 June 2019

# What is the Protective Position?

What do we mean by Protective Position?	Your Partner has not yet bid; and				
	the Opposition have stopped bidding.				
	If you do not bid, the bidding would be over				
Examples	1.	1 ♠	PASS	PASS	Your bid?
	2.	1 ♣	PASS	2 ♣	PASS
		PASS	Your bid?		
3.	1 ♥	PASS	1 NT	PASS	PASS
	2 ♦	PASS	PASS		Your bid?
Why is bidding from the Protective Position different than from the Direct Position (to the immediate left of the opening bidder)?	In each of the above situations, it is <u>probable</u> that:				
	The High Card Points (HCPs) are split almost evenly between you and the Opposition.				
	Leaving the Opposition in a low part-score contract with one-half of the points is likely to result in them achieving a positive score.				

# Opening the bidding from the Protective Position

<p>How strong do you need to be to bid from the Protective Position?</p>	<p>“Borrow a King”</p>	
<p>Any relaxation of other guidelines?</p>	<p>i.e.</p>	<p>add 3 HCPs to your total and bid as you would have done in the Direct Position</p>
<p>Any relaxation of other guidelines?</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>You can overcall with 4 cards rather than the normal minimum of 5.</p>
<p>Any relaxation of other guidelines?</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>You can bid 1 NT with 11+ (rather than 15+) You should have at least 3 cards in the Opposition’s bid suit but you need not have a stopper</p>
<p>What should you bid?</p>	<p>Although you can bid a suit overcall or 1 NT, favour bidding a double, particularly if:</p>	
<p>What should you bid?</p>	<p>1.</p>	<p>You have 15+ points (before adding 3 more); and</p>
<p>What should you bid?</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>You have 8 points (11 with 3 added), a shortage (&lt; 3) in the Opposition’s bid suit and no good long suit to overcall in.</p>
<p>What should you bid?</p>	<p>Your partner may not have overcalled in the Direct Position because her strong suit was bid by the Opposition. In this situation, she will bid Pass and turn your Take-out Double into a Penalty Double.</p>	

# What to do in the 4<sup>th</sup> Position if no-one else has bid

Should I also “borrow a king” if I am in the 4<sup>th</sup> position and no-one else has bid?

No

This is a common misunderstanding when people are learning bridge.

Is there anything different to consider if the first three people have bid passed and I am in the 4<sup>th</sup> Position?

Some Partnerships agree to bid 1 NT with only 11 points in this position.

It is because the points are likely to be evenly distributed and usually you will make a 1 NT with 19+ HCPs.

If you do agree to do this with you Partner, you must both remember to announce the points range as 11-14, rather than 12-14, when either of you bids 1 NT as the first bid in the 4<sup>th</sup> Position.