



Pre-emptive bids at the 2 level - “Weak 2s”

12 May 2020

Why open at the 2 level with a weak hand?

♦ In the past, all bids at the 2 level were from strong hands, promising at least 8 winning tricks (with the bid suit as trumps)

♣ However, very few (< 5%) of hands are in this category

♥ In Modern Acol, 2 ♣ is a very strong bid, but 2 ♠, 2 ♥ and 2 ♦ are used for:

♠ a weak hand

♠ a suit containing 6 cards *

♠ a Suit Quality of at least 8

Suit Quality (SQOT) = Number of cards in suit + Number of honours in suit

* With 7 cards and only one honour in the suit (i.e. SQOT of 8, opener would also bid a weak 2)

What is the message for Partner?

♦ The purpose of opening with a weak 2 ♠, 2 ♥ or 2 ♦:

♣ You are informing your partner that you have

♥ below average HCPs

♥ a potentially good trump suit

♠ You are also cutting out the first round of bidding for your Opponents

If you are weak, your Opponents are more likely to be strong and you want to make it difficult for them to find a Game contract.

♦ Note the point range for bidding a Weak 2 is 5 – 10 HCPs.

♠ Except – If you have enough strength and length in your two longest suits to open at the 1 level using “Rule of 20”, open at the 1 level rather than the 2 level

♥ Do not open with a Weak 2 bid if you have 4+ cards in a separate Major suit

♠ If you are vulnerable and your Opponents are not, only open a Weak 2 with higher strength / suit quality

Responses after Pre-emptive opening bids

Responder's hand	Response
Less than 12 HCPs	Bid to level of fit
12 - 15 HCP and 2+ cards in the Opener's bid suit	Bid Game if the sum of your HCPs and your cards in the Opener's bid suit equals 17 or more
16+ HCP and 1+ card in the Opener's bid suit	Bid 2 NT to find out more (Opener alerts)
Otherwise	Pass

A response in a new suit is possible in Modern Acol, but would require a very strong hand (16+ HCP), at least 5 cards in the suit, and being prepared for Opener to rebid their suit.

You might wish to do this to play in a Major contract rather than 2 ♦ for more points.

Probably best avoided - you are likely only to confuse your partner.

Re-bids by Opener

Weak 2s

Opener should only rebid if responder has bid 2 NT to ask for information

Opener's hand	Opener's Response	Opener's Response
Weak suit; weak hand	3 ♣	Responder alerts these unnatural bids
Strong suit; weak hand	3 ♦	
Weak suit; strong hand	3 ♥	
Strong suit; strong hand	3 ♠	

A strong suit contains at least 2 of the top three honours i.e. at least K Q X X X X

A strong hand has 8 or more HCPs

Pre-emptive overcalls

- ♦ **If you would have opened with a Weak 2 bid, you can overcall an Opponent's bid**
- ♣ **A lot of Partnerships agree that jumping a level with an overcall bid shows that it is weak**

Example 1

Vulnerability: **North / South**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ J 2
♥ Q 8 7 6
♦ A J 8 7 5 2
♣ 10

East's hand:

♠ K 10 6
♥ A J 9 5 4
♦ 10
♣ K J 9 7

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

Example 2

Vulnerability: **East / West**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ 4
♥ K J 10 9 7 6
♦ 10 3
♣ Q 9 7 4

East's hand:

♠ J 8 2
♥ A 8
♦ A Q 7 6 5
♣ K J 2

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

Example 3

Vulnerability: **North / South**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ K 3
♥ A Q 8 7 5 2
♦ 10 8 5
♣ J 7

East's hand:

♠ Q 10 6
♥ K 6 4
♦ A 9 3
♣ Q 10 9 6

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

Example 4

Vulnerability: **East / West**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ Q 10 8 6 5 2
♥ K 3
♦ 10 7 6
♣ 10 9

East's hand:

♠ 7 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ A 9 8 4 2
♣ K J 2

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

Example 5

Vulnerability: **North / South**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ Q 7 5
♥ J 9
♦ 10
♣ K 9 8 7 5 3 2

East's hand:

♠ K J 8 2
♥ K 8 6 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 6

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			

Example 6

Vulnerability: **North / South**
Dealer: **West**

West's hand:

♠ K 6
♥ 10 3
♦ A Q 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 6 4

East's hand:

♠ J 7 5 2
♥ A K 9 4
♦ K 10 8
♣ A Q

Bidding:			
West	North	East	South
?			



Thank you