

## BALANCING 8/3/20

Balancing is a huge part of the game. Balancing is making a bid or a double in the pass out seat when the opponents stopped at a low level. When a bid is followed by 2 passes, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> pass will end the auction, you are in the PASSOUT seat. You can compete with less than the values required in the direct seat.

When bidding in the passout seat, an overcall may show a hand with 3 points (a king) less than in direct seat. It doesn't deny an opening hand.

1 NT in the passout seat shows 11-14 HCP, about 3 points less than in direct seat. Note: you can have up to 15 HCP when balancing over a major. Transfers and stayman over a balancing NT are partnership agreements.

A jump to 2 NT in balancing seat, IS NOT UNUSUAL, shows 19-21 HCP. Systems should be on.

Doubling in the passout seat can be made with 3 points (a king) less than in direct seat. If you have a better hand, you double, when partner bids, bid again

When the opponents stop at the 2 level, always think about balancing. If they have a fit, you probably have one. The hand with shortness in the opponent's suit is usually the one to balance. When deciding whether to balance, consider the vulnerability. You might score better by defending. If opponents haven't found a fit, it's less likely that we will find a fit.

If the opponent opens 1 H, and there are 2 passes to you, you are in the balancing seat, a bid of 2 spades by you shows an intermediate hand of 15-17 HCP and a 6 card suit. If you have a NT hand (15+ points), you must double first and bid NT at your next opportunity.

Traditional takeout doubles meet the "SOS" requirements.

Short in the opponents' suit (s)

Opening strength (including that shortness)

Support for the unbid suits

- #1. 1 diamond, pass, pass, you hold KQ108 A1054 432 K7 your bid?
- #2. 1 heart, pass, pass, you hold KJ97 A54 J6542 7 your bid?
3. 1 heart, pass, pass you hold J765 A105 KQJ32 5 your bid?
4. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold KQ7 QJ42 432 Aj3 your bid?
5. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold A2 QJ109 8654 A97 your bid?
6. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold Q8742 AQ107 A8 32 your bid?
7. 1 diamond, pass, pass, you hold AK107 42 73 Q8763 your bid?
8. 1 club, pass, pass, you hold KQJ9 87654 3 Q42 your bid?
9. 1 heart, pass, pass you hold AQ87 865 2 AK974 your bid?
10. 1 club, pass, pass you hold K72 J54 AKJ87 K2 your bid?
11. 1 club, pass, pass you hold Q2 82 AJ985 KJ97 your bid?
12. 1 club, pass, pass you hold 3 AJ4 KQ975 A432 your bid?
13. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold KQ1087 9654 32 Q5 your bid?
14. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold KQ108 A1054 432 K7 your bid?
15. 1 heart, pass, pass you hold KJ1-7 A54 J6432 7 your bid?
16. 1 club, pass, pass you hold K76 AQ2 KJ4 QJ83 your bid?
17. 1 club, pass, pass you hold K8 1065 KJ87 AJ54 your bid?
18. 1 diamond, pass, pass you hold 42 KJ7 QJ987 AJ3 your bid?
19. 1 heart, pass, pass you hold K4 1064 AJ54 AQ63 your bid?