

FORCING or NOT?

Final bid in bold-face, is that bid forcing or not?

1. **1 CLUB**
2. 1Club Pass **1 Heart**
3. 1Club Pass 1 Heart Pass **1 Spade**
4. **2 Clubs**
5. 2 Clubs Pass 2 Diamonds Pass **2 Hearts**
6. 2 Clubs Pass 2 Diamonds Pass **2 NT**
7. 1 Club Pass 1 Heart Pass **3 Hearts**
8. 1 Club Pass 1 heart Pass **2 NT**
9. 1 Club Pass 1 Heart Pass **3 Clubs**
10. 1 Club 1 Heart **1 Spade**
11. 1 Club 1 Heart 1 Spade Pass 2 Clubs Pass **2 Hearts**
12. 1 Club 1 Heart 1 Spade Pass 2 Clubs Pass 2 Hearts Pass
3 Clubs Pass **3 Spades**
13. 1 Club Pass 1 Spade Pass 2 NT Pass **3 Clubs**
14. 1 Club Pass 1 Spade Pass 2 NT Pass **3 Spades**
15. 1 Club Pass 1 Heart Pass **2 Spades**
16. 1 Heart 1 NT **2 Clubs**
17. 1 Spade Pass 1 NT Pass **2 Clubs**
18. 1 Spade Pass 1 NT Pass 2 Clubs Pass **2 Diamonds**

Many of you already know that a new suit by an unpassed responder is forcing. But there is an exception. If anyone at the table has bid 1NT, non-jump bids of new suits are no longer forcing.

Example: when opener bids 1 NT:

Partner opens 1 club, opponent passes and you respond 1 spade. Partner rebids 1 NT. Your right hand opponent passes, and you bid 2 hearts. Even though this is a new suit by an un-passed responder, it is not forcing because opener's rebid was 1NT. A responder who wants to make a forcing bid after opener's 1NT rebid must jump in a new suit, or bid new minor forcing.

Partner opens 1 spade, opponent passes, and you respond 1 NT. Opener (partner) rebids 2 clubs, right hand opponent passes and you bid 2 diamonds. The 1 NT response limited your strength, so 2 diamonds shows a long (probably six-card or longer) suit and is not forcing.

Opener's reverse is forcing for one round.

If the opponent's overcall, a cue bid of the opponent's suits by either of us on the 2nd round of auction or later is game forcing.

If opener makes a jump rebid of 2NT, all continuations by responder (other than pass) are game forcing.

New suit responses to partner's pre-empts are forcing.

Jump in previously bid suits by either partner are invitational, not forcing, unless one partner has already shown at least game invitational values.

After a 2 club opener, we can only stop short of game in only 3 cases:

- a. Opener rebids 2 NT (responder may pass)
- b. If the opponents interfere, we may double the opponents instead of bidding game
- c. If responder makes a negative response, and opener bids and rebids the same suit
Example: 2 clubs 2 diamonds 2 Hearts (can not pass) 3 clubs 3 hearts (pass)

When we have found an 8 card major suit fit, new suits are game tries, forcing to at least 3 of the agreed suit.

New suit rebids by opener are not forcing, it's a pass or correct auction:

Example: 1 Heart Pass 1 Spade Pass 2 Clubs didn't make a Strong Jump shift,
Unbalanced, if balanced would rebid 1 NT, with 6 hearts, would bid 2 Hearts

A jump to 2 NT by responder over a minor suit opening, is invitational and denies a 4 card major (11-to a bad 12), A jump to 3 NT, no 4 card major and 13-15 H.C.P.

Jump shifts by opener on the 2nd round or by responder on the 1st round of the auction, create a game force, not just a one round force.