



**BOARD ANALYSIS - Improving Level**  
**HAND EVALUATION -OPENING ONE OF A SUIT**

**HAND 1** Dealer: N

	<b>N</b>	
	♠ K8742 ♥ ♦ K9532 ♣ A109	
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ 5 ♥ AK1082 ♦ 86 ♣ J7632		♠ A9 ♥ J763 ♦ QJ10 ♣ KQ84
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ QJ1063 ♥ Q954 ♦ A75 ♣ 5	

Makes:	C	D	H	S	NT
	N	4		5	
S		4		5	
E	2		2		
W	3		2		

**Should NORTH open with this 10 HCP?**

**STEP 1: Rule of 20**

10HCP + 10 for length points (two longest suits) = 20.

**STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses**

- Aceless = No.
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

**STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses**

- No need.

**NORTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND - 1S**

## HAND 2 Dealer: E

	<b>N</b>	
	♠ 1096 ♥ KQ43 ♦ A975 ♣ 62	
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ AJ3 ♥ 10876 ♦ K102 ♣ K54		♠ Q7542 ♥ A9 ♦ 4 ♣ A10987
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ K8 ♥ J52 ♦ QJ863 ♣ QJ3	

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>		1			
<b>S</b>		1			
<b>E</b>	4		2	4	3
<b>W</b>	4		2	4	2

**Should EAST open? 10 HCP.**

**STEP 1: Rule of 20**

10 HCP + 10 for length points = 20

**STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.**

Aceless = No.

Quacks = No.

Dubious Honours = No.

**STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.**

No need.

**EAST SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND - 1S**

## HAND 3 Dealer: S

	<b>N</b>	
	♠ QJ32 ♥ A652 ♦ - ♣ A8532	
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ 64 ♥ QJ873 ♦ AJ8 ♣ KQ7		♠ A75 ♥ 4 ♦ 76542 ♣ J1094
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ K1098 ♥ K109 ♦ KQ1093 ♣ 6	

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>	2	1	3	5	2
<b>S</b>	2	1	3	5	2
<b>E</b>					
<b>W</b>					

### Should SOUTH open with this 11 HCP hand?

#### STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points} = 20$$

#### STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = YES. -1
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

$$20 - 1 = 19 \quad \text{but are there any upgrades?}$$

#### STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = No.

Long, Strong Suit = No.

Useful 10's = YES. +1

$$19 + 1 = 20 \quad \text{OPENING HAND.}$$

### SOUTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND - 1S

## HAND 4 Dealer: W

	<b>N</b>	
	♠ 972 ♥ A2 ♦ QJ865 ♣ 952	
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ KQJ10543 ♥ - ♦ 1043 ♣ KQ6		♠ A ♥ QJ98643 ♦ K7 ♣ A87
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ 86 ♥ KJ75 ♦ A92 ♣ J1043	

  

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>					
<b>S</b>					
<b>E</b>		1	2	4	
<b>W</b>		-	2	4	

### Should WEST open 1S or 3S with this hand?

#### STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points} = 21$$

#### STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = YES. -1
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

$$21 - 1 = 20$$

#### STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

No need.

### WEST SHOULD OPEN 1S WITH THIS HAND, NOT 3S.

West can meet the promise of better than average trick-taking potential. If West opens 3S a Game may be missed.

## HAND 5 Dealer: N

	<b>N</b>	
	♠ QJ76 ♥ QJ76 ♦ QJ76 ♣ K	
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ AK ♥ 10985 ♦ 9432 ♣ J32		♠ T8 ♥ AK2 ♦ A5 ♣ 1097654
	<b>S</b>	
	♠ 95432 ♥ 43 ♦ K82 ♣ AQ8	

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>		1		1	
<b>S</b>		1		1	
<b>E</b>	3		1		
<b>W</b>	3		1		

### Should NORTH open with this hand?

#### STEP 1: Rule of 20

12 HCP + Length Points of 8 = 20

#### STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = -1.
- Quacks = -1.
- Dubious Honours = -1

Total Downgrades = -3

#### STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = No

Useful 10's = No

Long, strong suit = No

**Downgrades are -3 and Upgrades are 0:  $20 - 3 = 17$ .**

### **NORTH SHOULD NOT OPEN WITH THIS HAND**

This hand is likely to take 0 tricks. It does not meet the promise of having better than average trick-taking potential.

## HAND 6 Dealer: E

<b>N</b> ♠ A10984 ♥ Q73 ♦ 10982 ♣ 10		
<b>W</b> ♠ J75 ♥ AJ8 ♦ A65 ♣ J983		<b>E</b> ♠ Q63 ♥ KT964 ♦ Q ♣ A642
<b>S</b> ♠ K2 ♥ 52 ♦ KJ743 ♣ KQ75		

  

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>		3		1	
<b>S</b>		3			
<b>E</b>	2		2		1
<b>W</b>	2		2		1

Should EAST open with this 11 HCP hand?

STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points of } 9 = 20$$

STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No.
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = YES. -2 (Qxx and Q singleton)

**Downgrades: -2**

STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = 1.5 (not enough for an upgrade – need 2.5QT=+1)

Useful 10's = No.

Long, strong suit = No.

**Upgrades: 0**

**20-2 = 18.**

**EAST SHOULD NOT OPEN WITH THIS HAND**

This hand does not have the values (trick-taking potential) needed to open one of a suit.

## HAND 7 Dealer: S

<b>N</b>		
♠ Q75		
♥ Q76		
♦ A64		
♣ QJ73		
<b>W</b>		<b>E</b>
♠ 64		♠ 32
♥ AJT5		♥ 8432
♦ JT92		♦ KQ53
♣ K64		♣ A52
<b>S</b>		
♠ AKJ1098		
♥ K9		
♦ 87		
♣ T98		

  

Makes:					
	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NT</b>
<b>N</b>	2			3	1
<b>S</b>	2			3	1
<b>E</b>		1	1		
<b>W</b>		1	1		

### Should SOUTH open with this hand?

#### STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$11 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points of } 8 = 19$$

#### STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No.
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

#### STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

Quick Tricks = Yes.  $2.5\text{QT} = +1$

Useful 10's = Yes.  $+1$

Long, strong suit = Yes.  $+1$

**No downgrades and +3 upgrades:  $19 + 3 = 22$ . Plenty good enough to open.**

**SOUTH SHOULD OPEN WITH THIS HAND - 1S**

## HAND 8 Dealer: W

	N	
	♠ 65432	
	♥ 109872	
	♦ J10	
	♣ 9	
W		E
♠ -		♠ 10987
♥ -		♥ 6543
♦ Q8765432		♦ -
♣ AQT84		♣ 76532
	S	
	♠ AKQJ	
	♥ AKQJ	
	♦ AK9	
	♣ KJ	

Makes:					
	C	D	H	S	NT
N			5	5	2
S			4	4	5
E		3			7
W		3			7

### Should WEST open with this 8 HCP hand?

#### STEP 1: Rule of 20

$$8 \text{ HCP} + \text{Length Points of } 13 = 21$$

#### STEP 2: Downgrades - Minuses.

- Aceless = No.
- Quacks = No.
- Dubious Honours = No.

#### STEP 3: Upgrades - Pluses.

No need.

### WEST CAN OPEN 1D WITH THIS HAND IF THEY WISH

There may be other opening options but this hand meets the requirements of an opening hand. An 8 HCP hand with opening values is rare – once or twice in a life-time perhaps.

Note that the side that can make the Grand Slam is the one with only 8 HCP even with the opposition having 32 HCP.