

Interference over No Trump



Lebensohl Convention Intermediate Series #8

www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge

No Trump Opening

IF YOU THINK
SEX IS BETTER
THAN
BRIDGE
YOU'RE PLAYING
IT WRONG

Sometimes partner opens 1 No Trump and RHO bids before you get to "tell your story" with a Stayman or a Transfer Bid.

Most partnerships agree that "Conventions are ON over a double and OFF over a suit bid". The exception is a 2♣ bid over 1NT, since 2♦ is available for transfer to 2♥ and 2♥ is available for transfer to 2♠. Double of 2♣ is STAYMAN. Double of anything other than 2♣ is penalty.

However, if the opponents overcall 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ (a TWO LEVEL interference) then STAYMAN and TRANSFERS are OFF and the LEBENSOHL convention is used.

Your Partner opens 1NT (15-17) hcp
The RHO has overcalled 2♠
These are your hands

a) ♠53 ♥52 ♦QJT9432 ♣J864
b) ♠KQ ♥KJ2 ♦AQJ9432 ♣8

Hand (a) you'd like to bid and play 3♦ with partner passing your 3♦ bid.

Hand (b) you'd like to bid 3♦ to show your concentration of values, however you want to force the auction to at least 3NT, knowing there could be more to the hand than game.

The Lebensohl Convention allows you to differentiate between weak hands, invitational hands and strong hands.

The primary concept of Lebensohl comes from "Goren". A two level bid response to 1NT is weak and a 3 level bid response to 1NT is game force.

Recommended Reading "*The Lebensohl Convention Complete*" by Ron Anderson.

Responding with a weak suit (5+)

With 8- or less hcp

And a 5+ card suit...
If you can bid the suit at the 2 level, it is weak and asks partner to PASS.

When playing Lebensohl, any 2 level bid by responder is weak with less than 9 hcp and asks partner to PASS.

If you cannot bid your suit at the 2 level, an example would be that the RHO overcalled 2♠ and you have 5 hcp with 6♥ to the KQxxxx. You would like to play 3♥, the Lebensohl Convention allows responder to bid 2NT - a transfer to 3♣. Responder then bids their suit and asks partner to PASS.

If responder's long suit is ♣, responder passes after bidding the 2NT transfer bid.

Responding with a Strong suit (5+)

With 9+ or more hcp and a 5+ card suit....

An immediate 3 level bid suit is game forcing.

When playing Lebensohl, any direct 3 level bid is game forcing and shows 9+ hcp.

Responding with an Invitational suit (5+)

With 8-9 hcp and a 5+ cardsuit above the suit that RHO Overcalled...

The Lebensohl Convention allows responder to bid 2NT as a transfer to 3♣ first and then bid a 5+ card suit at the three level, to show invitational values (8-9) hcp

When the 2 level is available and responder bids a Lebensohl 2NT transfer to 3♣ "on their way" to bidding a 3 level major suit, the bid is game invitational. (8-9 hcp)

The Lebensohl Convention applies when ...

- Partner opens 1NT (15-17) hcp
- RHO overcalls at the 2 level
- Responder has an appropriate hand with a long suit, a 4 card major or hcp for game
- Responder bids 2NT –

NT OPENER MUST BID 3♣

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| #1 – Bridge Bidding Basics | #11 – Strips and Squeezes |
| #2 – Six Basic Conventions | #12 – Blackwood |
| #3 – Play of the Hand | #13 – Cue-bids |
| #4 – Defense | #14 – Flannery |
| #5 – Intermediate Bidding | #15 – Carding |
| #6 – Advanced (Two over One) | #16 – Four Suit Transfers |
| #7 – Stayman and Transfers | #17 – Weak No Trump |
| #8 – Lebensohl | #18 – Wolf Sign-off & XYZ |
| #9 – Doubles and Overcalls | #19 – Unusual/NMF/4SF |
| #10 – Online Bridge | #20 – One Level Transfers |



Grafton Duplicate Bridge Club

Thursday Noon – Ameriprise Financial Bldg
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 11am
Director – Michael Leighton (701) 520-0753

Grand Forks Duplicate Bridge Club

Monday 6:30pm – GF Senior Center
Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 5:45pm
Friday 12:30pm – EGF Senior Center
Director – Tom Rand (701) 742-3676

Ambassador Bridge Club Winnipeg MB

Tuesday 12:15pm – MB Bridge Centre
Stratified Pairs
Wednesday 7pm – MB Bridge Centre
Invitational Pairs and Swiss Teams
Thursday 1pm – (0 – 200) Temple Shalom
Play and learn
Saturday 12:30pm – MB Bridge Centre
Swiss Teams
Director – Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

Lebensohl

Stayman – Who has the stopper?



The bid of the interference suit is a cue-bid and is STAYMAN. A cue-bid of RHO 2 level suit over partner's 1NT opener shows 9+ hcps and a 4 card major.

Sometimes you have a stopper in RHO overcalled suit. Lebensohl allows you to bid 2NT and over partner's 3♣ bid to cue-bid. The cue-bid is STAYMAN showing 9+ hcps and a 4 card major. However because responder "went through" Lebensohl and bid 2NT, responder shows a stopper in the RHO overcalled suit.

By contrast, making the cue-bid directly shows 9+ hcps and a 4 card major without a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Direct Denies

When responder cue-bids STAYMAN without going through the Lebensohl 2NT transfer to 3♣, responder denies a stopper in the overcalled suit.

Stayman Convention - When partner has opened 1NT and RHO has interfered with a 2 level overcall, a cue-bid of the overcalled suit is STAYMAN, showing a 4 card major and 9+ hcps.

Texas Transfers Convention – When partner has opened 1NT and RHO has interfered with a 2 level overcall of 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠... Jacoby Transfers are OFF and not available at the 2 level. 4 level major suit transfers are available. Texas transfers are made with 6+ card suits and "set" the trump suit. 4♦ is a transfer to 4♥ and 4♥ is a transfer to 4♠.

Texas Transfers are available in non-competitive auctions and deny slam interest, limiting the hand to 14 hcps. Conversely a Jacoby transfer followed by a 4 level major is slam invitational.

Game Raises

Without a 4 card major and the necessity for STAYMAN or a 5 card major and the necessity for bidding a suit, the Lebensohl principles of bidding still apply. With a stopper in RHO bid suit and 10-14 hcps, Lebensohl allows you to show a stopper by "going through" 2NT and over partner's 3♣ response –bid 3NT.

On the other hand, with 10-14 hcps and no stopper in RHO bid suit, a bid of 3NT shows the hcps for game without a stopper in the suit overcalled when the Lebensohl 2NT is not used. Partner can judge whether to play 3NT or run out to 4 of a minor.

Direct Denies

When responder jumps directly to game without going through the Lebensohl 2NT transfer to 3♣, responder denies a stopper in the overcalled suit.

Expert Play

The Lebensohl bidding principles can be applied to other situations, such as "weak 2" opening bids that have been doubled by partner.

If the 2 level is available, bidding the 2 level is weak (similar to a response at the 2 level with RHO interference over 1NT).

A jump to the 3 level is invitational to game. If responder's suit is lower ranking than opener's weak 2 suit, a 3 level bid suggests "values", but is not game forcing. (A Cue-bid is game forcing).

However if the 2 level is not available, then a 2NT Lebensohl transfer to 3♣ is available in response to the double to allow responder to bid their suit at the 3 level to show weakness.

Lebensohl Quiz

Partner opens 1NT, RHO overcalls 2♥

Your Hand is...

Your 1st bid

- | | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| ♠Q53 | ♥KJ2 | ♦AT8 | ♣9864 | a) _____ |
| ♠QT53 | ♥982 | ♦A8 | ♣KJ64 | b) _____ |
| ♠QT53 | ♥KJ32 | ♦A8 | ♣864 | c) _____ |
| ♠KQT53 | ♥32 | ♦A84 | ♣J64 | d) _____ |
| ♠QT953 | ♥K52 | ♦A8 | ♣864 | e) _____ |
| ♠Q53 | ♥KJ2 | ♦AT9872 | ♣9 | f) _____ |
| ♠53 | ♥532 | ♦AQT9872 | ♣9 | g) _____ |

Your 1st bid

Your 2nd bid

- a) 2NT –transfer to 3♣ a) _____
- b) 3♥ – Stayman - a 4 card major (♠)
Partner denies 4 card major w/3NT b¹) _____
Partner shows 4♠ and bids 3♠^{b²}) _____
- c) 2NT –transfer to 3♣ c) _____
- d) 3♠ –10+ hcps 5+♠ d) _____
- e) 2NT –transfer to 3♣
3♠ –8/9 hcps 5+♠ e) _____
- f) 3♦ 10+ hcps with ♦
Partner places the contract in 3NT
or invites slam with ♦ raise
- g) 2NT –transfer to 3♣ g) _____

Invitational (8-9) hcps

Game Forcing (10-14) hcps

- a) 3NT – 10-14 hcps with ♥ stopper
b¹) PASS –10-14 hcps and no ♥ stopper
b²) 4♠ – 10-14 hcps with 4♠ and no ♥ stopper
c) 3♥ – 10-14 hcps 4♠ and ♥ stopper
d) – Partner places the contract in 4♠ with 3♠
e) – Partner places the contract in 4♠ w/3♠ & 16+
f) – Partner is forced to bid to at least 3NT
g) 3♦ – weak hand with ♦ suit