



How Low Can You Go?

Usually we agree with partner that we won't open the bidding unless our hand has at least 12 high card points.

- ♠ K J 10 7 5 Sometimes a hand has such a good shape that we can "bend" the rule about having at least 12 high card points to open.
- ♥ 3
- ♦ Q J 10 9 8 This hand has only 11 high card points. However, in either Spades or Diamonds, it has more power.
- ♣ A 2

The Rule of Twenty

To apply the rule of twenty, you take the number of high card points in a hand...

- ♠ K Q 10 7 5 = 5
- ♥ 3 = 0
- ♦ Q 10 9 8 6 = 2
- ♣ A 2 = 4

TOTAL = 11

- ♠ K J 10 7 5 = 5
- ♥ 3
- ♦ Q J 10 9 8 = 5
- ♣ A 2

TOTAL = 10

Add the number of cards in the two longest suits.... And if the total (11+10=21) comes to 20 or more, the hand is good enough to open 1 of the longest suit.

If the two longest suits are the same length, open the senior ranking one. In this case open 1♠.



If partner replies with change of suit...

You must bid again. You need a re-bid that shows minimum strength. A minimum opening hand has from 10 to 14 HCP.

Repeat your opening suit

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	
1♠	P	2♥	P	Repeating your suit shows no more than 14 HCP, and at least 5 cards in the suit. It is a limit bid. It is not forcing.
2♠				

Repeat your partner's suit

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	
1♠	P	2♦	P	Repeating partner's suit shows no more than 14 HCP, and at least 4 cards in the suit. It is a limit bid. It is not forcing.
3♦				

Bid new suit, but keep it low ...

Bid your second best suit at a level below 2 of your first suit.

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	
1♠	P	2♣	P	It is a limit bid. It is not forcing. This re-bid invites partner to choose between the two suits at the lowest level available. If partner prefers diamonds, they can pass. If spades, they should
2♦				

bid 2♠. Opener will then pass.