



The ACOL system – Limit Bids

- ♣ Limit bids describe your hand strength within a narrow range
- ♣ Once your partner has made a limit bid, it is generally up to you to decide the right level of contract for your pair

Opening Bids

Limit

1NT

2NT

2♦, 2♥, 2♠

Wide Ranging

1♣, 1♦, 1♥, 1♠

2♣

Responses

Limit

2Opening Suit

3Opening Suit

1NT, 2NT, 3NT

Wide Ranging

Change of suit next level

Jump Switch



Opener's Re-bid

Limit

2Opening Suit

Single Raise Partner

1NT, 2NT, 3NT

Wide(r) Ranging

Third Suit below 2 of Opening Suit

Bid "above the barrier"
(Reverse)

Assessing Both Hands

Found a fit? Use Losing Trick Count

♣ Count your losers

♣ Estimate Partner's losers:

- Minimum Opener Generally = 7 Losers (or 6)
- Jump Opening Rebid Generally Suggests 5 or less
- Above the barrier Re-bid suggests 5 or less
- Minimum Reply Generally = 9 Losers
- Jump Limit Raises subtract 1 loser for each skipped level

♣ Total losing Trick Count of 14 suggests you can bid to the 4 level; of 13 suggests you can bid to the 5 level



Two balanced hands? All suits covered?

♣ Count your High Card Points

♣ Estimate Partner's High Card Points:

- 1NT Opener = 12-14 HCP
- 2NT Opener = 20-22 HCP
- Minimum Suit Opener Generally 10 – 14 HCP
- Jump Opening Re-bid Generally Suggest 16-19 HCP and 6+ cards in the suit
- Above the Barrier Opening Re-bid Suggest 16+ HCP
- Minimum Reply 6 - 9 HCP
- Single Jump Raises 10 – 12 HCP

♣ Total HCP of 25+ will make 3NT almost always

- Otherwise divide joint total by 3, round up.



The ACOL system – Natural Forcing Bids

Bidder has taken charge! Often after a limit bid from partner
They are seeking information before making contract choice

<u>Bid</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Change of suit reply	Wide Ranging Requires opener's re-bid describing hand further	No Trumps if balanced, repeat own or partner's suit showing <15HCP Bid third suit, but at level consistent with hand strength
Opener's Re-bid above 2 of Opening Suit	"Above the barrier" – shows 16+ HCP or 5 or less losers – forcing for one round	Give more information – e.g next four card suit, repeat long suit
New suit at 3 level	Forcing for one round	Give more information – e.g. next four card suit; or repeat long suit
Reply to 1NT opening with 3♥ / 3♠	Game is on and I have five in this suit	Either 3NT, or 4♥ / 4♠



The ACOL system – Conventional Forcing Bids

First bids in a convention are normally forcing

Some of these are very common, others you need to discuss with partner

A forcing bid lets one partner gather more information before choosing a contract

<u>Bid</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Opening 2♣	Shows a very strong hand. Forces reply and bidding to game	Denial = 2♦ (0-7HCP); otherwise bid best suit or NT
Stayman, Transfers	Used in reply to 1NT Opening; Conventional and demanding a response	Respond with information requested
Slam Bidding e.g. Gerber; Blackwood	Conventional and demanding a response	Respond with information requested



Techniques for Marginal Games

Trial Bids

Fourth Suit Forcing

Directional Asking etc