

Hand evaluation – Suit Quality (SQ)

Suit Quality

This evaluation method measures the strength of a suit, gauging whether a marginal suit is strong enough to bid at a given level.

Add the number of high-cards* in your longest suit to the number of cards in that suit. This will determine the SQ. The value provides an indication of the maximum level that you should bid the suit.

Examples

Suit holding	Suit Quality	Bid level
A Q 9 7 3	$2+5 = 7$	1-level
K Q J 8 3 2	$3^*+6 = 9$	3-level
J 9 8 7 5 3	$0^*+6 = 6$	NB
K 10 9 8 6 5 4 3	$2^*+8 = 10$	4-level

* High-cards; A-10, but only include J and 10 when there is a higher honour in the suit.

Usage

- SQ is primarily used in confirming whether a potential suit-overcall bid has the necessary suit strength to warrant the intended bid. It is not a substitute for the HCP hand evaluation.
- It can also be used when making pre-emptive suit bids.

View relevant 'bidding' topic to see SQ in usage.