

## **No Trump and Suit contracts are played AND Defended much differently!**

In NT Contracts both the Declarer and the Defenders are racing to set up their winning tricks! **Why?**

Since there is no trump suit, or 'protection', once the high cards are played in a suit, then all of the little cards in that long suit become winners! STOPPERS are needed to prevent defenders from harvesting tricks in their long suits.

In NT contracts the Declarer Must frequently give up the lead early in order to set up his own winners!

**\*\* Do not plodding dummy until you have gone through steps 1-6. REALLY!** Yes, this will take 30, 35 or even 60 seconds. As declarer you have the right to plan your play. AND Whatever time you take planning your play will more than be made up when you play out each trick. (You will get faster)

1. Where are the points? If the opponents bid, you should be able to estimate how many points are in every hand.
2. Opponents usually lead a suit for a good reason, try to figure why
3. Find which opponent holds the 'key' cards, & how many of them.
4. There are several different approaches to find extra tricks in No-Trump. Try to figure out which method(s) give you the best chance for success. Combining chances improves your odds.
5. The better the Plan that you make up front, the more likely that you will get all the tricks that your side deserves.
6. Plans are important, but Plans often change during the play of the hand (suits rarely split as expected). Be flexible, don't panic, and adjust your plan as needed.

**\* REMEMBER:** Your real goal is to win every trick that is available, without risking your contract. This process will help you ID extra tricks that are available. In No-Trump you can set up extra tricks just as long as your contract is safe! Once stoppers are gone, it's over!

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## **6 Steps to Playing out a NoTrump Contract Well!**

Answer each question, and then begin playing! My contract is \_\_\_\_?

1. What did the Auction tell you \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Read the Lead. How will the suit split \_\_\_\_\_, where do the honors lie \_\_\_\_? Use Rule of 11 to find winners & danger hands
3. Count your top winners, those you may win without losing tricks.
  1. How many tricks to develop before stoppers are gone\* \_\_\_\_?
4. Weigh Options – to develop extra tricks While still in control.

This frequently means giving up the lead early, carefully!

Make sure you can get back in the lead later, B4 it's too late!

5. Start with your longest combined suits – Those which have potential to yield extra tricks.. Why?
  1. Take the safest path to developing extra winners
  2. Consider a 'hold up' play when you only have 1 stopper in one suit. Try using the Rule of 7 to decide on holding up..
  3. Combine chances when possible.
  4. Determine which is the 'Danger hand', plan accordingly.

**In one or two BRIEF sentences state a Plan to yourself:**

First I Will.....

then next I will .... and finally, I will do this.....

**Remember:** Your plan must give you a chance to make the contract BEFORE the defenders can score enough tricks to defeat you!

6. Follow your Plan! Only adjust if needed.

Making and following a plan takes practice, but you will improve your card play if you consistently try to follow these steps!