

Jacoby Transfers over No Trump

When partner opens 1NT (15-17 HCP) you must decide two things. First, do you want to play in a suit or in no trump and second, do you want to play in a part score or a game. Suppose you have the following: 87 765432 765 43 and partner opens 1NT. Your initial reaction might be to Pass because you do not have any high cards at all. Realistically, how many tricks will that hand take at no trump. The answer is **ZERO**. Now, suppose that spades were trumps. You would expect to take several tricks by trumping cards when that hand ran out. You may not make 2S but this hand is worth much more to your partner with spades as trumps than it would be with no trump suit. So, our plan should be to play in spades at the lowest possible level.

Rule: After partner opens with 1NT if you have a five card or longer **major** suit (hearts or spades) you should **ALWAYS** bid the suit **below** your real suit no matter how many points you have. Partner must then bid the next higher suit, which is the suit that you actually have. This bid is a Jacoby transfer. Your point count and distribution will determine what you do next. One advantage of playing transfers is that the hand that opened 1NT (which is usually the stronger in terms of points) gets to be the declarer. It is usually better to have the opening lead come into the stronger hand than through the stronger hand

Once you have made your initial transfer, you next must decide whether you want to play in a game or in a part score and

whether you want to play in no trump or a suit. Remember the initial transfer **guarantees** at least a five card or longer suit.

With a 5 card major you should transfer and then:

- a) Pass (0-8 HCP count length) no chance for game
- b) 2NT (9-10 HCP count length) might have game
- c) 3NT (11 or more HCP count length) must have game

The no trump opener will either leave it in NT with 2 cards in your suit by either going to 3NT with a maximum or Passing 2NT with a minimum. With 3 or 4 cards in your major suit (thus giving you at least an 8 card fit) opener will go to 4 of the major with a maximum and bid 3 of the major with a minimum.

With a 6 card or longer major suit you should transfer and then:

- a) Pass (0-8 HCP count length) no chance for game
- b) 3 of the major (9-10 HCP count length) might have game
- c) 4 of the major (11 or more HCP count length) must have game

The opening no trump bidder will either Pass 3 of the major or go to 4 of the major depending on his HCP and fit.

What would you do after partner opens 1NT?

- a) 98543 K87 7632 7
- b) K7654 K65 87 A32
- c) KQ765 A6 654 765
- d) KJ6543 7 A6543 8
- e) QJ6543 7 KJ64 87
- f) K6543 7 AQ654 87

