

Minor Suit Opening Bids

There are basically two styles to approach opening minors. The first is to always guarantee at least a 4 card diamond suit when opening with 1D. This means that with two 4 card majors and a 3 card diamond suit you would have to open with 1C. This style is known as a short club. The other style with the above mention pattern advocates opening with a 3 card diamond suit instead. This style is called opening your better minor. We will use this approach.

Requirements:

- a) 13 HCP or a good 12 HCP counting distribution)
- b) at least 3 cards in the suit
- c) with a balance 15-17 HCP you should open with 1NT
- d) with a 5 card major you should open with the major unless your minor suit is longer

What would you open with the following hands?

- a) 87654 A76 AKQJ 9
- b) AJ62 AQ65 AK 987
- c) A87 A654 A87 J76
- d) AQ86 7 AQ765 876
- e) A3 KT7 AKQ76 876
- f) QJ65 6 KQ7 KJT65

It is very often that you are looking to play in a major suit or no trump even though the opening bid is one of a minor.

Therefore the responder should bid a major suit if possible.

Responses:

- a) Pass- 0-5 HCP This means you should respond with any hand that has at least 6 HCP.
- b) New suit- 6 or more HCP and at least 4 or more cards in the suit
- c) Raise partner's minor to the 2 level- 6-11 HCP and at least 5 card support
- d) Jump raise partner's minor to the 3 level- 12 or more HCP and at least 5 card support
- e) 1NT- 6-9 HCP and no support and no 4 card major suit
- f) 2NT- 10-12 HCP and no support and no 4 card major suit
- g) 3NT – 13-15 HCP and no support and no 4 card major suit

What would you respond if partner opens with 1C?

- a) A654 76 7643 765
- b) K7 Q876 87 J7654
- c) Q65 K76 765 Q654
- d) 6 K76 K543 K7654
- e) A76 KJ6 KQ7 QJ76