

Opening Bids – Minor Suits

Requirements for opening with a minor suit:

- a) 13+ HCP (count length points)
- b) at least 3 cards in the suit

When deciding on what to open you should open a major or 1NT if you can. Only open a minor suit if either you cannot open anything else or if your minor suit is longer than your five-card major.

Responses to a minor suit opening bid:

- a) Pass with 0-5 HCP
- b) Raise partner with support (at least 5 cards in the suit usually)
 - 1. Single raise 6-11 HCP
 - 2. Jump raise 12+ HCP (you do not want to raise to the four level because then you are past 3NT, which is your most likely game)
- c) Bid a new suit at the one level with at least 6+ HCP and at least a four-card or longer suit.
- d) Rebid NT without a four-card major
 - 1. 1NT- 6-9 HCP
 - 2. 2NT- 10-12 HCP
 - 3. 3NT- 13+ HCP

Some things to remember:

- a) With 6 or more HCP you should respond with some bid. Do

not Pass, as partner may have enough for game.

- b) NT responses and a single raise both have upper limits, so opener may Pass.
- c) A new suit has no upper limit, so opener may not Pass. A new suit by **responder** is forcing for at least one more time.
- d) With two major suits with four cards in both respond with 1H. With two major suits with five cards in both respond with 1S and bid hearts the next time.
- e) With a choice of responses, bid your four-card major. You can always go back to partner's original suit.
- f) With two minors both with either three or four cards, open 1C regardless of the suit quality.

What would you open with the following?

- a) AKQJ 7653 A2 876
- b) 87 AKJT A6543 KJ
- c) AKJ5 AKJ5 87 Q65
- d) 8 AKQ7 K7654 876
- e) 9 98 AQJ7654 JT5
- f) A543 A65 KQ6 987

What would you respond if partner opens 1D?

- a) 6543 8765 8 A765
- b) 9876 A76 Q876 98
- c) A876 87 KJ765 87
- d) 76 AQ7 K765 7654
- e) 9 765 KQ765 9872
- f) 9 AQ5 KQ765 9872

