

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

