

Conventions You Should Know

Red Suit (or Jacoby) Transfers

Red Suit Transfers are responses at the 2 level to 1NT opening bids. Over 1NT a bid of 2♦ shows 5 or more hearts and asks opener to bid 2♥. A bid of 2♥ shows 5 or more spades and asks opener to bid 2♠.

If Responder has a **weak hand** he passes the forced rebid knowing the partnership has a minimum of 7 cards in the suit and a contract of 2♥ or 2♠ is likely to play and score better than 1NT.

If Responder has **intermediate values** he can invite Opener by raising to 3♥ or 3♠ or if reasonably balanced by bidding 2NT. Opener can raise to game in 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠ if maximum or sign off in 2NT, 3♥ or 3♠ with a minimum hand.

With **values for game** Responder bids 3NT with a reasonably balanced hand leaving Opener to choose between 3NT, 4♥ or 4♠. With a 6 card or longer major he bids 4♥ or 4♠ directly. With a 2 suited hand after the forced response of 2♥ or 2♠ Responder shows his second suit at the 3 level and leaves Opener to choose the final contract.

Breaking the Transfer

If Opener has a **maximum** hand he can break the transfer request. With 4 of the major he should bid 3♥ or 3♠. With 3 good card support and a good source of tricks in another suit he bids that suit which is forcing to at least 3♥ or 3♠. Responder will only pass a break in the transfer sequence with a very poor hand.

Using Red Suit Transfers greatly increases the chance that the opening 1NT hand will be declarer hiding any weak holdings such as AQ or Kx from the opposition and improving the chances of a cheap trick on the opening lead.

Use red suit transfers over opening 2NT and 1NT overcalls with appropriate allowance for the different strength involved.