



# Wolff Sign- Off Bids

By Margaret Young

The conventional method deals with a particular bidding sequence, which happens frequently.

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1♣	P	1♥	P
2NT	P	?	

The opener rebids 2NT showing no support for hearts, no 4 card spade suit, but generally accepted values of 18 or 19 hcps.

South has said everything he can about his hand.

North is captain! If the captain ( N) recognizes that there is no chance for a game contract, the Wolff Signoff bids allow him to do so.

## South

## North

♠A Q 7

♠J 8 6

♥K Q 10

♥A 9 8 6 5

♦K 5 2

♦8 7 6

♣A J 8 6

♣7 2

### Bidding

### Meaning

1 ♣

1 ♥

2NT.....

Promises 18-19hcp, and shows 3 or fewer cards in the spade suit.

3♣....

The responder, now the captain, request South to bid 3♦ with only 2 card support in the suit of the responder (♥). If S has 3 card support, then South should support the suit bid by responder.

If “S” responds 3♦ , showing only 2 card support, then responder has several **options (5)**:

**South** \_\_\_\_\_ **North**      \*Note: This is **NOT** Checkback Stayman.

1♣

1♥

2NT( 18 -19 hcps) 3♣ (asking for more info) \*

**Meaning**

3♦ (shows 2 card support)

**Options** ↔ 3♥ The responder has the option of rebidding his suit below the level of game. **This is a Wolff signoff.**

**Partner must pass.**

**Options** ↔ 3(x) Responder can bid any suit on the 3 level below the originally bid suit to show 5-4 distribution. NOTE: If opener bids 3♦ responder must bid 4♣ to show a 5-4 shape. This 4♣ bid is **NOT** showing support for opener.

**Options** ↔ 3NT Shows a genuine Club suit and mild interest in slam

**Options** ↔ 4NT This bid is quantitative . It is not Ace-asking.

**Options** ↔ 4♥/♠ This bid shows game values, minimum of 6 cards and a fit for clubs. This bid is showing definite slam interest.

## Example 2

<u>South</u>	<u>North</u>
♣K 10	♣Q 8 7 6 3
♥A J 10	♥Q 9 7 6 2
♦K Q J 5 2	♦7
♣K 10 8	♣7 2

1♦

2NT ( 18-19hcp)

1♠

3♣ (asking for more info)

3♦ The opener is forced to bid 3♦ , so that the responder can further clarify his holding and saying he only holds 2 card support.

3♥ The responder does not have game values otherwise the responder would have bid game on the four level. The opener is required to pass. **This is a Wolff Signoff.**

Meaning

**There is a total of eight bidding sequences where Wolff Signoff bids might be employed.**

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1♣	1♦ / 1♥ / 1♠	
2NT		shows 18 -19 hcps
1♦	1♥ / 1♠	
2NT		shows 18 - 19 hcps
1♥	♠1	
2NT		shows 18 -19 hcps.
1♥	1NT	
2NT		shows 18 - 19 hcps
1♠	1NT	
2NT		shows 18 - 19 hcps

# Extention of the Wolff Signoff Bid

The variation of the Wolff Signoff Bid allows partnership to employ a form of Checkback Stayman once the opener has jumped to 2NT.

Partnership must decide whether to include this variation since it is not part of the original version.

## South

♠K 10

♥A J 10

♦K Q J 5 2

♣K 10 8

## North

♠A Q 8 7 3

♥Q 9 7 6 2

♦7

♣7 2



## South

## North

♠K 10

♠A Q 8 7 3

♥A J 10

♥Q 9 7 6 2

♦K Q J 5 2

♦7

♣K 10 8

♣7 2

1♦

1♠

2 NT

Responder will bid the higher ranking 5 card suit first.

Opener promises 18 -19 hcps and shows 3 or less cards in the spade suit.

### The Variation!

3♦

Responder, now captain, asks south to show a 4 card heart suit if possible. This is **Checkback Stayman**. It is used to check for a 4 card heart suit.

3NT

No 4 card heart suit, no 3 card spade suit.

4♥

4♥ bid tells opener 5-5 in the majors.  
**Opener must determine the final contract.**

### Meaning

When the responder has game values opposite the 18-19/20 hcp of partner, then the responder will first attempt to find a major suit fit by employing Checkback Stayman with a bid of 3♦. In the case that the first response is 1♥, then the opener is able to show or deny a 4 card Spade support.

If the first bid suit of responder is spades, then the opener is able to show or deny a 4 card heart suit via Checkback Stayman with a 3♦. The opener will deny holding a 4 card heart suit by bidding 3NT.

In the case that the opener does show 4 cards in the other major suit, and the responder then rebids 3NT, then the opener has the information that the responder is seeking a 3 card suit for the major suit. The opener then has the opportunity to bid game with a 3 card support for partner or bid game in NT with only 2 card support in the major.

If you wish to include this feature, or any other feature, of the game of bridge in your partnership agreement, then please make certain that the concept is understood by both partners.

Be aware whether or not the feature is alertable or not and whether an announcement should or must be made.

Check with the governing body and/or bridge district and/or the bridge unit prior to the game to establish the guidelines applies.

Please include the particular feature on your convention card in order that your opponents are also aware of this feature during the bidding process, since this information must be made known to them according to the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge.