

Handling Opponent's Overcall

Partner...1(m) ...RHO 1 ♥

- Options
 - Ignore the overcall and bid.
 - Double
 - Bid 1nt (must have a stopper)
 - Pass

Consider Passing

- You do this with a hand holding zero to 7 or 8 points and no reasonable bid to make at the 1 level.
- You also do this with a hand that you would want to penalize the overcaller.
 - I will say more about this bid later.
- If you pass, partner will still have an opportunity to bid again, in case she has a strong hand.

You Might Consider Doubling

- This is a negative double, of course.
 - If they bid 1 diamond, your negative double shows 4-4 in the majors.
 - Some allow it with 4-3 distribution, but I think that not a good idea.
 - If you have a 5 card major, bid it.
 - When you double you have at least 6 points, but there is no upper limit.

The Negative Double a Over 1 ♥ Overcall

- You have exactly 4 spades. With more than 4, you will overcall spades.
- Partner has opened 1 ♦

Hand 1

♠ Q 9 4 2
♥ J 9
♦ Q 10 5 3
♣ Q J 4 3

8 points -
double

Hand 2

♠ A Q 4 2
♥ 9
♦ K Q J 10 5
♣ Q J 4

16 points –
double first
then bid on
to game

Hand 3

♠ Q 8 7 4 2
♥ J 9
♦ K 10 5 3
♣ Q J 4

9 points – bid 1 ♠.
Show partner
your 5-card
spade suit

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 1 no trump with 5-10 points, a heart stopper and no more than 3 spades.

Hand 4

♠ Q 9 2

♥ Q 10 2

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ 10 9 3

9 points

and a

stopper, bid

1nt

Hand 5

♠ K 2

♥ K 9 8 6

♦ Q 10 5 3

♣ J 4 3

9 points

and a sure

stopper, bid

1nt

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 no trump with 11-12 points, a heart stopper and no more than 3 spades.

Hand 6

♠ A 9 2

♥ K 10 2

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ 10 9 3

12 points
and a
stopper, bid
2nt

Hand 7

♠ K 2

♥ K 9 8 6

♦ A 10 5 3

♣ J 4 3

11 points
and a sure
stopper, bid
2nt

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 3 no trump with 13-15 points, a heart stopper and no more than 3 spades.

Hand 8

♠ K J 2

♥ A 10 2

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ 10 9 3

13 points

and a

stopper, bid

3nt

Hand 9

♠ K 2

♥ K 9 8 6

♦ A 10 5 3

♣ A J 3

15 points

and a sure

stopper, bid

3nt

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♣. If the opening bid was 1 ♣, the bid shows 6-10 points and 5+ clubs. (inverted off).

Hand 10

♠ K 2

♥ J 5 2

♦ Q 5 3

♣ J 10 8 6 3

7 points
and 5 clubs.

Bid 2 ♣

Hand 11

♠ 9 2

♥ 8 6

♦ A 5 3

♣ A J 9 7 6 3

9 points
and 6 clubs.

Bid 2 ♣.

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♣. If the opening bid was 1 ♦, the bid shows 11+ points and 5+ clubs.(1 round force)

Hand 12

♠ A 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ Q J 3

♣ K J 10 6 3

11 points
and 5 clubs.

Bid 2 ♣

Hand 13

♠ A Q 2

♥ 8

♦ Q 5 3

♣ A J 9 7 6 3

13 points
and 6 clubs.

Bid 2 ♣.

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♦. If the opening bid was 1 ♦, the bid shows 6-10 points and 5+ diamonds. (inverted off)

Hand 14

♠ A 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ Q J 8 4 3

♣ K 6 3

10 points
and 5
diamonds..
Bid 2♦

Hand 15

♠ J 8 2

♥ 8

♦ A Q J 9 5 3

♣ 6 4 3

8 points
and 6
diamonds.
Bid 2♦

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♥. If the opening bid was 1 ♣, the cue bid shows a limit raise or better, with 5+ clubs.

Hand 16

♠ A 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ Q J 3

♣ K J 9 6 3

11 points and
5 clubs.. Bid
2 ♥

Hand 17

♠ A Q 2

♥ 8

♦ A Q J 9 5 3

♣ 4 3

13 points and
6 diamonds.
Bid 2 ♥

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♥. If the opening bid was 1 ♦, the cue bid shows a limit raise or better, with 5+ diamonds.

Hand 18

♠ A 2

♥ 9 5 2

♦ Q J 9 7 3

♣ K J 9

11 points and
5 diamonds..

Bid 2 ♥

Hand 19

♠ A 8 2

♥ 8

♦ A K J 6 4 3

♣ 6 4 3

12 points
and 6 clubs.

Bid 2 ♥

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- Bid 2 ♠. Jump-shift by responder is weak. It shows 6+ spades and fewer than 10 points. (Requires partnership agreement).

Hand 20

♠ A Q 9 8 5 2

♥ 9 2

♦ 9 7

♣ K 9 3

6 points and

6 spades..

Bid 2 ♠

Hand 21

♠ Q J 10 9 8 2

♥ 8 4

♦ 9 5 3

♣ K 9 3

6 points and

6 spades.

Bid 2 ♠

The Trap Pass

- Occasionally, you will have a hand with which you want to double the overcaller for penalty.
- However, you cannot double directly over the overcaller's bid, because your partner will take your double as a negative double.
- You must pass and wait for your partner to reopen the bidding with a double. You can then pass and play the hand for penalties.

After a 1 ♥ Overcall

- It should be standard practice in your partnership that if you open the bidding, get an overcall (at the 1 or 2 level), on your left, which is passed around to you, you will reopen with a double.

Hand 21

♠ K 5 2

♥ K Q 9 8 2

♦ A 7

♣ 9 6 3

Pass with this hand and hope partner reopens with a double

- Vulnerability, is important here. With this hand, your side and surely make 3 nt.
- If you are vulnerable and they are not, you might just bid 3nt.
- But if they are vulnerable and you are not, 1 heart double should get you a score of 800.

Here's a Little Quiz

- You are south. Your partner opened the bidding with 1 ♣, your RHO overcalls 1 ♥. What is your correct bid.

Quiz 1

♠ 10 9 5 2

♥ A 2

♦ A Q 8

♣ A Q J 3

Double. You will bid game, depending on partner's rebid

Quiz 2

♠ A K 7 5 2

♥ A 9 8 5 2

♦ 8 2

♣ 3

1 ♠. You have 5 spades. A trap pass here is probably a bad idea. You'll get some heart tricks but not much else.

Here's a Little Quiz

- You are south. Your partner opened the bidding with 1 ♣, your RHO overcalls 1 ♥. What is your correct bid.

Quiz 3

♠ K 2

♥ K Q 10

♦ A Q 3 2

♣ J 6 5

3nt

Quiz 4

♠ 2

♥ A 5 2



♦ Q 6 2

♣ K Q 8 5 3

2 ♥ Limit

raise in clubs

Here's a Little Quiz

- You are south. Your partner opened the bidding with 1 , your RHO overcalls 1 . What is your correct bid.


Quiz 5

 K 5 2

 A

 Q 6 3 2

 K J 6 5 3

2  10+ points, a 5+ card suit and forcing one round.


Quiz 6

 5 2

 7 5

 A J 9 6 2

 10 8 5 3

3  Shows weakness. You would cue bid with strength