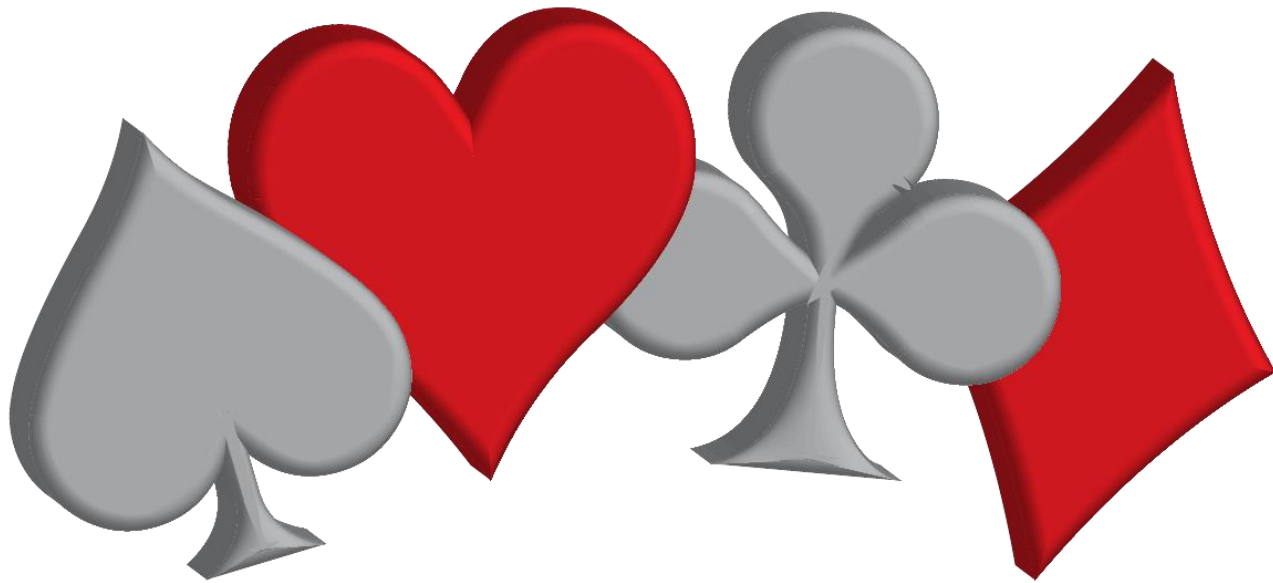


Responding to Partner's Preempt



Requirements for a Preemptive Bid

- At the two level, a 6-card suit.
- At the three level, a 7 card suit.
- At the four level, an 8 card suit.
- Suit strength
 - In first or second seat... your partner has not bid.
 - Your suit should be sound. 2 of the top three honors or 3 of the top five honors.
 - In third seat ... your partner has passed.
 - You can loosen the requirements a bit.
 - In fourth seat... You want to be sure you don't suffer a minus score.

Note This Important Point!

- When you make a preemptive bid, you give the captaincy to partner.
- Once you have made a preemptive bid, you have nothing more to say, unless partner makes a forcing bid.

When Partner Opens A Preempt

- If your hand is weak and no fit... Pass.
- First responsibility is to consider if game is possible.
- Second is to consider should the preempt be extended and if so, to what level.
- A good rule of thumb is the *law of total tricks*.
 - Not really a law.
 - A guideline.

The Law of Total Tricks

- Given that a partnership has somewhere between 14 to 20/21 total points, they can make the number of tricks equal to the total number of cards in their longest suit, if that suit is declared trump.
 - 8-cards = 8 tricks... 2 level.
 - 9-cards = 9 tricks ... 3 level
 - 10-cards = 10 tricks ... 4 level

The Law is Not Perfect or Absolute

- The number of tricks depends on good declarer play and good defense.
- The number of tricks also may depend on reasonable splits of the suits.
- Nevertheless, the law is a good guide for hand evaluation in competitive bidding situations.
 - Distribution and vulnerability must be considered.

Using the Law

- When you make a preemptive bid, you should be precise about the number of cards you have.
 - With 6-cards, preempt at the 2 level.
 - With 7 cards, preempt at the 3 level.
 - With 8 cards, preempt at the 4 level.
- Partner should be able to look at her hand and know what to do.

The Law Applies in Situations Like This

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	??		

East Hand 1

♠ A J 10 9 7 2

♥ 4

♦ K Q 5 2

♣ K 8

East Hand 2

♠ A J 10 9 7

♥ 4

♦ K Q 5 2

♣ K 8 6

You are
South

♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ 10 8 5
♣ 9 8 7

Example 1

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	??	

The law does not apply with hands like this. Your side does not have enough points and your distribution is awful.

You are
South



♥ J 10 9 2

♦ 10 8 5

♣ 9 8 7 5 4 2

Example 2

North

2 ♥

East

pass

South

4 ♥

West

You are short on points, but you have great distribution. You know they surely have 4 spades perhaps even a slam.

You are
South

♠ A K 7 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ Q J 8 5
♣ K 2

Example 3

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	pass	

You don't have enough to bid game, but you have enough defense that they may not be able to make anything.

You are
South

♠ K 3
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 8 5 2
♣ K Q 10 8

Example 4

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	3 ♥	

Use the law... You do not have enough to go to game but you might have enough to set a game they might bid.

When You Have an Interest in Game, Make a Forcing Bid

♠ Q 3

South Hand

♥ A 9 4 2

♦ K J 8

♣ A Q 10 8

North

East

South

West

2 ♦

pass

2nt

pass

MAKING A 3-LEVEL PREEMPT

Would You Make a –Level Opening With These Hands?

♠ 3 Yes

♥ 9 2

♦ K Q J 8 7 5 2

♣ K 10 8

♠ K J 10 9 7 5 2

♥ 2 Yes

♦ A 5 2

♣ 10 8

♠ J 10 9 7 6 5 2

♥ 4 2

♦ Q 5

♣ 10 8

NO!!

After a 3-Level Opening

- Bid a game in partner's major suit, or 3 no trump if partner has a minor suit, if:
 - You have 16 points or more and
 - A reasonable fit with partner's suit.
 - Having 12 or 13 points will not make a game unless you have a good fit with partner and good distribution.

After a 3-Level Opening

- Without a fit with partner, if you have a running suit of your own and stoppers in the other suits, you might bid 3 no trump.
- If you have a good hand, with a good (6-card) suit, and no good fit with partner's suit (a singleton or weak doubleton), you can bid your suit.
 - A new suit is forcing for one round.
 - Partner will either support your suit or rebid her own suit.

After a 3-Level Opening

- A simple raise of opener's suit is not an invitation.
 - If you open a 3-level preemptive bid and partner raises your suit, you **don't** bid again.
 - You have told your story. **For Example:**

North
3 ♥

East
Dble

South
4 ♥

West
4 ♠

Partner opens 3 ♣

♠ Q J 8 5 3

♥ A K J

♦ Q 10 9

♣ A K 8

You have 20 points and you expect to be able to run you partner's clubs. Bid 3nt.

Partner opens 3 ♠

♠ 8 5 3

♥ A 8

♦ K Q 10 2

♣ 10 9 7 3

RHO doubles. You have 10 trump you know they have 4 ♥ Bid 4 ♠. You might have enough defense to defeat 5 ♥

Partner opens 3 ♥

♠ A 5 3

♥ 8 7 4 2

♦ K Q 10 4

♣ 7 3

RHO doubles. You have 11 trump you know they have 4 ♠.
Bid 4 ♥ If they actually bid 4 ♠, You might bid 5 ♥ with even or favorable vulnerability.

Partner opens 3 ♥

♠ K Q 3

♥ K 2

♦ A J 10 7 4

♣ Q J 9

RHO doubles. You only have 9 hearts, but you have a strong hand. You expect to make 4 ♥. So bid it.

Partner opens 3 ♥

♠ A K 3 2

♥ 2

♦ K Q J 10

♣ A 9 4 2

RHO passes. You only have 8 hearts, but you have a strong hand. You expect to make 4 ♥. So bid it.

Partner opens 3 ♦

♠ K J 2

♥ 8 2

♦ 9 7 3

♣ A 9 8 4 2

RHO doubles. They surely have game in a major suit. If vulnerability is even or adverse, pass. If vulnerability is favorable bid 5 ♦