

October 7th - Transfers after partner bids 1NT

Note - this document covers weak no trump (12-14). With strong no trump take 3 points off the ranges.

We use red suit transfers when partner opens 1NT and we have at least five cards in a major. So in this sequence North has been told to bid 2♥ - no need to think about it just do what you are told:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥			

If South has 5+ cards in a major and a weak hand (ten points or less), the best contract is likely to be in a trump suit rather than 1NT and South will then pass. Bidding 1NT promises at least two in every suit so South knows that they have the majority of trumps. In this case the strong hand will be hidden and the weak hand will be dummy. If South had bid 2♥ then North has been told to bid 2♠.

With 11 or 12 points and five cards in the major South will bid on to offer North a choice:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

North can bid one of:

- Pass with 12/13 points and two hearts
- 3♥ with 12/13 points and three+ hearts
- 4♥ with 13/14 points and three+ hearts
- 3NT with 13/14 points and two hearts

With 13 points you can either be cautious or brave! This sequence could also be for 2♥ transfer to 2♠ and then on to Pass/2♠/3♠/3NT. With 6+ cards in a major South can bid 3♥ or 3♠ at their second turn, inviting game.

With 13+ points and five cards in the major the bidding will be:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

North can either pass with two hearts or bid 4♥ with three plus hearts. This sequence could also be for 2♥ transfer to 2♠ then on to 3NT or 4♠. With 6+ cards in a major South can bid game at their second turn.

You can also agree with your partner to play transfer to a minor. You need 6+ cards in the minor to do this. This will give a meaning to a 2♠ response to 1NT. For example:

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass or 3♦	

Once again North is ordered to bid 3♣. If South has long clubs they pass or they correct to diamonds with that suit. There is a cut-off point around 10 points when the hand will score better in no-trumps than in a minor. This is a judgement call.