

2N in Competitive Auctions

Consider the following auction:

North	East	South	West
1S	2H	2S	2N

There are 4 common meanings for 2N here:

1. Natural
2. Limit raise for hearts
3. "2 places to play"
4. Bad/Good

Natural

This is what I grew up playing. I have found that in practice I almost never hold this hand. The odds of wanting to stop exactly in 2N with the opponents having a fit seems pretty low. After all you probably need about 23 HCP in order to expect to make it, and then I'll bet you have a good chance of setting 2S especially if you can take a trick in the spade suit. But they aren't non-existent so that's the default agreement.

Limit Raise in Hearts

The opponents did just take away your cuebid. If you want to show a good heart raise, you're going to have force to game with 3S or else get creative by starting with a double and then bidding hearts. You might end up overbidding or not being able to ever describe your hand if the opponents take the push to 3S before you get back into the auction.

2 Places To Play (2P2P)

This is akin to the unusual NT. Typically it's showing a distributional hand with both unbid suits rather than a more balanced one (in which case you would double)

Bad/Good

This is akin to Lebensohl For instance we might want to bid clubs if we have Xx x xxx KQJxxxx and we might want to bid clubs if we have xx Kx Qxx AQxxxx. This gives us a weak way to bid clubs (either 2N as a relay to clubs 2N=Bad or 3C immediately = weak clubs 2N=Good)

What you play might really vary based upon what has already happened in the auction. Some considerations:

- Did partner show a major or a minor?
- Is the 2N bidder a passed hand?