

2 over 1 Game Force

Chapter One **Introduction to 2 over 1 Game Force**

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Truths About 2 over 1 Game Force

You must master Bridge Basics to be a good player

**2/1 is a collection of bids and conventions
that is integrated into a total system**

You make the 2/1 bid on an infrequent basis

The system, once mastered, will help you find slams

You are best served to use the system in its entirety

2 over 1 Game Force

2/1 applies only when:

Opener bids 1 Diamond, 1 Heart or 1 Spade

AND the next player passes

AND responder bids a new lower ranking suit at the 2 level without jumping

AND responder is an unpassed hand

2 over 1 Game Force

There are six auctions in which 2/1 applies:

Opening Bid

1 ♠

1 ♥

1 ♦

2/1 Game Forcing Responses

2 ♣, 2♦, 2♥

2 ♣, 2♦

2 ♣

Note: There is no 2/1 response after an opening bid of 1 club.

2 over 1 Game Force

Bidding Messages

There are four bidding messages with 2/1 game force

Signoff

Invitational

Forcing

Marathon

Which Bidding Message is this?

**Bidding Messages – Signoff, Invitational, Forcing
or Marathon**

West	North	East	South
P	1 NT	P	3 NT
P	?		

Bidding Messages - Signoff

West	North	East	South
P	1 NT	P	3 NT
P	Pass	Pass	

North has limited his hand with the 1 NT opening bid.
South has determined that the contract should be 3 NT.

North is expected to respect responder's decision and must pass as this is a sign off bid.

Which Bidding Message is this?

**Bidding Messages – Signoff, Invitational, Forcing
or Marathon**

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♥	P	2 ♥

Bidding Messages - Invitational

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♥	P	2 ♥
P	?		



South has limited his hand to 6 – 10 points but the hand is considered **invitational** as North may raise South with 16-18 points and bid game with 19- 21 points.

Which Bidding Message is this?

Bidding Messages – Signoff, Invitational, Forcing
or Marathon

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♦	P	1 ♠
P	?		

Bidding Messages - Forcing

West	North	East	South
P	1 	P	1 
P	?		

The bid of a new suit from an unpassed hand is **forcing** for at least one round. Opener must bid again.

It is always a forcing bid when responder has not limited their hand

Which Bidding Message is this?

Bidding Messages – Signoff, Invitational, Forcing or Marathon

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♥	P	1 ♠
P	3 ♣	P	?

Bidding Messages - **Marathon**

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♥	P	1 ♠
P	3 ♣	P	?

Opener's jump shift to 3 ♣ is a **marathon** bid. Even
With a minimum for responder's 1 ♠ bid, partner is
expected to bid again, and neither side can pass until a
game contract is reached.

Opener is showing 19-21 points with this bid.

2 over 1 Game Force

The power of agreeing to play 2/1 Game Force is that it makes the bidding messages crystal clear in some key situations: when the partnership is looking for the best game or a possible slam.

2 over 1 Game Force

In standard bridge, a non-jump response of a suit at the two level shows 10 or more points.

In 2/1 Game Forcing Approach, a 2/1 response is a marathon bid, forcing to at least game.

2 over 1 Game Force

A non-jump, new suit by responder at the two level is forcing to at least game and shows:

- **13 or more points**
- **5+ cards for a 2 ♥ response**
- **3 to 4 cards for 2 ♦ or 2 ♣ response**

Make this bid for South

Is it 2/1 Game Force?

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North

1 ♥

East

Pass

South

?

West

Responder:

♠ Q 4

♥ 9 5

♦ A K J 8 6

♣ K 7 5 3

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North

1 ♥

East

Pass

South

2 ♦

West

Responder:

♠ Q 4

♥ 9 5

♦ A K J 8 6

♣ K 7 5 3

2 Diamonds: South makes a “marathon bid” (forcing to game) with 13 HCP plus one length point.

Make this bid for South

Is it 2/1 Game Force?

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North

1 ♠

East

Pass

South

?

West

Responder:

♠ A 4

♥ K J 9 7 3

♦ 6

♣ A Q 8 5 2

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	
?			

Responder:

♠ A 4
♥ K J 9 7 3
♦ 6
♣ A Q 8 5 2

2 Hearts: South makes a “marathon bid” (forcing to game) with 14 HCP plus one length point.

Responder must have 5 hearts to make the 2 heart bid.

Make this bid for South

Is it 2/1 Game Force?

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	Pass	?	

Responder:

♠ 9 4
♥ Q 4
♦ A K Q 8 7
♣ A K J 8

Examples of 2/1 Game Force

North
1 ♥

East
Pass

South
2 ♦

West

Responder:

♠ 9 4

♥ Q 4

♦ A K Q 8 7

♣ A K J 8

2 Diamonds: South makes a “marathon bid” (forcing to game) with 19 HCP plus one length point.

The 2 diamond bid is forcing to game leaving plenty of bidding space to explore for slam.

2 over 1 Game Force

Advantages of 2/1 Game Force

Once the responder's first bid establishes that the partnership is going to go at least for game, the auction can proceed comfortably, and the partnership can explore the best place to play game or the possibility of a slam.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ J 9 7 5 3
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ K 4
♣ 9

Responder

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 3
♣ A 10 6 5 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ J 9 7 5 3
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ K 4
♣ 9

Responder

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 3
♣ A 10 6 5 4

Opener

1 ♠
2 ♥
3 ♥
Pass

Responder

2 ♣
2 NT
4 ♥
Pass

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 10 7 5 3
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 6

Responder

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 3
♣ A 10 9 5 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 10 7 5 3
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 6

Responder

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 3
♣ A 10 9 5 4

Opener

1 ♠
2 ♥
3 ♠
Pass

Responder

2 ♣
2 NT
4 ♠
Pass

When holding a six card and a four card suit, you bid with the 6-4-6 approach; bid the 6 card suit, then the 4, then the 6 again.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 7 5 3

♥ A K 7 2

♦ 8 4

♣ K 6

Responder

♠ Q 2

♥ Q 8 3

♦ A J 3

♣ A 10 9 5 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 7 5 3
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K 6

Responder

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 3
♣ A 10 9 5 4

Opener

1 ♠
2 ♥
3 NT
Pass

Responder

2 ♣
2 NT
Pass

Advantages of 2/1 Game Force

2/1 Game Force provides a relaxed way for the partnership to find **Where? it belongs, since both players know right away that they are headed at least for a game contract.**

Advantages of 2/1 Game Force

2/1 Game Force leaves more room for the partnership to explore for slam . Both partnerships have the opportunity to show extra strength and interest in slam without getting the partnership too high.

The partnership can exchange information about controls that are very important when bidding a slam.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 9 7 5 2

♥ A 4

♦ 7 5 2

♣ A 3

Responder

♠ A Q 10

♥ K Q 8 7 3

♦ A 6

♣ J 6 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 9 7 5 2
♥ A 4
♦ 7 5 2
♣ A 3

Responder

♠ A Q 10
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ A 6
♣ J 6 4

Opener

1 ♠
2 ♠
4 ♣
4 ♥
5 ♥
6 ♦
Pass

Responder

2 ♥
3 ♠
4 ♦
4 NT
5 NT
6 ♠
Pass

Play of the Hand

Plan your play for making 6 spades on the following hand:

Opener

♠ K J 9 7 5 2

♥ A 4

♦ 7 5 2

♣ A 3

Responder

♠ A Q 10

♥ K Q 8 7 3

♦ A 6

♣ J 6 4

Play Hand #2

Play Hand #1

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 9 7 5 2

♥ A 4

♦ K J

♣ 7 5 2

Responder

♠ A Q 10

♥ K Q 8 7 3

♦ A 6

♣ J 6 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 9 7 5 2
♥ A 4
♦ K J
♣ 7 5 2

Opener

1 ♠

2 ♠

4 ♥

Pass

Responder

♠ A Q 10
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ A 6
♣ J 6 4

Responder

2 ♥

3 ♠

4 ♠

Pass

When opener does **not** show the club control, responder passes with 3 losers in this suit.

When 2/1 Game Force is “Off”

- **If Responder's Right Hand Opponent overcalls or doubles**
- **If Responder is a passed hand**

Bid This Hand!

Opener

1 ♠

Opponent

2 ♣

Responder

?

RHO

Responder

♠ 8 3

♥ J 8 2

♦ A K J 8 7 3

♣ 9 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

1 ♠

Opponent

2 ♣

Responder

2 ♦

RHO

Responder

♠ 8 3

♥ J 8 2

♦ A K J 8 7 3

♣ 9 4

Respond 2 Diamonds – this bid is forcing for one round, but not forcing to game. If partner bids 2 spades, pass. If partner bids 2 hearts, bid 3 diamonds, which again, is non-forcing.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

1 ♥

Opponent

Double

Responder

?

RHO

Responder

♠ K 8 3

♥ Q 2

♦ 9 6 5

♣ A K J 8 7

Bid This Hand!

Opener
1 ♥

Opponent
Double

Responder
Redouble

RHO

Responder

♠ K 8 3

♥ Q 2

♦ 9 6 5

♣ A K J 8 7

Responder's **redouble** shows 10+ points and asks opener for more information regarding his hand. It is **Forcing**.

If opener rebids hearts, responder can bid 4 hearts. If opener bids another suit, responder should bid 3 NT.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

1 ♠

Opponent

2 ♣

Responder

?

RHO

Responder

♠ K 8 3
♥ Q 8 2
♦ A K J 8 7 3
♣ 9 4

USE THE CUE BID!

Opener

1 ♠

Opponent

2 ♣

Responder

3 ♣

RHO

Responder

♠ K 8 3

♥ Q 8 2

♦ A K J 8 7 3

♣ 9 4

Bid 3 clubs – cuebid the opponents suit. This forces partner to bid again and promises partner at least 10+ points. If partner makes a minimum bid, such as 3 spades, then signoff in 4 spades. If partner makes a jump bid or bids a new suit then show your spade support.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

Opponent

Responder

RHO

1 ♠

Pass

Pass

?

Pass

Responder

♠ 9 3
♥ 7 5
♦ A J 9 6 5
♣ K Q 8 4

Bid This Hand!

Opener

1 ♠

Opponent

Pass

Responder

Pass

RHO

Pass

2 Diamonds

Responder

♠ 9 3

♥ 7 5

♦ A J 9 6 5

♣ K Q 8 4

2 Diamonds – This bid is no longer forcing to game as south has previously passed. It does show at least 10 points to go to the two level. Standard auction shall continue.

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K J 10 8 6 3

♥ 7 4 2

♦ K Q

♣ A 5

Responder

♠ A 9 7

♥ A J

♦ 6 5 4

♣ K Q J 8 6

Bid This Hand!

Opener

♠ K Q 10 8 6 3
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K Q
♣ A 5

Responder

♠ A 9 7
♥ A J
♦ 6 5 4
♣ K Q J 8 6

Opener

1 ♠
2 ♠
4 ♣
4 NT
6 ♠

Responder

2 ♣
3 ♠
4 ♥
5 ♥
Pass

What are the following bids?

Signoff – Invitational – Forcing – Marathon

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

P			
---	--	--	--

	1 		
--	---	--	--

		P	
--	--	---	--

			1 
--	--	--	---

	1 		
--	---	--	--

		P	
--	--	---	--

			2 
--	--	--	---

	1 NT		
--	------	--	--

		P	
--	--	---	--

			3 NT
--	--	--	------

P			
---	--	--	--

	1 		
--	---	--	--

		2 	
--	--	---	--

			2 
--	--	--	---

What are the following bids?

Signoff – Invitational – Forcing – Marathon

West North East South

P 1  P 1  Forcing (6 + points)

1  P 2  Marathon – game forcing

1 NT P 3 NT Signoff

P 1  2  2  Forcing but not to game

What are the following bids?

Signoff – Invitational – Forcing – Marathon

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♣

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1 ♠	P	2 ♥

West	North	East	South
P	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣

What are the following bids?

Signoff – Invitational – Forcing – Marathon

West	North	East	South	
P	1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♣	Invitational – after a dbl, A redouble shows a stronger hand.

West	North	East	South	
P	1 ♠	P	P 2 ♥	Invitational – south is a passed hand.

West	North	East	South	
P	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♣	This is a cue bid. It is forcing and asks partner for more information regarding his hand.

Play Hand #4

Play Hand #3