

TIP OF THE WEEK: WIELDING THE AX

Consider making a Penalty Double

<p>if our tricks and values suggest they're not making their contract</p> <p>1H (1S) 2C (4S) P (P) X You hold: 76 K54 A32 AQ754</p>	<p>if we've had more than one opportunity to bid and chosen to pass prior to our double</p> <p>(1C) P (1H) P (1S) P (2D) P (2H) P (4H) X</p>	<p>after our preempt</p> <p>3D (3H) X</p>
<p>after we redouble</p> <p>(P) 1D (X) XX (2C) X</p>	<p>during a Game forcing auctions</p> <p>(P) 1H (P) 2C (2S) X</p>	<p>After we have found a fit</p> <p>1H (P) 2H (3C) X</p>
<p>when Responder doubles a 2-suited takeout, they want to defend against one or both of their suits</p>	<p>after opponents overcall 1NT</p> <p>(P) 1S (1NT) X Good 8/9 pts.</p>	<p>when there is nothing to takeout to</p> <p>1D (P) 1NT (2S) X</p>

Join, Joan and Jack for an introduction to Penalty Doubles

Please note: They play a double of 1NT as Penalty. Other defensive conventions are available to compete over opposing 1NT openings.

<https://youtu.be/xaRWMrwinl4>

<https://youtu.be/JgUakrxomDM>

Advanced Learners

- . If declarer is on your **right**, your **KJ9x of trump** is worth 3 trumps, **AQx** is worth 2 trumps, and **QTx** is worth just 1 trick.
- . Keep in mind that if **you** and partner **have a fit (9+)**, you might only get **one** trick in that suit on defense.
- . If each side holds 18 - 22 HCP, only **double** if you expect at least a **two-trick set**. Using the table below, **add your defensive tricks to partner's expected defensive tricks**.

6 - 9 points --> Partner should win 1 trick

10 -12 points --> “ “ “ 2 tricks

13 -15 points --> “ “ “ 3 tricks

- . Consider your holding in **other suits**

RHO opens 1C and the opponents find a 4S contract. The odds of you scoring two tricks in clubs (KQx) are **higher** than if clubs had been bid first by your LHO.

- . If your side holds 23+ HCP --> **never allow the enemy to play undoubled.**

Join, Peter Hollands for his featured lesson on Penalty Doubles

<https://youtu.be/nvUBjptOTg>

Penalty Doubles in Action

Michael from Bridgehands

<https://youtu.be/NtIN-XhB65w>

[https://youtu.be/JCPgbNQs6p4Add M](https://youtu.be/JCPgbNQs6p4AddM)

- . For those who like rules, check out the “Rule of 9,” by Mel Colchamiro

1. Take the **level** of the contract.
2. Add the **number** of the opponent’s **trump** you hold.
3. Add the **number** of your **honors** in the trump suit.

If the total is **nine**, **DOUBLE!**

“Breaking the Rules,” with Josh Donn

<http://youth.worldbridge.org/breakin-the-rules-penalty-doubles-by-joshua-donn/>

Resist Making a Penalty Double

1NT (2H) ?

You Hold: AK87 83 T4 AK876

Don’t double! Cuebid 3H to force your partner to bid.

- . Never double a **freely-bid slam**, except to ask for an unusual lead.
- . If you have **15 points** and your opponents bid to game it doesn’t mean you should double.

The chances are they have compensating shape and our partner has a Yarborough.

. Don't double if you think that your opponents can **find a better contract**.

1C - 1S 2C - 2H 3C - 3S	You hold: AQJT AT4 83 7532
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“Unsound Penalty Doubles,” by David Bird

<https://csbnews.org/mistakes-in-the-bidding-unsound-penalty-doubles/>

“The Penalty Double has Died and Gone to Heaven,” by Larry Cohen

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/the-penalty-double-has-died-and-gone-to-heaven>

5-level Sacrifices

Assess your Defensive to Offensive potential

- **Offensive values:** Extra length in suits, solid cards, shortages
(You believe **our contract will make** at the next level.)
- **Defensive values:** Scattered values in side suits, Aces in your suits, shortage or values in their suit

Best to **double**, because we're concerned that we'll go down if we bid to the next level. (Partner just might have a surprise for them.)

Know your opponents

- Are they aggressive or steady bidders?

Cast your vote in Direct Seat

- **Bid** again, if you strongly believe we will make out contract at the next level.

1S (2D) 4S (5D) ? -----> AQJ874 AK84 3 K4 Bid: 5S	Source: NZBridge
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- Make a **Penalty Double**, if you are concerned that we might **go down** if we bid to the next level.

1D (2S) X (4S) ? -----> QJT A4 AKT762 Double for Penalty	Source: NZBridge
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- Make a **Forcing Pass**, when you have no strong feeling either way (**Partnership Agreement**). You expect **partner** will either **double** or **bid after you pass**.

1H (2S) 3S (4S) ? -----> x AQTxx KQxxx Kx Forcing Pass
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