

Great Lakes Bridge Club

Basic Bidding Practice

Suite Bidding:

Game Points: 25

Open: 12+ HCP and 5S, 5H, 4D or 2C

15+ HCP To change suit at the 2 level

Respond: 6-9 HCP a) support opening bid for 1 level
b) change bid at the 1 level

10+ HCP change suit at the 2 level with 4/5 of the new suit

If you haven't got enough points to go to the next level bid 1NT

- * When you have a **suit fit** then **include distribution points**
- * **Overcall** by opponents: have you enough points to continue bidding?
Yes – continue bidding. **No** – pass
- * Partner bids **X** – take-out double after an opening bid. Often means:
I have opening points and 4 of the other major,
bid the major if you have 4, or bid any 4 card suit to remove the X if it is still in play
- * **Opposition opens with a weak bid**, eg 2D, 3H etc
Overcall if you have opening points and good suit or **X** to tell partner about your hand as above, *carefull of VULNERABILITY don't over bid your points*
- * **Partner responds at 3 level** – what are they asking you?
If you have the top range of points go to level 4 (game =25 pts)
Eg, your bid showed 6-9 points.
If you have 9 points, with distribution, go to 4, else pass
Or your opening bid showed 12-14/15 points.
If you have 14 points, with distribution, go to 4, else pass

Open with the Rule of 20

When you have a special shape, ie combination of void or singleton or doubleton, your hand becomes stronger.

Count your High card points and the sum of your 2 longest suits – if your opening points comes to 20 you may open using the longest suit or 5 of a major.

♠ A K 9 7 4 3

♥ 6

♦ K 6 5 4

♣ 9 6

6 spades + 4 diamonds + 10 HCP = 20 opening points so open 1 ♠.

You will have more success when your honours are together and in your long suits. They can help to establish your low cards. Look for a run that can be promoted once any missing honours have fallen.

♠ A T 9 7

♥ A J T 9 8 6

♦ 5

♣ 6 4

Opening points = 19 but the run in ♥ will be promoted once the K, Q fall.

♠ Q 7

♥ A J 7 4

♦ J 7 6 5 4 3

♣ Q

Opening points = 20, but the Qs will be lost and it will/may take 3 leads before the ♦J becomes useful. With honours spread out like this it is not a good plan to open.

Jump Raise shows high points (W hand, 17 HCP):

♠ A J T

♥ K 8

♦ 5

♣ A K Q 9 7 6 4

Bidding: W N E S
 1♣ / 1♥ 1♠
 3♣ / ? /

a jump from 1♣ to 3♣ shows 15+ HCP

With < 15 HCP bid 2♣ to show your extra clubs.