

HANDOUT SEMINAR 1

STANDARD AMERICAN

(5 card majors)

- 1C/D = Better Minor (3+ cards)
- 1H/S = 5 card major
- 1NT = 15-18 points

Better minor:

To support in reply you need 5 cards

Be careful of reversing on rebid if you hold both suits eg.

S A5 = 14 pts

H K42 Open 1C (your better minor)

D QJ32 Rebid 1NT – you may not bid 2D (above barrier)

C KJ93 You can open 1D and rebid 2C (below barrier)

Be careful of reversing on rebid if you hold both suits eg.

S A5 = 14 pts

H 742 Open 1D (your better minor)

D KQJ32 Rebid 2C – below the barrier

C KJ93

Be careful of reversing on rebid if you hold both suits eg.

S A5 = 16 pts

H 742 Open 1C (your better minor)

D KJ32 Rebid 2D – above the barrier

C AKJ93 (a reverse showing 16+ pts)

Rebid of a minor ... need 6 unless hold void or singleton in a suit.

Eg.

S Q32 = 14 pts

H 93 Open 1D

D AKJ932 Rebid 2D

C K2

Rebid of a minor ... need 6 unless hold void or singleton in a suit. Eg.

S J3 = 14 pts

H Q1093 Open 1D if p bids 1S:

D AKJ93 Rebid 1NT

C K2 You cannot rebid 2D no void or singleton in outside suit

You cannot rebid 2H it promises 16+ pts and is through the barrier (reverse)

Eg.

S Q32 = 13 pts

H 9 Open 1D p bids 1H

D AKJ93 Rebid 2D (you have a singleton)

C K73

The five card major:

You can support with 3 cards.

A rebid will show at least 6 cards in the major.

The opening NT bid:

Strong 15-18

Rebid is weak (opposite from ACOL)

Eg. 1D – 1S – 1NT

The 1NT rebid now shows 12-14 points.

LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

What is LTT?

- A tool for competitive bidding, used when both sides competing.
- If you have enough points to bid slam or game, BID AS NORMAL.
The LTT is only for use in partscore competed auctions.

In a competitive auction you are best advised to bid to the level of the number of trumps held by your side, so

- 8 trumps – 2 level
- 9 trumps – 3 level
- 10 trumps – 4 level

If they only have 8 trumps, don't let them play at the 2 level.

Even if you only have 8 trumps, push them to the 3 level.

8 NEVER, 9 EVER

Never outbid your ops at the 3 level if you have 8 trumps.

Always compete for a 3 level contract over their 3 level bid if you have 9 trumps.

So never go 3 over 3 with an 8 card fit, always go 3 over 3 with a 9 card fit.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN :

With lots of high cards in ops trump suit don't bid to the normal LTT level. (Bid one less)

If you are vulnerable, shade your decision with some caution.

Increasing pre-empts:

If p opens a Weak 2, or makes a weak jump overcall to 2 level ...
assume 6 cards and be prepared to raise to 3 level with three card support, and to 4 level with four card support.

If p opens with a 3 level pre-empt and 7 cards, be prepared to raise to 4 level with 3 card support (10 trumps)

Book: LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS - COHEN