



## **Bidding with no Fit**

When you find yourself bidding and you do not have a fit with partner you should be cautious! Hands get more difficult to play without a fit, and it is better to underbid your hand.

### **Less than Game Values**

When you and partner have less than game values (26 points), you should pass early keeping the contract as low as possible. You want to either be in 1NT or two of a suit contract. When you have no fit, a 5-2 fit at the two level will often play better than a 1NT contract.

### **Game Values**

When you have game values (26 pts) 3NT is often the best game to play, but you want to have sure tricks or stoppers in all the suits. Sometimes you will need to play in a minor suit fit, but in that case you should have extra values as you need to take 11 tricks.

### **Invitational Values**

Hands that are close to game are the most difficult to bid. You should explore for stoppers and strength to play 3NT, but you must be willing to stop at 2NT or 3 of a minor suit.

### **Responder Bidding**

This is simply a review of bidding as responder:

- You can bid a new 4 card suit at the one level with any size responder hand (small, medium or large).
- Bidding a suit at the 2 level shows a five card or longer suit and a medium or large responder hand.
- Bidding 2NT shows a medium responder hand and no 5-card suit.
- Bidding 3NT shows a large responder hand with no 5 card suit
- 1NT is a catchall bid for responder. It shows a small responder hand with no suit that could be bid at the one level.

## Is It Forcing?

Both partners need to be aware of what bids are forcing:

- A new suit by responder is always forcing for 1 round. Opener is required to bid.
- A jump shift by opener is forcing to game.(bidding a new suit one level higher than necessary)
- Opener raising a 1NT response to 2NT is forcing.

All other bids may be passed by partner.

## Responding to a Forcing Bid

Each partner should try to provide more information about their hand to partner:

- If you have a new 4 card suit to show, you can show it.
- If you are in a game forcing auction, bidding a new suit can simply show-stoppers in the suit required for a Notrump contract. It also shows a concern about the other unbid suit. For example:

West	North	East	South
1♥	pass	1NT	pass
3♣	pass	3♦	

West's 3♣ bid is a game forcing bid. When East bids 3♦ they are simply showing that they have a diamond stopper(s) for a 3NT contract but are concerned about the spade suit. If they had a spade stopper(s) but were concerned about diamonds they could bid 3♠, if they had stoppers in both spades and diamonds, they could bid 3NT directly.

- With game values make sure to make a bid that forces partner to bid or you can bid the most likely game.