



Responding to Opener's Bids of 1 in a Major

Who is the Captain???

Two questions for captain to answer:

1. **How high?** Do we belong in a game or part-score???
2. **Where?** Do we have an 8 card fit for a trump contract, or are we playing in No Trump?

26 (25) pts. = GAME

Opener points

12 – 15
16-18
19+

Strength

Minimum
Invitational
Forcing

Responder points

6 to 9
10 to 12
13+

With 6 or more points including dummy points, always respond to partner's opening bid of 1 in a suit. Why? Partner could have as many as 21 points!

If partner opens 1 of a major (hearts or spades), partner is promising at least 5 cards.

If you have a fit with the major suit that your partner bid, you will be the dummy, so you can re-evaluate your hand to include "dummy points". General guidelines:

- Add 1 point for a doubleton,
- Add 3 points for a singleton,
- Add 5 points for a void.

With 3 or more cards in partner's major suit, support at the appropriate level. Examples:

- 1S – 2S promises 6-9 points, including distribution (dummy points), Minimum
- 1S - 3S promises 10-12 including dummy points, inviting partner to game, Invitational
- With 3+ spades and game force hand, bid new suit and then raise to 4S. Other options are available to explore for slam.

With less than 3 cards in partner's major, respond in a new suit or in NT.

- *A new suit at the one level* promises six or more valuation points (high card points plus length – not dummy points since no fit!) and four or more cards. This is also a forcing call, meaning that the opener must bid again if responder is not a passed hand.
- *New suit at the two level* promises 11 or more points in Standard American bidding, four or more cards, and is also forcing.
- *One notrump* promises 6-10 points if playing Standard American, and is not necessarily a balanced hand. Not forcing in Standard American.

2/1 Notes

- If playing 2/1, a new suit at the 2 level below rank of opener's suit is game forcing.
- Note that if playing 2/1, a 1NT response is a forcing bid as it can show a hand with up to 12 points since a 2 level new suit would be game forcing.

Happy Bidding!!!

