

They Overcall and We Have No Support for Partner

Last week we looked at some situations where partner opened one of a suit and the opponent's overcalled in a different suit. We were in the happy position of being able to support partner's major. Quite often, we are not so fortunate.

You have a suit of your own

If unable to support partner, you may be able to bid your own suit. You need at least six high card points and suit of at least four cards to bid at the one level. If you are forced to bid at the two level, you will need ten high card points and a five card or longer suit. If the suit has six cards or more, you can reduce the high card points requirement to nine.

Examples

<p>♠ K J 9 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ K 6 2</p>	<p>Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.</p> <p>Make the bid you would have bid if there had been no overcall. 1♠ promises at least 6 HCP.</p>
<p>♠ K 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ Q J 9 6 2</p>	<p>Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.</p> <p>Make the bid you would have bid if there had been no overcall. Bid 2♣. A bid at the two level promises at least 10 HCP.</p>
<p>♠ K 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 9 8 3 ♣ K J 9 6 2</p>	<p>Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.</p> <p>Pass. The hand is not strong enough to bid at the two level.</p> <p>Partner still has the opportunity to bid again.</p>
<p>♠ K Q 8 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A J 3 ♣ T 6 2</p>	<p>Partner opens 1♥ and next player bids 2♣.</p> <p>Bid 2♠. There are ten high card points and a five card suit.</p>
<p>♠ K Q 7 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A J 8 3 ♣ T 6 2</p>	<p>Partner opens 1♥ and next player bids 2♣.</p> <p>The hand are ten high card points but no five card suit. That rules out a bid of 2♠. Next week, we will see how to bid this hand.</p>

You have a stopper in the opponent's suit

If you have a good holding in the opponent's suit, you may be able to make a no trump bid.

Examples

♠ 9 7 2
♥ K J 5
♦ 9 8 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.

Bid 1NT showing 6 to 9 HCP and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

♠ K 2
♥ K J 5
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♠ and next player bids 2♥.

Bid 2NT showing 10 to 12 HCP and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

♠ 9 2
♥ K J 5
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♠ and next player bids 2♥.

Now, the hand is too weak for 2NT. This is another hand for next week.

♠ A 7 2
♥ K J 5
♦ Q 8 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.

Bid 3NT showing 13 or more HCP and a stopper in the opponent's suit.

♠ A 7 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ K 8
♣ A K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♥.

With this huge hand, you can go straight to 6NT. The overcaller can have no more than eight high cards points and will surely have the king of hearts.

♠ -
♥ K J 9 5 3
♦ 9 8 7 2
♣ A Q 4 3

Partner opens 1♠ and next player bids 2♥.

This is really annoying. You were going to bid 2♥. You can't bid 3♥ because that is support for spades. It is not balanced so no trumps does not look right. We will leave this hand for another time.

You can support partner's minor

If you have support for partner's minor, you don't necessarily want to do so. If the opponents interfere, it may be your only option.

♠ J 7 2
♥ K 5
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Partner opens 1♦ and next player bids 1♠.

If their had been no interference, you might have bid 1NT so show your scattered values. Once they bid 1♠, there is no adequate spade stopper but you can bid 2♦.