

BEGINNERS' LESSONS

Welcome

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Lesson Seven

Overcalls



Reasons for Overcalling

- To get into the bidding ... make it hard for the opposition
- Express a genuine desire to play in a suit
- Suggest a lead for partner



Rules to Overcall a suit



- **MUST** be a good 5+ card suit – at least 2 honours
- Point count should be close to opening values if overcalling at the 2-level



Overcalling a suit

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥

South has an Opening Hand with a GOOD 5-card suit (at least two honours in the suit)

E HER

S YOU



Overcalling a suit

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
South has an Opening Hand with a GOOD 5-card suit (at least two honours in the suit)			

E HER

S  YOU

K	Q	6	4	2	8	5	A	Q	8	3	9	6	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦



Overcalling a suit

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♦	PASS

Opening Hand BUT a poor suit
DO NOT BE TEMPTED to overcall

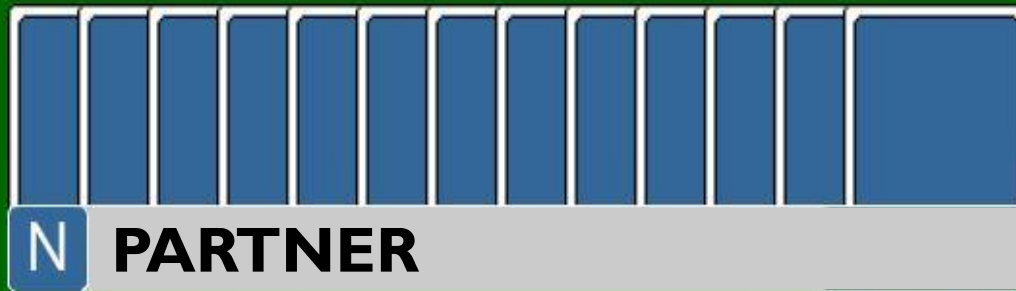
W HIM

E HER

S YOU



Overcalling a suit




W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♥ or PASS

Opening Hand. Suit OK.
Bidding will make it very difficult for the opposition but could be risky



Response to Overcall of a suit

- Only bid with a fit (3+ support)
- Support partner if you can ... keeping in mind that partner has shown  of the suit – need 6+ points
- With 12+ points, jump in partner's suit



Response to a suit overcall

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♦

Show a minimum raise
Mainly to make it as hard as
possible for the opposition ...
you have a 10-card fit in
diamonds

E HER

S YOU



A 7 6 4 A 4 7 6 9 7 5 4 3

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♦	Pass	PASS

Cannot support diamonds
DO NOT bid the spade suit as your hand is not good enough

E HER

S YOU

A	K	J	9	4	5	3	2	8	5	3	5	4	♦
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦



Response to a suit overcall

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠

Support partner's 5-card spade suit
You have a fit
Ignore your own heart suit

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ K♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 4♥ 3♥ 9♣ 7♣ 9♦ 8♦

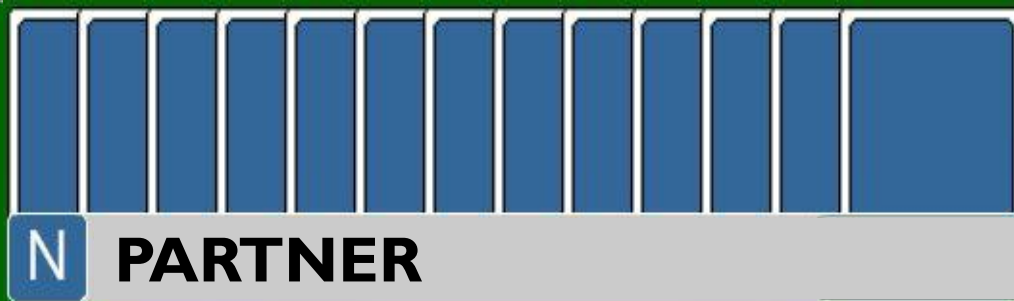


Rules to Overcall in NoTrumps

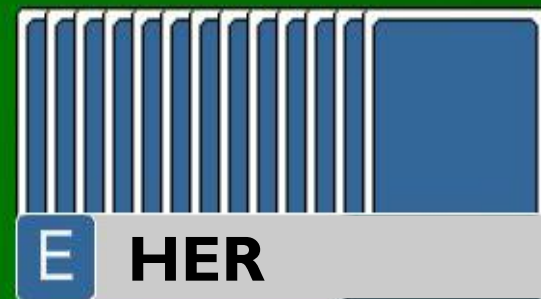
- Need **BETTER** points than opening INT
 - 16 – 18 points
- **MUST** have a cover in the opposition's suit



Overcalling 1NT



W	N	E	S
		1♦	1NT
18 points balanced hand with a diamond hold			



Overcalling INT

N

PARTNER

W

N

E

S

1♠

1NT

16 points
balanced hand with a
spade hold

E

HER



Overcalling INT

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♠	PASS

16 points
balanced hand BUT no
spade hold
You cannot overcall INT

E HER

S YOU

8	7	3	A	9	8	K	10	4	A	K	Q	8	
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦



Overcalling INT

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♣	?

16 points
balanced hand BUT no
club hold
You cannot overcall INT

E HER

**NEXT
WEEK'S
LESSON!**

S YOU

A♠	Q♠	10♠	3♠	K♥	9♥	6♥	4♥	Q♣	8♣	K♦	Q♦	2♦
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Response to Overcall of 1NT

Unbalanced Hand

Use same responses as for opening 1NT ... BUT adjust point count

- 0 – 7 points – bid your own suit
- 8+ points – bid your 5-card suit (major) at 3-level or bid your 6-card suit at GAME



Response
to INT
overcall

N

PARTNER

W

N

E

S

1♣

1NT

Pass

2♠

Unbalanced hand

not enough points for game,
therefore, bid your long suit
(weak takeout)

W

HIM

E

HER



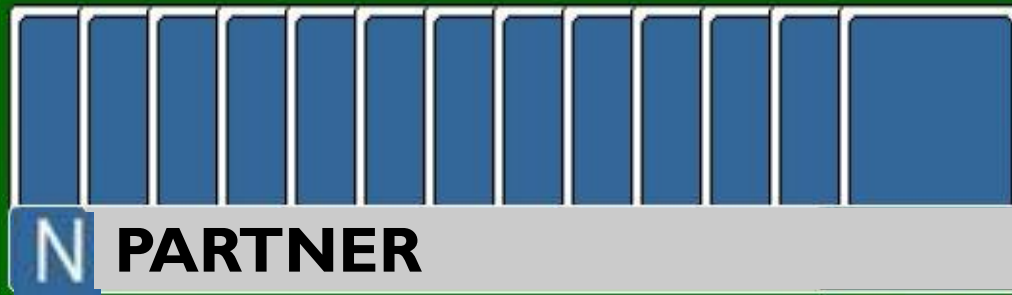
S



YOU

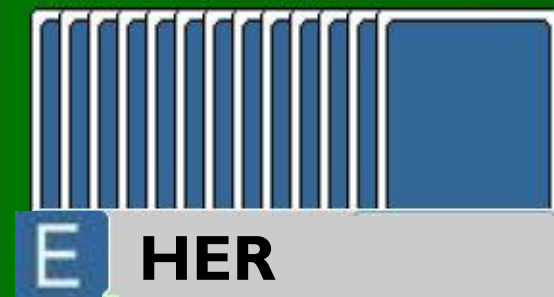


Response
to 1NT
overcall



W	N	E	S
1♥	1NT	Pass	3♠

UNBALANCED HAND
with points for GAME
Show your 5-card suit by bidding
at the 3-level



A	K	Q	9	5	8	6	9	8	Q	10	9	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

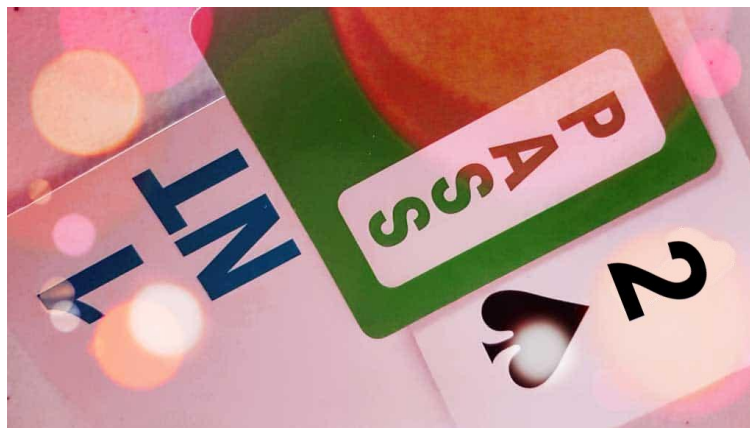
S YOU



Response to Overcall of INT

Balanced Hand

- 0 – 7 points – PASS
- 8 points – 2NT (inviting to game)
- 9+ points – 3NT (wanting to be in game)



Response
to INT
overcall

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	PASS
BALANCED HAND not enough points for game, therefore, PASS			

E HER

S YOU

A 8 7 6 5 4 10 9 2 9 4 3 2

♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to
Overall of
INT

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	3NT

BALANCED HAND
points for game
bid 3NT

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ 2♠ Q♥ J♥ 9♥ 8♣ 6♣ 4♣ K♦ 7♦ 2♦



Response
to INT
overcall

N	PARTNER										

W	HIM											

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	2NT
BALANCED HAND			
with 8 points you are close to game. 2NT invites partner. If they have 17 or 18 they bid to game			

E	HER											

A	10	7	3	Q	J	8	6	5	J	9	7	4	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	♠	YOU											



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