RESPONSES TO PARTNER’S OPENING ONE No-TRUMP
SUBSEQUENT TO AN INTERVENING INTERFERENCE BID
BY THE OPPONENTS

Partner opens one No-Trump, and your RHO (Right-Hand Opponent) overcalls a suit:

a. A double is for penalties, and is never a negative double if the suit overcall is at the 2-Level. It signifies 8 or more HCP’s (11+ in ACOL) and is designed to punish the overcaller.
   
   Ex. 1NT (or) 1NT
   2H Dbl. (Penalty) 2D Dbl. (Penalty)

b. A double is a take-out double, and is never for penalties if the suit overcall is at the 3-Level. The presumption here is that your Opponent is reasonably certain that, based upon his/her distribution and the relative vulnerabilities, he/she cannot be hurt sufficiently to justify your making a penalty double, and under these circumstance, you have a more fruitful use for the double. Under these circumstances the double is a game-forcing, Take-Out double, rather than a likely, non-productive, penalty double.
   
   Ex. 1NT (or) 1NT
   3S (Negative) Dbl. (Negative)

   c. A cue-bid of their suit is Stayman seeking a 4-card Major fit. If the opponent’s overcall has been a Major suit, the cue-bid seeks a Golden fit in the alternate Major. If the opponent’s overcall has been a Minor suit, the cue-bid seeks a Golden fit, possibly in either Major. In either instance, since the cue-bid must be registered at the 3-Level, a game-force scenario is in effect and the partnership must continue until a game-level contract has been achieved in either the sought-after Major suit, else in NT. Thus, Responder, here, guarantees at least 10 or more HCP’s. (13 + in ACOL) The Stayman Convention is still in effect after a 2-Level, interference call, but a cue-bid in the Opponent’s suit replaces the standard “2C” trigger asking for a Major suit holding.
   
   Ex. 1NT (or) 1NT
   2H “3H” (Game-Forcing - Seeking Spades) 2D “3D” (Game-Forcing, Hearts and/or Spades)

   d. A bid of 2NT is invitational (9-10 HCP’s) (12-13 in ACOL) as if the overcall had never been made, and 3NT is to play, thus evidencing at least 11 (+) HCP’s, (14+ in ACOL)
   
   Ex. 1NT (or) 1NT
   2H (Invitational to 3NT) 2C 3NT (To Play)

   e. A bid of any suit at the 2-Level, other than the overcalled suit, is natural, and is to play. (A “drop dead” bid) (0-8 HCP’s) (0-11 in ACOL) and, a bid of any suit at the 3-Level is natural and Game-Forcing, (9 + HCP’s in Standard American) (13+ in ACOL). Bids at the 2- or 3-Levels evidence a 5-Card or longer suit, and ones made at the 4-Level evidence 6-cards or longer.
   
   Ex. 1NT (or) 1NT (or) 1NT
   2H 2D 2S
   2S (To Play) 3H (Natural, Game-Forcing) 4H (To play)

   f. Jacoby Transfer bids, subsequent to a 2-Level suit overcall do not exist. Transfers are off.

   g. There is a special Convention, (not included herein), called, The Lebensohl Convention which is designed to handle all of the above-referenced situations, and others, as well.