

## **“NO-TRUMP” BIDS AND THEIR VARIED MEANINGS**

There are only 38 different bids in the game of Bridge: - 35 numerical, denominational bids from “*1C*” through “*7-No-Trump*,” “*Pass*,” “*Double*,” and “*Re-Double*.” All of them have numerous, and significantly different meaning, dependent upon the actual sequence of the bidding process in which they become a part, the position at the Bridge table of the Players who are using them, and the possible presence of any conventions which might be employed by the individual Partnerships involved. These factors must all be considered in order for the true meaning of these bids to be fully understood. The various No-Trump bids described in this presentation represent most of the standard No-Trump bids available. Some of these meanings described herein, however, would be negated, or modified with the introduction of any of the many specialized conventional bids used today such as those seen within the “*Two-Over-One Game-Forcing*” bidding system, the “*Jacoby 2-No-Trump*” convention, and the “*Multi-Purpose 2-No-Trump*” Convention, to name just a few. These special No-Trump conventional bids are excluded from this presentation.

### **“1-No-Trump” Bids and Their Varied Meanings**

- A. **An Opening Bid of 1-NT, in any Position, as the first call other than a “pass,” by a Player of either team** = 15-17 HCP’s in “Standard American, or 12-14 HCP in “ACOL” with a balanced hand having no singletons or voids, and not more than one doubleton. (Currently modified to include 2-doubletons or a singleton **Q, K, or A.**)
- B. **An Overcall of 1-NT,**
1. **in the Direct (2<sup>nd</sup>) seat, following a one-of-a-suit opening bid by the Overcaller’s RHO** = 15-17 HCP’s, a balanced hand with at least one “*stopper*” in the Opener’s bid suit; i.e., a strong **1-NT** opening bid.
  2. **in the Balancing (4<sup>th</sup>) seat, following a one-of-a-suit opening bid by the Overcaller’s LHO** = 10-14 HCP’s, with a balanced hand and a “*stopper*” in Opener’s bid suit desired, but not mandatory = a “*Balancing No-Trump*.”
  3. **in the Balancing (4<sup>th</sup>) seat, as a re-bid after first making a “Take-Out” Double, following a one-of-a-suit opening bid by the Overcaller’s LHO** = 15-17 HCP’s, with a balanced hand and a “*stopper*” in Opener’s bid suit; i.e., a strong **1-NT** opening bid.
  4. **in the 4<sup>th</sup> seat following a one-of-a-suit opening bid by the Overcaller’s LHO and a response of a second suit by Opener’s Partner (Overcaller’s RHO), also at the 1-level** = 5-5 or longer in the two as-yet, un-bid suits with fewer HCP’s than opening values; i.e., a distributional “*Take-Out Double*” called a “*Sandwich No-Trump*.”
  5. **in the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Direct) seat, as a re-bid by an Overcaller who has first made a “Take-Out Double” and then re-bids following his/her Partner’s one-of-a-suit response** = 18 (+) HCP’s, with a balanced hand having at least one “*stopper*” in Opener’s bid suit; i.e., a hand stronger than a **1-NT** overcall, and is invitational to Game.

**C. A Responder's Bid,**

1. **in response to a one-of-a suit opening bid by his/her Partner, absent any interference by Responder's RHO** = 6-10 HCP's with a lack of support for Partner's bid suit and an absence of a 4-card suit higher-ranking than Opener's suit.
2. **in response to a one-of-a-suit opening bid by his/her Partner, with interference by Responder's RHO** = 8-10 HCP's with at least one "stopper" in the Overcaller's suit, no 4-card higher-ranking Major, and no support for Partner's bid suit.
3. **in Response to Partner's Take-Out Double** = 8-10 HCP's with no 4-card or longer Major suit and at least one "stopper" in Opener's bid suit.

**D. An Opener's Re-Bid,**

1. **following Responder's 1-Level Response** = 12-14 HCP's, a balanced hand without support for Responder's suit, and no 4-card or longer, higher-ranking suit.
2. **absent a Response from Partner, and following either Opponent's Overcall** = 18-19 HCP's, a balanced hand, no second suit of interest and with at least one "stopper" in the Opponent's bid suit. A hand that would have re-bid 2-NT had Opener's responding Partner originally responded with a response of one-of-a-new-suit, "Up-the-Ladder."

**"2-No-Trump" Bids and Their Varied Meanings**

**A. An Opening Bid in any position, as the first call other than a "pass," by a Player of either team** = 20-21, 20-22, or 21-22 HCP's (by Partnership agreement), with a balanced hand having no singletons or voids, and not more than one doubleton.

**B. An Overcall,**

1. **in the Direct (2<sup>nd</sup>) seat following an Opponent's opening bid of one-of-a-suit** = 5-5 or longer in the two lower-un-bid suits, and is either very weak (5-10 HCP's), or very strong (16 + HCP's); i.e., "**The Unusual No-Trump**"
2. **in the Balancing (4<sup>th</sup>) seat following an Opponent's opening bid of one-of-a-suit** = 18 (+) HCP's; i.e., a stronger than a 1-NT balanced hand. ("**The Unusual No-Trump**" does **not** exist in the Balancing (4<sup>th</sup>) seat.)
3. **in the Direct (2<sup>nd</sup>) or the Balancing (4<sup>th</sup>) seat following a Pre-emptive opening Weak 2-Bid by an Opponent** = 15-17 HCP's with a balanced hand and at least one "stopper" in the Opponent's bid suit; i.e., a strong 1-NT bid.

**C. A Responder's Bid,**

1. **in response to a Minor Suit opening by Responder's Partner, absent interference by Responder's RHO** = 11-12 HCP's, without support for Opener's suit, and an absence of either 4-card Major. Is invitational to Game.
2. **in response to a Minor Suit opening by Responder's Partner, with interference by Responder's RHO** = 11-12 HCP's, without support for Opener's suit, an absence of either 4-card Major, and at least one "*stopper*" in Responder's RHO's bid suit; i.e. invitational to Game.
3. **in response to a Major Suit opening by Responder's Partner** = 11-12 HCP's, without support for Opener's bid suit, unless "*Jacoby 2-NT*" or "*Multi-Purpose 2-NT*" Conventions are being played by the Partnership.
4. **in response to Partner's opening pre-emptive 2-bid** = an artificial 15 (+) HCP's, forcing, Game-seeking, informational request ("*Feature*," "*Ogust*," or "*Klinger Ogust*.")
5. **in the course of bidding when the bidding has reached the 2-Level** = To play, and invitational to Game.
6. **in response to Partner's 1-NT opening bid** = 9-10 HCP's in **Standard American**, and 12-13 HCP's in **ACOL**, Invitational to **3-NT**.
7. **in response to an Overcaller's "Take-Out" Double** = 11-12 HCP's, and is invitational to Game, with at least one "*stopper*" in the Opponent's bid suit(s)

**D. As a Jump Re-Bid by Opener after Responder has responded at the 1-Level following an opening bid of one-of-a-suit by the Opener** = 18-19 HCP's, a balanced hand and lack of support for Responder's bid suit.

**E. An Opener's re-bid after his/her Responder bids at the 2-Level** = Minimum invitational opening values and a lack of support for Responder's suit (stronger than opening values if the Partnership is using the "*Two-Over-One, Game-Forcing*" Bidding System).

**"3-No-Trump" Bids and Their Varied Meanings**

**A. An Opening Bid in Any Position** = A pre-emptive 9-11 HCP hand with a self-sustaining 7-card Club **or** Diamond suit headed by an A-K-Q, with nothing more than an outside Queen; i.e., a "*Gambling 3-NT*" conventional call.

**B. A Responder's Bid,**

1. **in response to a Minor Suit opening by Responder's Partner** = 13-15 HCP's, without support for Opener's bid suit and the absence of any 4-card Major suit holding.

2. **in response to a Major Suit opening by Responder's Partner** = 13-15 HCP's, without support for Opener's Major suit  
(**Note:** Some Partnership's agreement has this showing 16-18 HCP's).
3. **made subsequent to a series of multiple bids by the Partnership** = To play.
4. **made subsequent to Partner's pre-emptive 2-Level, or 3-Level, opening pre-emptive bid** = To play
5. **in Response to Partner's "Take-Out" Double** = 13 (+) HCP's, with at least one "*stopper*" in Opener's suit and no 4-card or longer as-yet, un-bid Major suit holding

### **"4-No-Trump" Bids and Their Varied Meanings**

- A. **An Opener's or Responder's bid subsequent to a suit agreement** = An Ace-Asking Convention exploring for the possibility of Slam; i.e., "*Blackwood*" or "*Roman Key-Card Blackwood*"
- B. **A Responder's bid following a 1-NT opening bid by Partner** = "*Quantitative*;" i.e., asking Opener to bid 6-NT with a maximum 1-NT opening count, else to "*pass*" with a minimum opening count
- C. **An overcall subsequent to the Opponents having reached a Game-level contract** = A pre-emptive interference and/or sacrifice bid when holding 5-5 or longer in the Minor suits; i.e., "*The Unusual NT*"
- D. **A ("No-Trump Escape") bid following an unsatisfactory Gerber Slam-seeking response** = To play

### **"5-No-Trump" Bids and Their Varied Meanings**

- A. **A bid by either team member,**
  1. **as part of the "Blackwood" Ace-asking Convention** = Asking for a count as to the number of Kings
  2. **subsequent to a Game-level contract having been reached** = Asking Responder to go to the 6-Level or the 7-Level with either one or two of the top two Trump honors in the agreed-upon suit, respectively; i.e., the "*Grand-Slam Force*"
- B. **A Responder's bid following a 1-NT opening bid by Partner** = "*Quantitative*" = Asking Opener to bid 6-NT with a minimum of his/her 1-NT opening count, else to bid 7-NT when holding a maximum of his/her 1-NT opening count

**"6-No-Trump"** = Bid to play, evidencing a 33 (+) HCP combined Partnership holding, or its equivalent

**"7-No-Trump"** = Bid to play, evidencing a 37 (+) HCP combined Partnership holding, or its equivalent