

## The “Wolff Signoff” Convention

The “Wolff Signoff” Convention is an artificial “3C” convention used after the following bidding sequence.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C/1D	1H/1S
2-NT (Balanced with 18-19 HCP’s)	????

It is designed to have the Responder acting as the “**Captain**” of any subsequent bidding, and allows the Responder to either warn the strong Opener of sub-Game values, or to “**Captain**” the Partnership to the optimum, Game-level, final contact. The “Wolff Signoff” and “New Minor Forcing” Conventions are mutually exclusive.

- 1) Responder’s re-bids of “*pass*,” 3-NT, 4H or 4S in Responder’s original Major suit are all signoff bids.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C/1D	1H/1S
2-NT (Balanced with 18-19 HCP’s)	Pass, 3-NT, 4H/4S

- 2) All other re-bids by Responder are forcing!

a. An artificial “3C” bid shows a weak hand, generally with at least five cards in Responder’s original suit, and seeks to stop the auction at the 3-level. **With** 3-card support for Responder’s Major suit, Opener bids that suit at the 3-level, after which Responder will then “*pass*.” **Without** 3-card support, Opener is required to re-bid an artificial “3D.”

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C/1D	1H/1S
2-NT (Balanced with 18-19 HCP’s)	“3C”
3M/ (“3D”)	Pass/(Pass/3H/3S)
Pass	

All of Responder’s Re-re-bids following Opener’s “3D,” “*puppet*” response are signoffs:

- (1) “*Pass*” (or)
- (2) 3M (However, if Responder initially bid 1S and re-re-bids 3H, Opener either “*passes*” or “*corrects*” to 3S with best support.)

- b. Any other re-bid by Responder other than “3C” is Game-forcing.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C/1D	1H/1S
2-NT (Balanced with 18-19 HCP’s)	“3D”/3H/3S
3S/3H/(3H/3S)/3-NT	

- (1) “3D” = “*check-back*” seeking: (i) 4-card fit in the as-yet, un-bid Major  
(ii) 3-card fit in Responder’s Major
- (2) 3M = 3-level in Responder’s original Major = 5 pieces (Slam interest)
- (3) 4M = 4-level in Responder’s original = 6-pieces (“*Fast Denies*”)
- (4) 3H = Responders 3H re-bid after 1S promises 5-5 or more in the Majors  
Opener then re-re-bids 4H or 4S; i.e. whichever Major suit is preferred.