

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ OPENING IN 3RD or 4TH POSITION ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

General Rules for Opening:

- 12/13 points – HCP + length
- **Rule of 20:**
 - Open if HCP + cards in 2 longest suits = 20
- **Loser Count:** 7 or less loser count

Rules Change if PARTNER IS A PASSED HAND

Reasons:

1. To protect partner – he/she may have close to 13 points
2. To compete for part score
3. To suggest a lead

3rd Position:

Open with 10 points and a 5-card suit (2 or 3 honors)

May open 1 of a major with 4 good cards

Open a weak 2 with 6 cards,
even if suit is not standard strength

Responses:

- Make usual responses
- New suit is not forcing
- Reverse Drury:
 - 2C asks if opener was light (10-12 pts)
 - 2D by opener says not light
 - OR**
 - Responder 2C says 10-12 with 3-card support
 - Responder 2D says 10-12 with 4-card support

4th Position:

To open or not? How much trouble do you want to get into?

Do not “preempt” in 4th position:

open 1 with a hand that qualifies to open 2, otherwise pass.

Rule of 15 (Pierson Points):

HC + # of spades – if this equals 15, open one of best suit