

## WHEN ARE POINTS NOT THE POINT?

When a partnership holds two balanced hands, point count is an incredibly accurate predictor of the number of tricks likely to be available.

Distribution is the key:

Kxx	or	Kxxxx
AQxxxx		Kxxxx
Kxx		xx
xx		x
7 losers		7 losers

Hand Evaluation:

4, 3, 2, 1 Point Count System overvalues Q & J and balanced hands and undervalues A & Ks and hands with long suits

Kx	½	xxxx	3
A	1	xxxxxx	3
KQ	1		
AQ	1 ½		
AK	2		
A J 10	2		

The value of “togetherness”:

AKQ = 0	AQx = 1	KQx = 1
QJ5 = 2	Q 10 5 = 2	Q42 = 2 ½

There are no more than 3 losers in any one suit.

How many winners are here?      XXXXXX (3)

Partner opens 1 Spade. How many tricks do you have in hand 1 and 2?

XXX	XXXX
AX	AX
XXXX	XXX
XXXX	XXXX

## OPENING BID

Opening bids give the description of the strength of the hand, therefore, the point count is very important.

The average opening bid:

12 – 14 HCP has 6 – 7 losers

15 – 17 HPC has 5 – 6 losers

18+ HPC – you are very lucky

Subsequent bidding after a response is made on your loser count and not your point count.

Subsequent bidding with a single suit raise: (1H--2 H) (1S--2S)

with a 7 loser hand, you PASS

with a 6 loser hand, you INVITE game

with a 5 loser hand, GO!

AQxxx

Jx

KQx

Jxx

7 losers

AKxxx

xx

Jxxx

AK

6 losers

Axxxx

x

AKQxx

xx

5 losers

TRIAL BID: Opener has 3 or more with an honor in this suit. Reevaluate your hand knowing that opener has no more than a 6 loser hand. \*

Even if your partner is not on the same page as you are, you can improve your game by 20% by using loser count and not by point count

In a competitive auction, you should always bid to the level equal to the combined number of trumps held by your partnership.

If your partner opens with 2S, opponents Double, what do you bid with the following hands?

1.

Kxxx

Axx

QJxx

xx

2.

Kxx

Axx

Qxxxx

xx

3.

Kx

Axx

Qxxxx

Jxx

4.

x

Ajxx

Qjxx

Ajxx

1. BID 4! Vulnerable or not. You have 10 trumps and in a competitive auction, bid to the level of the number of trumps held by your partnership.

2. BID 3. Now you have 9 trumps.

3. PASS. With 8 trumps you belong in 2S.



4. PASS – FAST!!