

OVERCALLS

As we've learned, the person who makes the first bid (either the dealer, or the first person to bid after one or more passes), is making an **opening bid**. We've learned that you should have 13-21 points (combination of HCP and distribution points) to make an opening bid at Level One (We will learn about opening bids at other levels as we progress).

What do you do if your *opponent* makes an opening bid? Can you still bid? If you bid *after* your opponents, but *before* your partner does, you are **overcalling**. (Remember, a pass is not a bid).

The requirements for an overcall bid are a little different from an opening bid. First of all, to overcall in *any* suit, major or minor, requires 5 or more cards in that suit. You need *approximately* opening points, depending on the level at which you overcall.

OVERCALLING AT LEVEL ONE – You need a 5 card or better suit, and 13 or more points, *or* a 5 card suit, with at least 10 points *and* at least 2 honors in the suit in which you overcall. (Remember 10-5-2)

OVERCALLING AT LEVEL TWO- You still need a suit with at least 5 cards, but you should have 13 points, no matter what.

Sometimes, your opponent has opened, you have 13 points, but you don't have a 5 card suit. You want to overcall, but you can't. We will talk in the future about what to do in that instance.

TEST YOURSELF:

1. You are East. North, the dealer, has bid 1 Club. What would you bid with each of the following hands?

Spades-10 8 6

Spades – 8 6 2

Spades- A J 7 4

Hearts- A K 10 4

Hearts- A 9 6 4

Hearts- A Q 10 7 3

Diamonds- Q 9 7 6 5 3

Diamonds – 9 8 5 4 3

Diamonds – 5 3

Clubs- X

Clubs- J

Clubs- 9 2

2. You are South. The dealer, East, has opened the bidding with 1 Heart. What would you bid with each of the following hands?

Spades – A 9 8 4

Hearts – K 7 4

Diamonds- 9

Clubs- A K J 5 3

Spades- A Q 9 7 5

Hearts – K 7 4

Diamonds- 9 2

Clubs- A 8 2

Spades- 10 7 4 3 2

Hearts – K 7

Diamonds- 9 6 3

Clubs- A K 5

3. You are West. The dealer, South, has passed. What do you bid with each of the following?

Spades- J 10 8

Hearts- Q J 9

Diamonds- A 9 3 2

Clubs- A Q 8 3

Spades- Q 7 4 3

Hearts – 7 6 2

Diamonds- A K 3

Clubs- A 10 7

Spades- 10 9 6 3 2

Hearts – 10 9 6 3 2

Diamonds- 9

Clubs- Q J

Spades- A Q 9 3

Hearts- A Q 9 3

Diamonds- K 8 4

Clubs- Q 10 9

Spades – A K Q 10 4

Hearts- A K Q 10 4

Diamonds- 10 2

Clubs- 6

Spades- Q 9 7 4

Hearts- A Q J 8 5

Diamonds- A 9

Clubs- 3 2

Spades- 7 4

Hearts- 2

Diamonds- A Q 9 7 2

Clubs- A K Q 6 3

Spades- J 5 3

Hearts- 9 7

Diamonds-Q 10 9 4 3

Clubs- A K 7
