

## Limit Bids

During the auction you and your partner are trying to give information about your hands to each other. When one player has made a complete description ie suit and strength (within 2-3 points) they are said to have limited their hand. After a player has made a limit bid their partner can decide on the final contract, part score, invite game, bid game or investigate slam.

Ways to make a limit bid

1. Support partner's suit.
2. Bid No Trumps.
3. Rebid their own suit.

### Responder's Limit Bids

1. Supporting partner's suit,

As a responder you have support for openers major with just three cards. (Opener promises 5 cards).

To have support for openers minor you need 5 cards because opener is only promising 3 cards. NB you first priority is to show a major and then with a balanced hand bid NT.

- With 6-9 pts a single raise limits your hand to a minimum i.e. 1♥ – 2♥.
- With 10 -11 points a jump raise limits your hand i.e. 1♥ – 3♥.
- With 6-10 pts and 5 card support you can limit the hand by bidding a shut-out raise i.e. 1♥ – 4♥.

2. Bid No Trumps.

As a responder first priority is to support partners major. The next priority is to bid the other major or NT.

You need 10+ points to bid a new suit at the 2 level.

- With 6-9 pts bid 1NT. a Limited Bid
- With 10-11 bid 2NT.

Eg.	1.	2.	3.	4.
	♠ A75	♠ 953	♠ T953	♠ A93
	♥ 87	♥ 7	♥ 7	♥ 87
	♦ K753	♦ KJ42	♦ KJ4	♦ KQ53
	♣ J942	♣ Q9753	♣ Q9753	♣ Q975

If partner opened 1♥ you would bid 1NT with 1 and 2 but you would bid 1S (not limited) with 3 and 2NT with 4.

3. Rebidding your suit.

If partner opens 1♦ and you bid 1♥ partner bids 1S (not limited), you can rebid your suit if you have six i.e.

1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ - ??? 2♥ shows 6 hearts and 6-9 pts whereas 3♥ still shows 6 Hearts but 10-11 pts.

### Openers Limit Bids.

Opener can limit their hand in exactly the same ways. Support Responder, Bid No Trumps or rebid their own suit.

You can also jump to game in responder's suit eg 1D – 1♥ – 4♥. This shows 18-20 TP pts.

E.g Partner bids 1♥ after your 1♦ opening.

1.	2.	3.
♠ A75	♠ Q53	♠ K95
♥ A7	♥ 7	♥ 9474
♦ K753	♦ KJ7542	♦ AK75
♣ J942	♣ AQ9	♣ K9

Each of these hands are minimum (12-14) and should be limited as early as possible by bidding;

1.  $1\spadesuit - 1\heartsuit - 1NT$ .
2.  $1\spadesuit - 1\heartsuit - 2\spadesuit$
3.  $1\spadesuit - 1\heartsuit - 2\heartsuit$ .

To show a stronger hand, 16-18 pts, (but still limited) jump in yours or partners suit.

E.g. Partner bids  $1\heartsuit$  after your  $1\spadesuit$  opening.

1.	2.
$\spadesuit$ A75	$\spadesuit$ Q53
$\heartsuit$ A7	$\heartsuit$ AT72
$\diamondsuit$ KQ7532	$\diamondsuit$ KJ75
$\clubsuit$ K2	$\clubsuit$ AQ

In 1. Repeat your Diamonds at the 3 level i.e.  $1\spadesuit - 1\heartsuit - 3\diamondsuit$ .

2. Support partner at the three level as you have an 8 card fit in hearts i.e.  $1\spadesuit - 1\heartsuit - 3\heartsuit$ .

### Unlimited Bids

Limit Bids show precise holdings, and sometimes your hand will not fit into these categories. What do you then?  
Answer: Bid a new suit.

#### When responder changes suit.

This shows a hand not suitable for a limit bid. Note that that the bid does not show a range of points – it is an UNLIMITED bid (6+). The opener does not know how strong responder is when they change suit. This is why opener **MUST** bid again. This is an important rule.

When responder changes suit without already limiting the hand the opener must bid again.

A bid that cannot be passed is known as a FORCING BID. Such bids are very useful – ensuring that important feature of your hand can be shown without fear of partner passing.

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit - 2\diamondsuit$ .  $2\diamondsuit$  is forcing and cannot be passed.

When responder changes suit opener tries to make a limited bid. The principle is that the higher you bid the more strength you show partner.

#### When opener changes suit.

Opener changing suit is semi-forcing. Responder is not obliged to bid again if they are very weak (6-7 pts).

$1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 2\clubsuit$ .  $2\clubsuit$  is not forcing but with more than 7 pts you should.