



1NT SEMI - FORCING

JANUARY 16, 2025

GAME FORCING AUCTIONS

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
------	-------	------	-------

1 ♠ P 2 ♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
------	-------	------	-------

1 ♥ P 2 ♦

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
------	-------	------	-------

1 ♦ P 2 ♣

CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

3NT

4 ♥

4 ♠

4NT

5 ♣

5 ♦

5 ♥

5 ♠

5NT

6 ♣

6 ♦

6 ♥

6 ♠

6NT

7 ♣

7 ♦

7 ♥

7 ♠

7NT

OTHER AUCTIONS

(NON – GAME FORCING)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
------	-------	------	-------

	1 ♠	P	1N
--	-----	---	----

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
------	-------	------	-------

	1 ♥	P	1N
--	-----	---	----

CONTRACTS AVAILABLE

2 ♣	2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠	2NT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3 ♣	3 ♦	3 ♥	3 ♠	3NT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4 ♣	4 ♦	4 ♥	4 ♠
-----	-----	-----	-----

TWO OVER ONE

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

1 ♠

P

2 ♦



1NT SEMI - FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

1 ♥

P

1N



1NT SEMI – FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♥

P

1N

YOU

♠ T92

♥ J2

♦ Q82

♣ AKJ73

AGREEMENT

A RESPONSE OF 1 NO - TRUMP TO A
MAJOR SUIT OPENING WILL SHOW;

~6 – 12 TOTAL POINTS

(~6 – 11 if passed hand)

ALMOST ANY SHAPE

(especially if unpassed hand)

“HIGHLY SUGGESTS” PARTNER BID

(but can be passed)

RESPONDER

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	??

1

♠ 87

♥ A72

♦ J2

♣ AJT972

2

♠ 832

♥ J32

♦ Q842

♣ QJ7

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♥	P	??

3

♠ KT98

♥ 32

♦ AT82

♣ KJ8

4

♠ A

♥ J82

♦ KJT92

♣ QT82

MAKE YOUR CALLS

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	??

1

♠ 87
♥ A72
♦ J2
♣ AJT972

1N

When we play 2/1 as a game forcing bid, we must use 1NT as our response with some unbalanced hands like these.

2

♠ 832
♥ J32
♦ Q842
♣ QJ7

1N

****SPECIAL USE****
With some really bad 3 card raises, we can go through the 1NT forcing sequence first.

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♥	P	??

3

♠ KT98
♥ 32
♦ AT82
♣ KJ8

1♠

When you bid 1NT over 1H, you are always denying a 4 card spades suit! Don't miss this one 😊

4

♠ A
♥ J82
♦ KJT92
♣ QT82

2♦

Don't forget to evaluate your hand properly once you've found a fit in a suit.

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

??

YOU



♥ 832

♦ KJT73

♣ T9754

FEWER THAN 6 POINTS

We do not always need 6 points to respond to an opening bid by partner. The expert treatment (particularly when non-vulnerable) is to be somewhat aggressive with our responses when we feel we can improve our situation.

Bidding with these types of hands can also be somewhat preemptive to our opponents.

Sometimes partner will make a rebid we don't love, but we will also improve our situation quite often by making one response and then letting it go after a rebid from partner.

Correct Bid:

1N

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

??

YOU

♠ T42

♥ QT4

♦ K942

♣ J42

“THE BAD RAISE”

The modern method for the direct raise of partner’s major (i.e. 1S – 2S) is to play this as a constructive raise. (good 7 – 10).

This is an improvement over our standard methods (single raise = 6 – 10) because it provides a bit more specificity to our raising structure.

With these “bad raises” we start with 1NT and then correct to 2 of partner’s major on our next bid.

This method can also serve as another way to preempt the opponents. They are less likely to balance or enter the auction when they think we may not have a fit.

Correct Bid:

1N

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

	1 ♠	P	1N
P	2 ♦	P	??

YOU

♠ T42

♥ QT4

♦ K942

♣ J42

“THE BAD RAISE”

STEP 2

Correct Bid:

2 ♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

??

YOU

♠ **A82**

♥ **T4**

♦ **KT982**

♣ **QJ7**

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE

These hands can not be shown with one direct bid. So, we must take two steps to show these invitational hands with 3 card spade support to partner.

Step one is to bid 1N (semi –forcing now) and then, if given the opportunity, jump to the 3 level of partner's major with our next bid.

Correct Bid:

1N

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

1N

P

2 ♣

P

??

YOU

♠ A82

♥ T4

♦ KT982

♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

The classic. Just jump to 3 of partner's major to show this invitational raise with 3 card support.

Correct Bid:

3 ♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	2 ♠	P	??

YOU

♠ A82

♥ T4

♦ KT982

♣ QJ7

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

After partner rebids their major suit (always showing 6 cards or longer), our invitational hand becomes much stronger. So, when we see this rebid we jump to game instead of just bidding 3S.

Correct Bid:

4 ♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	3 ♥	P	??

YOU

♠ **A82**

♥ **T4**

♦ **KT982**

♣ **QJ7**

THE 3 CARD LIMIT RAISE FOLLOW UPS

Sometimes our partner will have a very strong hand and make a jump shift in response to our 1NT bid. In these situations, we have to clarify to partner that our hand is more than a preference for spades. Jumping to 4S now will show this hand to partner.

Correct Bid:

4♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1♥

P

??

YOU

♠ JT42

♥ K93

♦ AT3

♣ K92

DO NOT BYPASS SPADES

When partner opens 1H, we should not bypass our 4 card spade suit to bid 1NT. Remember, the 1S response is still forcing so we will always have another bid on these auctions. Show your hand naturally and maybe you can find an even better fit with partner in these situations.

Correct Bid:

1♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
------	-------	------	-----

1♥ P 1♠

P 1N P ??

YOU

♠ JT42

♥ K93

♦ AT3

♣ K92

MAKE YOUR CALL NOW

Correct Bid:

3♥

1NT SEMI - FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ 832

♥ 92

♦ K753

♣ AJ42

TAKING A PREFERENCE

With 2 of partner's major and
4 of partner's minor suit
response;

ALWAYS PREFER THE MAJOR SUIT

Partner may only have 3 cards of
that minor suit response to our
forcing 1NT bid.

Correct Bid:

2♥

1NT SEMI - FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1♥

P

??

YOU

 **83**

 **2**

 **QJ3**

 **AJT9842**

1NT SEMI - FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

♠ 83

♥ 2

♦ QJ3

♣ AJT9842

SIGNING OFF

Another 2 step process;

Step 1: Bid 1NT

Step 2: Bid new suit at lowest level

This always says “Stop bidding!”.
Shows 6+ cards and less than
invitational values.

Correct Bid:

3♣

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1 ♠	P	1N
P	2 ♣	P	??

YOU



THE COURTESY RAISE

COVER FOR PARTNER'S RANGE

When opener rebids a new suit, their range is quite wide (11 – 18). They can't jump shift without their best hands so, with certain strengths, we owe it to them to give them a courtesy raise if we think we could have game opposite their potential higher point totals.

"It's always nice to show partner the proper courtesy"



Correct Bid:

3 ♣

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♦	P	??

YOU

 **32**

 **A4**

 **AK754**

 **8532**

THE *IMPOSSIBLE 2 SPADE BID*

ADVANCED

We all know that we will not bypass a 4 card spade suit to bid 1NT (forcing or semi-forcing). So, we get to use this understanding to our advantage in certain situations.

The 2 Spade bid, after partner rebids a minor suit, will show our best hand with a fit in the minor suit that partner just bid.

This is a terrific agreement to have because now we can differentiate this call from a courtesy raise to 3 of the minor suit directly.

Correct Bid:

2♠

1 NO – TRUMP SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

1

♠ K2

♥ T84

♦ AJ76

♣ K532

2

♠ AJT

♥ Q8

♦ 9873

♣ AT98

3

♠ J42

♥ 972

♦ QJ96

♣ Q72

4

♠ AT54

♥ 82

♦ QJ9

♣ J873

1 NO – TRUMP

SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
	1♥	P	??

1

♠ K2

♥ T84

♦ AJ76

♣ K532

1N

We do not have a game forcing hand and we can't raise hearts directly.

2

♠ AJT

♥ Q8

♦ 9873

♣ AT98

1N

We do not have a game forcing hand.

3

♠ J42

♥ 972

♦ QJ96

♣ Q72

1N

We could raise hearts, but when our hand is this bad, it is best to go through 1NT and then sign off in 2 of major.

4

♠ AT54

♥ 82

♦ QJ9

♣ J873

1♠

Always show your 4 card spade suit over 1H if you have one. 1NT would deny 4 Spades.

1 NO – TRUMP

SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	1♥	P	1N
	2♦	P	??

1

♠ K2

♥ T84

♦ AJ76

♣ K532

2

♠ AJT

♥ Q8

♦ 9873

♣ AT98

3

♠ J42

♥ 972

♦ QJ96

♣ Q72

4

♠ AT5

♥ 82

♦ AQJ92

♣ 873

1 NO – TRUMP

SEMI – FORCING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
P	1♥	P	1N
	2♦	P	??

1

♠ K2

♥ T84

♦ AJ76

♣ K532

3♥

This is step 2 of your limit raise with 3 card support. Don't forget to jump.

2

♠ AJT

♥ Q8

♦ 9873

♣ AT98

2N

Balanced and invitational.

3

♠ J42

♥ 972

♦ QJ96

♣ Q72

2♥

Step 2 of your terrible raise for partner. This sequence does not guarantee a fit in the major (usually denies)

4

♠ AT5

♥ 82

♦ AQJ92

♣ 873

2♠

The Impossible 2S Bid
Shows our best possible raise of partner's minor suit.

THE MOST COMMON FOLLOW UPS AFTER 1NT SEMI - FORCING

TAKING A PREFERENCE

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	2♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	P

When we are “taking a preference”, we are frequently going to be doing so without a fit in a suit. When doing this we stay as low as we possibly can!

INVITING TO GAME

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	3♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	3♥

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	2N

SIGNING OFF

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	P	1N
P	2♣	P	2♦

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	P	1N
P	2♦	P	3♣

After making the 1NT forcing response, the responder can sign off (show a bad hand and 6+ in the suit) by bidding a new suit at the lowest available level.

OPENER

1ST RESPONSE TO 1NT

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

1N

P

??

YOU

♠ **KJ632**

♥ **J2**

♦ **KT3**

♣ **A97**

THIS IS WHY WE PLAY THE 1NT RESPONSE AS SEMI – FORCING

If we were playing the 1NT response as forcing, we would be forced to bid 2C with this hand. Now we get to pass 1NT with a great hand for that contract.

We risk playing 1NT when partner has a 3 card limit raise or some unbalanced hand that had to bid 1NT but, on average, these are rare occurrences.

No system is perfect but, our gains with this treatment far outweigh our potential losses.

We can pass when;

We do not have a 4 card side suit and when we have a minimum opening hand.

Correct Bid:

P

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

1N

P

??

YOU

♠ **KQT432**

♥ **7**

♦ **AJ43**

♣ **97**

WEAK 6 – 4?

REBID YOUR MAJOR SUIT

This is a good general rule to follow. When you are relatively weak, it is best to rebid your major.

This treatment has several advantages with the main one being that major suits will achieve higher scores than minor suits (great for matchpoints scoring).

Correct Bid:

2 ♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

1N

P

??

YOU

♠ **AJ7632**

♥ **A**

♦ **AK43**

♣ **97**

GOOD 6 – 4?

REBID YOUR 4 CARD SUIT & THEN BID AGAIN (IF POSS)

This is a different situation than a weak 6 – 4. Many times, we will have another call after this. We will use this extra call (if available) to show our extra values.

Correct Bid:

2♦

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P 1N P 2♦

P 2♠ P ??

YOU

♠ **AJ7632**

♥ **A**

♦ **AK43**

♣ **97**

GOOD 6 – 4?

REBID YOUR 4 CARD SUIT & THEN BID AGAIN (IF POSS)

Now the stage is set for you to show your extra values by making another call.

When we take this extra call (after partner's clear sign off), they will know we are showing extra values and have this shape.

Correct Bid:

3♠

1 NO-TRUMP SEMI-FORCING

WEST

NORTH

EAST

YOU

1 ♠

P

1N

P

??

YOU



KQT432



AQ43



3



97

ALWAYS SHOW HEARTS

****ALWAYS****

Whenever we are 6 – 4 (spades – hearts) we rebid 2H!
We are way more likely to find a fit in hearts and will almost never be able to recover if we do not advertise our shape in this way!

We're OK (usually) missing a minor suit fit when we have a 6 card major. We are not OK when we miss a good major suit fit when we have one!

Correct Bid:

2♥

OPENER

2ND BID AFTER 1NT SEMI - FORCING

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♠
P	1N	P	2 ♦
P	2 ♠	P	??

1

♠ AT986

♥ A2

♦ AJ96

♣ J2

2

♠ AQT94

♥ A2

♦ A832

♣ K4

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♥
P	1N	P	2 ♣
P	2N	P	??

3

♠ AJ2

♥ AKT92

♦ 2

♣ QT83

4

♠ Q3

♥ KJ982

♦ Q2

♣ A942

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♠
P	1N	P	2 ♦
P	2 ♠	P	??

♠

AT986

1

♥

A2

♦

AJ96

♣

J2

♠

AQT94

2

♥

A2

♦

A832

♣

K4

P

PARTNER'S PREFERENCE

Partner is signing off and saying "I prefer Spades". They may not even have a fit.

2N

SHOW EXTRAS

When we bid, in these spots, this is the type of hand we need. Lots of extras.

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♥
P	1N	P	2 ♣
P	2N	P	??

♠

AJ2

3

♥

AKT92

♦

2

♣

QT83

3N

WE HAVE A MAXIMUM

We accept our partner's invitation to game even though our shape isn't ideal.

♠

Q3

4

♥

KJ982

♦

Q2

♣

A942

P

WE HAVE A MINIMUM

Just like every other invitation right? With a max you accept with mins like this you decline.

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♠
P	1N	P	2 ♦
P	3 ♣	P	??

1

♠ AT986

♥ A2

♦ AJ96

♣ J2

2

♠ AQT94

♥

♦ AT832

♣ J42

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♥
P	1N	P	2 ♣
P	2 ♠	P	??

3

♠ 2

♥ AKT92

♦ AJ2

♣ QT83

4

♠ Q3

♥ KJ982

♦ Q2

♣ A942

AUCTION 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
			1 ♠
P	1N	P	2 ♦
P	3 ♣	P	??

♠

AT986

1

♥

A2

♦

AJ96

♣

J2

P

PARTNER IS SIGNING OFF

After the semi – forcing NT, a new suit by responder, at the lowest level, is a signoff.

♠

AQT94

2

♥

A2

♦

AT832

♣

J42

P

YOU'RE HAPPY

No need to rebid diamonds here. You found a great club fit.

AUCTION 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	YOU
The impossible spade			1 ♥
P	1N	P	2 ♣
P	2 ♠	P	??

♠

2

3

♥

AKT92

♦

AJ2

♣

QT83

3 ♦

SHOW SOME INTEREST

We may still want to play No-Trump so let's investigate. Game in clubs is possible also.

♠

Q3

4

♥

KJ982

♦

Q2

♣

A942

3 ♣

SAFE CONTRACT

We know we don't have game and NT now looks ugly with our hand. Bail out in our minor suit fit.