

Swiss Team Bidding Suggestions

1. Use Modified Bergen responses to one of a major (whether you play Standard American or 2/1).
 - 1M-3M= 0-6 w/ 4 trumps
 - 1M-3C=7-12 w/ 4 trumps. Opener can ask if you are top or bottom by Bidding 3D/3C. Rebid the suit with 7-bad 10. With good 10-12, bid something else.
 - 1M-3D=10-12 w/ 3 trumpsReach agreement on whether it is on over interference. I play it on (by an unpassed hand) over a double and overcalls through 2C. Reach agreement on whether it is on or off by a passed hand. I play it on over interference. Without interference I use Drury.
2. Use Jacoby 2N over one of a major. Reach agreement on all of the sequences.
 - 1M-2N
 - 3C,D,OM=singleton or void
 - 3M=17+, no shortness
 - 3N-15-16, no shortness
 - 4C,D,H(if OM)= 5-card suit w/ 2 of top 3
 - 4M= less than 15, no shortnessAfter any of these bids, a new suit is a cue bid.
3. Choose a minor suit response system which shows three levels of strength: weak, limit, and game forcing. Choice A(OK for either SA or 2/1): 1m-2m=6-9; 1C-2D or 1D-3C=game forcing raise; 1m-3m=10-12. Choice B(OK for 2/1, NOT OK for SA): 1m-2m=game forcing raise; 1C-2D or 1D-3C=10-12; 1m-3m=6-9 (could be less with long trumps).
4. Use of Lebensohl in 3 situations is recommended: over overcalls of 1N, when partner has doubled a weak 2-bid, and when partner reverses.
5. Drury is recommended. Reverse Drury is OK. Reverse 3-way Drury is better.
6. Light openings in third seat are recommended (e.g., xx/A10xxx/AJx/xxx).
7. Use Key Card, preferably 1430. Make sure you have partnership agreement on the queen-ask, the king-ask, and responses when you have a void.
8. Splinter bids and cue bids are key tools in getting to good slams. Consider using Italian cue bids.
9. Reach agreement regarding quantitative vs. RKC auctions after transfers or Stayman bids over NT openings. I recommend using 4C as RKC and 4N as quantitative after a transfer sequence. After a Stayman sequence, I recommend using 4C as RKC, 4D as a quantitative raise with a fit, and 4N as a quantitative raise in NT (no fit).
10. Use Texas Transfers. 1N-4D/H-4H/S shows NO slam interest. 1N-2D/H-2H/S-4H/S shows mild slam interest. After the latter sequence, if opener has a fit, a maximum, and a control-oriented hand, he should pursue slam.
11. When the bidding goes 1m-1M, consider raising with 3 trumps rather than bidding 1NT. Exceptions include 1m-1H, bid 1S with 4. Also a 1N rebid after 1m-1M with 4-3-3-3 and weak major support is OK. After 1m-1M-2M, use Soloway to ask opener to clarify strength and trump length.
12. "The five-level belongs to the opponents." While this old saying is not absolute, it has merit. A phantom sacrifice (sacrificing when their game doesn't make) is really, really bad. Before sacrificing, ask "is it possible to set them?" Make sacrifices when you have

better distribution and less defense. If you have a hand with which you know you will sacrifice, do so immediately to limit the opponents' communication and increase pressure on them.

13. **BID ALL BORDERLINE VULNERABLE GAMES.** You can go set 62% of the time and still break even (in the long run). **BE MILDLY AGGRESSIVE IN BIDDING NON-VULNERABLE GAMES.** You can go set 54% of the time and break even. **BID SLAMS WHICH HAVE A 50% CHANCE OR BETTER OF MAKING.** Slams which need a finesse are OK. Avoid slams on hands in which you are missing one key card and the trump queen (4+missing trumps).
14. Be conservative in competitive auctions when vulnerable. Avoid risky overcalls and preempts when vulnerable.
15. Preempt less frequently on hands with long, good suits plus an outside ace or on hands with solid suits. Open them at the one level.