

The Law of Total Tricks

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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/LawofTotalTricks.pdf>

This law is overused according to Mike Lawrence. He wrote a book called "I fought the Law." His main concern was that a law should never replace judgment.

In a competitive auction, a partnership may compete to a level based on their fit. At this level, the contract will either make or be a suitable sacrifice.

With an eight-card fit, the two-level (eight tricks) is fine. With a nine-card fit, the three-level (nine tricks) is fine. With a ten-card fit, the four-level (ten tricks) will be fine, etc. Mike Lawrence was also concerned with the Law because sometimes a hand can compete higher than the fit especially when there is a double fit.

Fact: If you and your partner have a nine-card fit, then the opponents are guaranteed of having an eight-card fit somewhere.

Principle:

In competitive auctions, we bid the limit of our hands right away and then are silent. We give the last guess to the opponents not to ourselves. Pushing them to game is fine, but we do not wait to see if they get to game before we compete.

Refusing to compete because it pushes the opponents to game is wrong. How can they be set if they are not pushed high enough?