

# Bridge Rules - By The Numbers

March 19, 2012

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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## 1 Rule of 1,2,3 Guide to Pre-empting

Pre-empt to give opponents less than their game if you are doubled and down. You assume partner has nothing for you. Often when you are doubled, partner does have nothing including trump and you get a trump loser you did not expect.

You expect to loss **One** trick with unfavorable vulnerability or **Two** tricks with equal vulnerability and **Three** tricks with favorable vulnerability.

## 2 Rule of 2, 3 & 4 Guide to Pre-empting

Assume partner always has a trick for you- LOL.

## 2 Mel Colchamiro's Balancing Over 1NT

Rule of 2. With two or more distributional points, a void, a singleton or two doubletons one should balance over 1NT regardless of point count. The bidding went 1NT pass pass.

## 2 Finessing Rule

## 4-4 4-4 Fit Is Better Than 5-3 or 6-3

## 5 & 5 Weak Two Requirements

## 7 Holding-Up As Declarer at Notrump

## 8 Two Suited Overcall of 1NT

When considering a two-suited overcall after a 1 no-trump opening bid, if the number of losers you have (counting missing aces, kings and queens) subtracted from the number of cards in your two longest suits is 2 or more and you have at least 6 high card points, (2 + 6 = 8 hence the rule name) then you may make a two-suited overcall with a five-four distribution. (See ACBL Bulletin or Mel Colchamiro's book)

♠Axxxx	♥Qxxx	♦xxxx	♣-	9 cards less 7 losers equals two plus six HCP's = eight. Bid.
♠K53	♥AQ874	♦K72	♣93	8 cards less 7 losers equals 1. Pass.
♠KJ654	♥KJ653	♦86	♣5	10 cards less 7 losers equals 3. Bid.

Losing tricks:

- Count losers only in the first 3 cards of each suit ( the 4th., 5th., etc. cards in a suit are winners.
- With 3 or more cards in a suit the Ace, K, Q are winners, anything lower are losers.
- With 2 cards in a suit, Ace or King are winners, anything lower is a loser.
- With 1 card in a suit, Ace is a winner.
- There are never more than 3 losers in a suit

## 8 Suit Quality of a Pre-empt

## 9 When to Double

## 10 Fifth Best Leads

## 10 Another guide to doubling

## **11 Fourth Best Leads**

Subtract the numeric value of the fourth best spot from eleven. This is the number of higher cards in yours and the opponents' hands.

If you can see more cards than this number, then partner did not lead fourth best. (Perhaps a singleton or doubleton.)

## **12 Third Best Leads**

### **13 Rule of 13 for opening strong 2♣**

### **15 Opening Light in Fourth Seat (Pearson Points)**

When deciding whether to open light in fourth position, count the number high card points and the number of spades, if the result is at least 15, you may open. This relies on the principle that you do not wish to open the bidding for the opponents. If you control the spade suit, adequately, they will not likely bid over you.

One does not open light and risk partner getting too excited just to allow opponents an easy overcall!

Question: Does the Rule of 15 allow one to open 1♣ with 4 spades and 11 points or does one have to open a four card spade suit? It is pretty easy to overcall 1♣.

### **15 Takeout Double when short in Points and Opponent's Suit:**

### **16 Raising 1NT to 3NT**

### **17 Raising Partner's Weak Two to Game**

If partner opens a weak 2, add the number of high card points plus the number of trumps you hold. If the sum is at least 17, bid game in partner's suit. (Zeke Grabour, ACBL)

### **20 Opening Light With a Two-suiter:**

When deciding to open, you may open if the sum of your high card points and the number of cards in your two longest suits is at least 20. This rule is attributed to Marty Bergen.

**My version:** If the high card points in your two longest suits plus the total length of the two longest suits is 20 or more, then open the higher ranking suit.

Warning: Expect disappointment if partner ends up in Notrump.

### **21 Rule of 20 With Quick Tricks**

Ron Klinger has augmented the rule of 20 by also counting quick tricks and opening when the sum of the above and quick tricks was more than 21. (Max Hughes)

### **22 Rule of 20 with defensive tricks**

Only use the rule of 20 with two defensive tricks. 20 + 2.

## 22 When 1NT can be made or set

Leave 1NT doubled in if partnership has more than 22 points and you have a good lead (if on lead)! **Like all doubles, one only doubles with a good lead.** Declarer must not be given free finesses. Sequences are not only good to play 1NT with but they are perfect to lead against 1NTx.

## X + 1 Number of Notrump Stoppers Needed

## Pithy Rules

**Rule of Boston.** This is a little known acronym for leading. It stands for Bottom Of Stuff Top Of Nothing.

**Rabbi's Rule.** A satirical rule that calls for playing the Ace when the King is singleton offside.

**No Lurker Rule.** A rule that allows one to clarify the number of outstanding trump by pulling an extra round in which both opponents fail to follow suit.

**Trump Suit Unbid Rule.** A rule that states it's very hard to bid and make a slam in a suit that is never introduced into the auction.

**Helpful (?) Partner Rule.** A rule that says it's permissible to injure a partner who overtakes your trick (as a choice) and then starts to think.

**Queen Finding Rule.** If you have a two-way finesse for a Queen, finesse the opponent you like the least.....or if you dislike them both play for the drop.

**Plus to Minus Rule.** Do not pull my penalty double in favor of a minus score.

## Two-Way Finesse

- Count points
- Count distribution
  - Queen is likely with the longer holding
- End Play
- Avoidance
- Play the Jack to the Ace or King not intending to run it through just to see if it gets covered.
- Barry's Rule
  - The late American expert, Barry Crane with no other information available would assume the queen was over the jack in the minors, and under the jack in the majors.

Sources:

<http://www.melvillebridgeclub.org.au/pages/resources/trivia.php>. Accessed Feb 8, 2011.

[http://omahabridge.org/Documents/mh\\_Rules\\_of\\_Bridge.pdf](http://omahabridge.org/Documents/mh_Rules_of_Bridge.pdf) Accessed March 18, 2012.

[http://www.bridgebum.com/two\\_way\\_finesse.php](http://www.bridgebum.com/two_way_finesse.php) Accessed March 18, 2012.