

Lionel Defence to strong 1NT opening

Lionel convention can be used for overcalls over weak or strong 1 NT. It is very useful for competing when we have 4-4 fit and points are distributed.

Following bids are natural and can be made with less than opening hands.

- 2H/2S/3C/3D = Natural, 5+ and good suit
- 2NT = Minors, 5-5

With 11+ points and 4+-4+ in major and another suit

- X = S-another
- 2C = C-H
- 2D = D-H

A X followed by 2NT bid shows 18-20 points balanced hand (in particular over weak NT)

3H/3S bid after weak 1NT is natural, showing very strong hand requiring a bit of help from partner for game.

Responses after X

- Pass = 10+ hcp. Any double after that is for penalty.
- 2S Weak raise
- 3S Pre-emptive
- 2NT S support, invitational
- 3C/3D/3H S support, invitational with singleton/void in bid suit
- 2C Pass or correct to 2nd suit
- 2D Natural non forcing, Doubler can bid H with H and less than 2D
- 2H Natural non forcing

Responses after 2C/2D

- Pass to play
- 2H Weak raise
- 3H Pre-emptive
- 2NT H support, invitational
- 3C/3D Pre-emptive
- 2S to play
- 2D/3C to play