

Defence to Weak 2s

Bids over opponent's weak 2s – including Lebensohl in response to partner X over opponents weak 2

When opponents open a Weak 2 (if 2D indicates long major, we should usually wait until they reveal their major suit. However we can use “double” to show a weak D hand, or bid 3D with opening and good D suit). Before looking at Lebensohl, with following hands we bid:

- With 15-17hcp, stoppers, we bid 2NT
 - With Good 5 or 6 cards in a suit (in particular majors), 11-15 points we bid it
 - With very strong hand or opening hand with shortage in their suit we use take out double.
 - If 2D is weak major, we can double with weak hand and long D
 - If 2D is weak major, 3D is opening hand and good D
 - All jumps are constructive and show strong hands. Over 2H, 3S bid shows 6 cards suit, for example S AQJ1087 H 3 D K2 C AJ108
 - Leaping Michael – Shows 5 cards in bid suit and 5 cards in other major. For example a bid of 4D over 2H, shows 5 Diamonds and 5 Spades
 - Cue Bidding – asks partner to bid 3NT with stopper in the opponent's suit.
- Over opponent's weak 2 in major when partner use take out double, Lebensohl convention enable us to find the optimum bid and communicate stoppers, fit, strength, and even try for slam with single suited or two-suited hands. Similar to Lebensohl with 1NT, a bid of 2NT in response to partner's take out X, asks doubler to bid 3C. Unlike 1NT variation, doubler is not forced to bid 3C after our 2NT bid. If doubler has **very strong hand**, she can refuse 3C bid and bid her own suit. In this case we should not pass (even with 0 point). After partner doubles a weak 2 bid, following are our choices:

If we have very weak hand (0-6 points):

- A bid at 2 level if possible is sign off (e.g. 2H-X-P-2S is weak and sign off)
- 2NT forces partner to bid 3C (Lebensohl). We pass with C as suit or bid of another suit at 3 level (that wasn't possible at 2 level above) is also weak and sign off
- If doubler decline to bid 3C after our 2NT and bids another suit, it is natural and indicates a very strong hand. This is forcing and we must bid again, even if we are very weak. Doubler with just a little help from us probably has game.

With medium strength 7-10 points, responding to partner's double:

- Our bid at 3 level is natural but not necessarily forcing. Doubler can pass with minimum or bid on with extra values.
- If our suit is higher than opener's suit we can show exactly 4 card or 5+ as follows:
 - If we bid at 3 level it shows 5+ card and medium strength (e.g. 2H-X-P-3S shows 5+S and 7-10 points)
 - If we bid 2NT and after 3C by partner, bid the suit at 3 level. This shows exactly 4 card suit and medium strength hand (e.g. 2H-X-P-2NT-3C-P-3S shows 7-10 points and 4 spades)

With 11+ points

- We can simply jump to game or bid at 4 level (standard bidding) to show our strength.

- Immediate 3NT bid (e.g. 2H-X-P-3NT) shows good stoppers in the opponent's suit. Direct jump to 3NT usually denies 4 card in the other major.
- Looking for 3NT or slam try with single suited hand:
 - Immediate Cuebid (2H-X-P-3H) Asks doubler to bid 3NT with a stopper.
 - If after cuebid, we bid a suit at 4 level, we have one-suited hand with interest in slam (2H-X-P-3H-P-3NT-P-4S/or4Cor4D shows slam try values with one long suit)
- 2 suited majors or minors. Immediate jump cuebid:
 - If weak 2 is a major (2H-X-P-4H) = both minors
 - If weak 2 is weak D (2D-X-P-4D) = both majors
- Showing 4 cards in the other major, with & without stoppers:
 - 2NT and then cuebid (2H-X-P-2NT-P-3C-P-3H) = 4 cards in the other major but no stopper in the opponent's suit (partner's choice to play NT or suit)
 - 2NT and then 3NT (2H-X-P-2NT-P-3C-P-3NT) = 4 cards in the other major with one stopper in the opponent's suit (partner can select to play suit or NT)
- Use of Lebensohl for slam try with 2 suited hands
 - 2NT and then jump to 4C or 4D (2H-X-P-2NT-P-3C-P-4C or 4D) shows 2 suited hand in the other major (in this example S) and bid suit (with C or D) and slam interest
 - 2NT and then Cuebid opponent's major at 4 level (2H-X-P-2NT-P-3C-P-4H) shows both minors and slam interest

Points to remember:

Cue bid of opponent's suit always indicate 11+ hcp

- Immediate cue bid, asks for NT contract
- Jump cue bid indicates both majors or both minors
- Cue bid and then suit at 4 level, single suited slam interest
- 2NT and then cue bid, 4 card in other major & no stopper

Summary of bids to show other major

- 2 level = very weak suit
- 2NT and then 3 level below opponent's suit, very weak
- Immediate 3 level = 5 card and 7-10 points
- 2NT & then 3 level above opponent's = 4 card, 7-10 hcp
- 4 level bid = 5 card, 11+ hcp
- 2NT followed by cue bid = 4 card, 11+hcp, no stopper
- 2NT followed by 3NT = 4 card, 11+hcp, stopper