

Competitive Bidding Rules

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June 20, 2023

When faced with a decision whether to compete or defend, that decision is predicated on the following rule.

Competitive Bidding Rules

Rule 1

Rule 1 establishes a general guideline for competing.

When the opponents have established a fit the decision to compete is based more on the length of one's holding in the opponents' fit suit than on one's honor count. A relatively weak hand with shortness in the opponents' suit is better off competing than one which has length and greater strength.

Rule 2

Rule 2 establishes a specific guideline for competing which is based on the number of cards in the opponents' fit suit.

A hand with two or fewer of the opponents' trumps should choose to compete. The category of this hand is "Prefers to Compete."

With three or more of the opponents' suit that hand chooses to defend. The category of this hand is "Prefers to Defend."

Rule 3

Rule 3 establishes a specific guideline for competing which is based on the number of honor points.

For a "Prefers to Compete" hand the *minimum* honor point count for competing is *zero*.

For a "Prefers to Defend" hand the *maximum* honor point count for defending is *unlimited*.

Example 1

Dir: W		12
Vul: NS	♠ Q 9 6 5	
	♥ 9 7 6 3 2	
3	♦ 9 8 7	
11 12	♣ J	
14		
♠ A K 8 7	♠ J 10 3	
♥ 5 4	♥ A J 8	
♦ 10 5 4 3	♦ K J 6	
♣ A 10 4	♣ Q 8 5 3	
	♠ 4 2	
	♥ K Q 10	
	♦ A Q 2	
	♣ K 9 7 6 2	
<u>Double Dummy Makes</u> ?		
N/S: 1♥ ♣5 ♦5 ♠5 NT5		
E/W: 2♠ 2♦ 2/1♠ 2NT ♥5		
<u>Par Score</u> ?		
Par: -120 1NT-EW+1		

Possible auction

West	North	East	South
P	P	1♦ ¹	2♣ ²
P ³	P	P ⁴	

EW +150

1. With a flat hand that plans to pass West's response, East opens 1♦ rather than 1♣. 1♦ also has the advantage of providing the better lead directing option if EW ends up defending.
2. With a poor club suit and ♦AQ2, the Rules of Competition dictate that South should defend. South would do well to school himself in the Rules.
3. With ♣A104 and excellent defense, the Rules dictate that West should defend. Therefore, West chooses to not bid 2♦ or negative double.
4. East has an easy decision to defend clubs. *Voila!*

Example 2

Dir: S 27
 Vul: None

9	♠ QJ932
16 4	♥ J8
11	♦ 84
	♣ AJ104

♠ 764	♠ —
♥ A 107	♥ Q653
♦ AKQ73	♦ 109652
♣ K6	♣ Q832

♠ AK1085
♥ K942
♦ J
♣ 975

Double Dummy Makes
 NS: 1♠ 3♣ 2♦ 2♥ 5NT6
 EW: 5♦ 2♥ 1NT 6♣ 4♠

Par Score
 -300 5♠⁷-N♠-2

Possible auction

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	3♦	5♦ ¹
P	P	5♠ ²	P
P	X	All Pass	

NS -300

1. With a void in spades the East hand likes to compete. With five card support East goes all the way to the diamond game. As it so happens, 5♦ is cold. *Voila!*
2. North's five card support is compels him to cite the Law of Total Tricks and bid 5♠. Otherwise referred to as "taking insurance," North's decision is based on the premise that defending diamonds is less likely to score well than competing in spades.

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\19.08.26

E Deals	♠ AK5	6
E-W Vul	♥ Q10976	
	♦ Q865	
	♣ 8	
♠ 32		♠ J97
♥ K5		♥ J843
♦ AK1032		♦ J4
♣ K1094		♣ A653
	♠ Q10864	
11	♥ A2	
13 7	♦ 97	
9	♣ QJ72	
NS 2♠; NS 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦; EW 1♣; Par +110		

Possible auction

East	South	West	North
P	P	1♦	1♥
1NT	2♠ ¹	3♣	P ²
P	X	All Pass	

NS +500

1. With only two diamonds the South hand likes to compete.
2. With four diamonds the North hand likes to defend. The hand likes to defend clubs and the spade support is good, but at the 3 level it is better to leave the decision up to South. South's hearts are likely to be short because South did not support North's overcall.

E Deals	♠ KQ4	18
N-S Vul	♥ Q83	
	♦ 7	
	♣ AQ7542	
♠ 107532		♠ A8
♥ A10		♥ K74
♦ A65		♦ KJ10984
♣ 1098		♣ J3
	♠ J96	
13	♥ J9652	
8 12	♦ Q32	
7	♣ K6	
EW 4♦; NS 2♥; EW 1N; NS 2♣; EW 1♠; Par -130		

Possible auction

East	South	West	North
1♦	P	1♠	2♣
2♦	P	P	X ¹
P	2♥	3♦	3♥ ²
All Pass			

NS -100

1. With a singleton diamond the North hand likes to compete. North chooses a takeout double, a better option than 3♣.
2. With two diamonds North should defend at the three level. With just one diamond the North hand still likes to compete.

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\20.09.24

N Deals	♠ A984	17
None Vul	♥ KQ75	
	♦ KQ62	
	♣ J	
♠ J2		♠ Q73
♥ T832		♥ AJ
♦ J		♦ AT753
♣ AT9842		♣ K63
	♠ KT65	
15	♥ 964	
6 14	♦ 984	
5	♣ Q75	
EW 3N;	EW 4♣;	NS 1♠;
EW 1♥;	EW 1♦;	
Par -400;	EW 3N	

Possible auction

North	East	South	West
1♦	P ¹	P	2♣ ²
P	2NT	All Pass	

EW +150

1. With five good diamonds the East hand favors defending 1♦.
2. With only six honor points West is tempted to pass the hand out. However, West's singleton diamond dictates that he compete.

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\18.10.17

Dir: S 27
 Vul: None

9	♠ Q J 9 3 2
16 4	♥ J 8
11	♦ 8 4
	♣ A J 10 4

♠ 7 6 4	♠ -
♥ A 10 7	♥ Q 6 5 3
♦ A K Q 7 3	♦ 10 9 6 5 2
♣ K 6	♣ Q 8 3 2

♠ A K 10 8 5
♥ K 9 4 2
♦ J
♣ 9 7 5

Double Dummy Makes
 NS: 1♠ 3♣ 2♦ 2♥ 5NT 6
 EW: 5♦ 2♥ 1NT 6♣ 6♠ 4

Par Score
 -300 5♠⁺-N♠-2

Possible auction

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	3♦	5♦ ¹
P	P	5♠ ²	P
P	X	All Pass	

NS -300

1. With a void in spades the East hand likes to compete. With five card support East goes all the way to the diamond game. As it so happens, 5♦ is cold. **Voila!**
2. North's five card support is compels him to cite the Law of Total Tricks and bid 5♠. Otherwise referred to as "taking insurance," North's decision is based on the premise that defending diamonds is less likely to score well than competing in spades.

This hand will be example 2 in the lesson.

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\23.05.10

Dir: W 12
 Vul: NS

	♠ Q 9 6 5	
	♥ 9 7 6 3 2	
3	♦ 9 8 7	
11 12	♣ J	
14		

♠ A K 8 7	♠ J 10 3
♥ 5 4	♥ A J 8
♦ 10 5 4 3	♦ K J 6
♣ A 10 4	♣ Q 8 5 3

♠ 4 2
 ♥ K Q 10
 ♦ A Q 2
 ♣ K 9 7 6 2

Double Dummy Makes ?

N/S: 1♥ ♣5 ♦5 ♠5 NT5
 E/W: 2♣ 2♦ 2/1♠ 2NT ♥5

Par Score ?

Par: -120 1NT-EW+1

Possible auction

West	North	East	South
P	P	1♦ ¹	2♣ ²
P ³	P	P ⁴	

EW +150

1. With a flat hand that plans to pass West's response, East opens 1♦ rather than 1♣. 1♦ also has the advantage of providing the better lead directing option if EW ends up defending.
2. With a poor club suit and ♦AQ2, the Rules of Competition dictate that South should defend. South would do well to school himself in the Rules.
3. With ♣A104 and excellent defense, the Rules dictate that West should defend. Therefore, West chooses to not bid 2♦ or negative double.
4. East has an easy decision to defend clubs. *Voila!*

This hand will be example 1 in the lesson

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\23.06.02

N Deals	♠ AKQ93	
None Vul	♥ 109	1
	♦ 1094	
	♣ QJ10	
♠ J842		♠ 76
♥ KJ43		♥ Q865
♦ A2		♦ KJ876
♣ 652		♣ A4
	♠ 105	
12	♥ A72	
9 10	♦ Q53	
9	♣ K9873	
EW 3♥; NS 2♠; NS 1N;		
EW 2♦; NS 2♣;		
Par -100; NS 3♠x-1		

Possible auction

North	East	South	West
1♠	P	1NT ¹	P
2♣	X ²	P	2♥
P	P	3♣	3♥
All Pass			

EW +140

1. Forcing
2. With only two spades it would have been reasonable for East to overcall 2♦ earlier. But the diamond suit is poor and East is also interested in hearts. North's 2♣ rebid sets East up nicely. East is short in both black suits and has support for both red suits. The East hand practically screams "Let's compete!"

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\17.08.26

N Deals	♠ 43		
E-W Vul	♥ A32		
	♦ AK842		9
	♣ Q75		
♠ KQJ65		♠ A102	
♥ Q105		♥ KJ97	
♦ 106		♦ 53	
♣ 1096		♣ A832	
	♠ 987		
13	♥ 864		
8 12	♦ QJ97		
7	♣ KJ4		
EW 2♠; EW 2♥; NS 2♦;			
EW 1♣; Par -100;			
NS 3♦ x-1			

Sample auction

North	East	South	West
1♦	X	2♦	2♠ ¹
3♦ ²	All Pass		

1. The Rules dictate that West should compete because he has a doubleton diamond. Also, West's spade suit is excellent. This 2♠ bid may be the *easiest decision in the history of decisions*.
2. With a doubleton spade North's decision to compete is predicated not only on the Rules but on the Law of Total Tricks, which says, "if you have a nine card fit then compete to the 3 level."

C:\Users\Admin\Documents\bridge\EZ Bridge\2023\Rules of Competition Lesson\Sample Hands\17.03.16

W Deals	♠ QJ84	20
Both Vul	♥ 8	
	♦ A632	
	♣ AJ106	
♠ K106		♠ A52
♥ AQ1072		♥ 963
♦ Q		♦ K109
♣ 9732		♣ K854
	♠ 973	
12	♥ KJ54	
11 10	♦ J8754	
7	♣ Q	
EW 2N; EW 2♥; NS 3♦;		
W 3♣; E 2♣; NS 1♠;		
Par +110		

Possible auction

West	North	East	South
P	1♦	P	1♥
2♥ ¹	X ²	P	3♦
P	P	3♥	All Pass

NS +100

1. The Rules dictate that West, with a singleton diamond, should compete. West bids 2♥, which is natural. Whenever opener and responder have bid two suits a bid of either suit by the advancer is natural.
2. The Rules encourage North, with a singleton heart, to compete. North's double is for takeout. With two or more hearts North should defend..