

TWO OVER ONE – SESSION 4

By Salami – oops – Baloney Bill

Partner opens 1S; you respond 1NT (no interference by opponent). Your 1NT bid is *invitational*, but not necessarily invitational to game. **Opener MUST ALERT YOU BID AS EITHER forcing or semi-forcing.**

- Opener must bid again if your partnership agreement is that the 1NT response is forcing.
- Opener may pass if your partnership agreement is that the 1NT response is semi-forcing.

Please know that partner's forcing 1NT response is NOT GAME FORCING (since partner has just 6-11 points). Your 1NT response also let's partner know that you have, *at most*, just three of her trump.

Opener can choose to force you to bid again after your 1NT response by bidding a new suit at the two-level, or jump shifting (e.g. 1S – P – 1NT – P – 3D...). So, game is still possible if opener has a good hand.

We keep talking about game. Let's talk about that some more. If you open one spade and partner makes a game-forcing two-level bid, what game? Well, 2/1 bidding systems target games in NT, hearts and spades, never a minor suit game. That doesn't mean you won't ever wind up in a minor suit game, but 2/1 targets the lower level games where tricks are worth more points.

Limit raises

Let's talk about limit raises in the 2/1 system. In Standard American, you can make a limit raise with 11-12 points. (I know, I know, many people play a 10-12-point range, but I discourage that)

In 2/1, as a responder to partner's opening bid, you are going to bid one NT with 11 points, *whether or not you have support in partner's suit*. So, limit raises are more difficult to employ, a disadvantage of the 2/1 bidding system.

Consider this bidding sequence. Partner opens one spade. You bid two clubs. Partner bids either 2 diamonds or two hearts. If you now jump to 3 spades, that is a **limit raise (invitational to game)**. It shows either 10-11 points and support for partner's spades *or it shows (PREFERABLY)*:

- **3-CARD TRUMP SUPPORT AND 7 OR FEWER LTC,**
- **OR 4-CARD TRUMP SUPPORT AND 8 OR FEWER LTC.**

Consider this bidding sequence. Partner opens one heart. You bid two clubs. Partner bids 2 diamonds. You may bid 3 hearts to show a limit raise. But if partner bids 2 hearts or 2 spade or 2 NT after your two-club bid, you cannot show a limit raise. In the example in the previous paragraph, if partner bids either two spades or 2NT after your 2-club response, again, you cannot show a limit raise. But that's OK; you are headed to game anyway.

Yeah, that's enough to think about today. Let try some practice hands, and have _____!