**Four-card Overcalls**

**Lesson created by: Edmund Wu**

**(415)-343-5158**

[**E.wu728@gmail.com**](mailto:E.wu728@gmail.com)

They should be rare constructive occurrences that only occur at the 1level.

***Review of 1level overcalls*** *(What is an overall at the 1level?)*

Opponents open a suit @ 1level with our partner either having not made a call or had passed.

*Why bid to show one suit?*

* To compete:
  + Become declarer & make our contract.
  + Become declarer, & go down less than if opponents had made their best contract. (optimal sacrifice)
  + To encourage partner to lead our suit. (from our perspective, it is the best lead)

*What is needed to ensure success?*

Suit quality and hand quality.

(The better your overcall suit, the less you need from outside suits)

E.g. All NV,RHO opens 1D & you hold:

***872 KQJT2 743 85*** [1] - A hand with a great suit and nothing else.

***Q52 KJ732 K8 742*** [2] - A good suit and a decent overall hand

***AQJ Q9852 32 AJT*** [3] - A dismal suit with a great hand

Rule (1): **Our suit is outstanding in comparison to the other unbid suits.**

E.g. All Vul, RHO opens 1H & you hold: ***AKJx Ax QTx JTxx*** [4]

15HCPs. However, 1NT is not reasonable with only Ax. Nevertheless, the suit quality in H is great and we’re glad if partner leads it twice given that we have 3 of top 4.

E.g. Unfavorable, RHO opens 1C & you hold: ***Axx AKQJ xx xxxx***[5]

Playing 5card majors, one would’ve opened 1C with the best 4card H suit and an outside Ace.

Rule (2): **Our hand is at least close to being an opening hand (non-vul) & a solid opening hand or better when vulnerable.**

E.g. All Non-vul, RHO opens 1D & you hold ***xx AQJ9 Axxx xxx*** [6]

Hearts is only outstanding suit with an outside A

E.g. Unfavorable, RHO opens 1C & you hold ***Txx T9x KQJ9 AKQ*** [7]

Opening hand, yet not good enough to overcall 1N due to shape and vulnerability.