

GAMBLING 3-NT

Definition: A Gambling 3-NT is a preemptive opening bid. The bid is used to describe a hand containing a Minor suit of at least 7 cards in length headed by the AKQ at minimum. The hand must not contain any more than an outside Queen or two Jacks, else it be strong enough for a standard opening of one-of-the-Minor. Thus, by definition, it contains 9-11 HCP's.

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|--|
| XX (Open "3-NT") | (or) | XX (Open "3-NT") | |
| QXX | | X | |
| AKQXXXX | | XX | |
| X | | AKQXXXX | |
| | | | |
| XX (Open 3D) | (or) | KJ (Open 1C) | |
| QXX | | XX | |
| AQJXXXX | | XX | |
| X | | AKQXXXX | |

Purpose: The bid has the two intentions: (1) to interrupt the Opponents' bidding if they hold the Majors and an opportunity to otherwise have bid, and (2) an attempt to try for a cheap game in no-trump if Partner provides adequate outside suit support and at least one entry in the Minor suit held.

Responses to a Gambling "3-NT" vary depending on the agreement for stoppers in the side suits. Responder will pass when holding a stopper in three suits (3-NT then becomes the final contract), else bid 4C, 5C, 6C, or 7C. Any of these, aforementioned latter bids should be passed by the Opener if the Minor suit held by Opener is Clubs, else corrected to Diamonds (so-called "Pass or Correct").

More uncommon, however, are other possible bids by Responder. They include the following:

If Responder responds "4D", (asks for a singleton or void) Opener bids from amongst the following:

- a) "4H" or "4S" = a singleton or void in the Major suit bid.
- b) 4-NT with a 2-2-7-2 or a 2-2-2-7 shape
- c) 5C or 5D with a singleton or a void in the other Minor suit.

If Responder bids 4H or 4S, it is to play.

With 4-sure-tricks, Responder can also bid 4-NT, asking Opener to continue to slam if holding an 8-card suit as opposed to the presumed minimum 7-card suit.

Defense: A double by either Opponent shows a strong hand which can expect to defeat 3-NT with moderate help from Partner, and invites Partner to take out with some shape if the Opponents then run to their long suit. If 3-NT, doubled or otherwise, becomes the final contract, it is recommended that the opening lead be an ace, in order to see the Dummy. A typical reason not to lead aces against other contracts is that it may give away a trick when declarer holds the king; here that is not possible. The reason that the ace is led is that the offense may have nine top tricks, and the defense must take its five first, without losing the lead.