

Defenses to Two-Suited Interference Overcalls

Including Unusual No-Trump Over Unusual No-Trump

&

Michaels Over Michaels

When an Opponent overcalls after your Partner opens 1C, 1D, 1H, or 1S, and evidences a two-suited hand, as with either a MICHAELS CUE-BID overcall, or as with an UNUSUAL NO-TRUMP overcall, the Opening bidder's Partner has several counter-measures; i.e., a double, a bid of the fourth suit not reflected by the Opener's or the Opponent's bids, a No-Trump bid, or one of either of the suits implicit within the Opponent's conventional two-suited overcall.

Partnerships must ascribe a meaning to these potential actions for use by the Responder under these circumstances.

1. A "Double" is a strength-showing action. It implies a hand that would be worth a re-double over an Opponent's Take-Out double, and should be avoided unless Responder is prepared to penalize the Opponents in at least one of the two choices implied by the conventional interference.

Alternatively, if Responder has offensive features, he/she should begin to describe his/her hand, as in 2 and 3 below:

2. A Bid in a New Suit at the 2-level or 3-level is natural and forcing to game, and a bid of 2NT is natural and invitational to game.

QX	AXXXXX	KXX	AX	1S	"2NT"	???	(Bid 3H)
QX	XXX	AKXXXX	KX	1C	"2C"	???	(Bid 2D)
AQX	KXXX	QXXX	XX	1C	"2C"	???	(Bid 2-NT)

3. A Cue-bid in either suit shown by whichever of the two-suited interference overcall conventions (Michaels or Unusual No-Trump) shows either constructive (6-9 HCP's) or invitational (10-12 HCP's) in support of Opener's suit. A cue-bid in the lower-ranking suit of the Opponent's implied two suits shows invitational strength, (10-12 HCP's) or better, in support of Partner's suit, and a cue-bid in the higher-ranking suit of the Opponent's implied two suits shows constructive strength (6-9 HCP's) in support of Partner.

Ex.: 1S "2NT" "**3D**" (Clubs and Diamonds are shown by the Opponent.
Therefore, this cue-bid of the higher-ranking of the two suits shown by the Opponent's Unusual NT overcall signifies a constructive raise (6-9 HCP's) in support of Opener's Spades.

1D "2D" "**2H**" (Hearts and Spades are shown by the Opponent.
Therefore, this cue-bid of the lower-ranking of the two suits shown by the Opponent's Michaels overcall signifies a limit raise (10-12 HCP's) in support of Opener's Diamonds.
