

The “Crash” Convention - Altered Version

The central feature of the Precision system of bidding in bridge is that a bid of 1-Club is used to open any hand with 16 or more high card points (HCPs), regardless of distribution. Many different systems can be utilized by an Opponent to overcall against such a strong opening bid similar as in the case against any standard strong No-Trump opening bid. Examples of these are the Brozel, Capeletti, Twerb, and DONT conventions, to name just a few. Many bridge players, however, who use any of the aforementioned conventions, use, in addition, a specialized convention called “CRASH” in the singular instance against a Precision 1-Club strong opening bid by an Opponent. The acronym “C RA SH” refers to a hand with a two-suited shape, a shape consisting of three different varieties, these being distinguished by either, Color, RAnk, or SHape.

The “Crash” Convention is devised as a means of entering the auction with weak two-suited holdings after a “Precision” artificial 1 Club opening by an Opponent. The concept is effective in that the overcall of the Intervenor interferes with the line of communication between Opener and Opener’s Partner and, at the same time, does not identify the intended two suits, because they are first identified with the re-bid of the Intervenor. Responder to the Intervenor can usually deduce which of the two-suited couplets the Intervenor holds by that which the Responder, himself/herself holds.

The two-suited holding of the Intervenor generally consists of at least nine cards in both suits represented. The bids representing the potential overcalls after the opposing side bids an artificial, strong, Precision 1 Club are as follows:

- Double: Promises a two-suited holding of the same Color: either Red or Black, unspecified
- 1♦: Promises a two-suited holding of the same rank: either, (1) both Major suits or (2) both Minor suits, unspecified
- 1♥: This overcall is natural and promises a one-suited holding with at least a 5-card Heart suit at favorable vulnerability and a 6-card suit at non-favorable vulnerability
- 1♠: This overcall is natural and promises a one-suited holding with at least a 5-card Spade suit at favorable vulnerability and a 6-card suit at non-favorable vulnerability
- 1NT: Promises a two-suited holding of the same shape: either, (1) Rounded, Hearts and Clubs, or (2) Pointed, Spades and Diamonds
- 2♣: This overcall is natural and promises a one-suited holding with at least a 5-card Club suit at favorable vulnerability and a 6-card suit at non-favorable vulnerability
- 2♦: This overcall is natural and promises a one-suited holding with at least a 5-card Diamond suit at favorable vulnerability and a 6-card suit at non-favorable vulnerability