

Rule of Nine (whether responding partner bids or passes):

Partner adds (a) the level of the contract, plus

(b) the number of cards held in the opponent's suit and

(c) the number of honors held in the opponent's suit (10 is an honor).

If the sum is nine or more, partner passes for penalty. If the sum is eight or less partner should bid.

Example:

Level of contract is two and partner holds AQxxx of the opponent's suit. Thus, the level of the contract 2 plus the number of cards 5 and the number of honors 2 total 9. In this case, partner should pass. If the opponent's suit held were AQxx, the total would be 8 and a bid is appropriate.

In the above cases if the level of the contract was 3 a pass in both situations would be appropriate.

REOPENING DOUBLES

QUIZ

AUCTION WITH YOU AS OPENER

<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
1H	2D	Pass	Pass
?			

Examples of Your Hands:

	<u>S</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>C</u>
1.	K75	AK842	9	A763
2.	86	AK765	7	AQ865
3.	K974	AK872	Q86	6
4.	K73	AK9865	None	J1092

Solutions:

1. Double. You have a good defense and support for the unbid suits. Partner is likely to have values so you must protect partner's right to double or bid.
2. Double. If partner bids 2H or 3C you're OK. If partner bids 2S, you bid 3C. If partner passes he/she may have a trump stack.
3. Pass. You have 3D and not enough extra values to bid. Partner may be broke.
4. Bid 2H. Doubling with a void is risky. Even though your partner has some diamonds you have too little to contribute to a defense of the hand.

AUCTION WITH YOU AS RESPONDER

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>YOU</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1H	2D	Pass	Pass
DBL	Pass	?	

Examples of Your Hands:

<u>S</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>C</u>
5. J54	8	KJ1062	A843
6. J53	84	K765	Q963
7. J6	82	K92	J87643

Solutions:

5. Pass. You weren't in the position to make a negative double. You satisfy the Rule of Nine.
6. Bid 2H. You're too weak to pass. Protect your partner's double. You don't satisfy the Rule of Nine.
7. Bid 3C. You're too weak to pass. Protect your partner's double. You don't satisfy the Rule of Nine