

Lebensohl

Lebensohl is used when opponents intervene over partner's 1 NT opening. The objective is to differentiate among weak competitive hands, intermediate hands and strong hands.

The responses use an artificial 2N bid to relay. The general scheme is:

1. 2 level bids are merely competitive
2. 3 level bids are forcing
3. 3 level cue bid shows 4 card major and no stopper in the overcalled suit; 3 NT shows no check in the overcalled suit
4. 2NT is used as an artificial relay; opener bids 3C
 responder can pass
 or correct by bidding a suit below the overcalled suit
 or invite by bidding a suit above the overcalled suit;
 a cue bid or 3NT now has a similar meaning as above but promises a stopper in the overcalled suit

Open	Int	Resp		
1N	2D	Dbl	Penalty	
		2H,2S	5 card suit, to play	
		2N	Asks opener to bid 3C, responder will pass	
			After opener rebids 3C, responder can force as follows:	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3D: game force, 4 card major, diamond stopper	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3H,3S: 5+ cards, invitational	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3N: game force, no major, diamond stopper	
		3C	Game force, suit	
		3D	Game force, one 4 card major, no diamond stopper	
		3H,3S	Game force, 5+ cards	
		3N	Game force, no 4 card major, no diamond stopper	
1N	2H	Dbl	Penalty	
		2S	5 card suit, to play	
		2N	Asks opener to bid 3C, responder will pass or bid suit (weak)	
			After opener rebids 3C, responder can force as follows:	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3H: game force, 4 card spades, heart stopper	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3S: 5+ cards, invitational	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3N: game force, less than 4 spades, heart stopper	
		3C,3D	Game force, suit	
		3H	Game force, 4 card spades, no heart stopper	
		3S	Game force, 5+ card spades	
		3N	Game force, less than 4 card spades, no heart stopper	

After a 3 level overcall, double is takeout, bid below game is forcing, game bid is signoff, three notrump shows stopper.

Lebensohl after weak two bids:

Opps	Prtnr	Resp		
2H	Dbl		Opening hand or better; may not have 4 card spades	
		2S	5 card suit, to play	
		2N	Asks opener to bid 3C, responder will pass or bid suit(0-7 pts)	
			After opener rebids 3C, responder can force as follows:	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3H: game force, 4 card spades, heart stopper	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3S: 5+ card spades (partner bids 3N or 4S)	
			(opener rebids 3C) 3N: game force, less than 4 spades, heart stopper	
			With a strong hand, the doubler will not bid 3C	*2
		3C,3D	7-11 pts, 5+ card suit	
		3H	Game force, 4 card spades, no heart stopper	
		3S	Game force, 5+ card spades	
		3N	Game force, less than 4 spades, no heart stopper	