

RULES OF SIGNALING

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I. Trick 1 signals in suit contracts

- A. With attitude not clearly known, 1st signal should be attitude.
- B. With Queen in dummy, encourage if you can ruff 3rd round.
- C. With xx in dummy, encourage only if you can overruff 3rd round.
- D. Suit preference situations
 - 1. Dummy has a singleton.
 - 2. Dummy has all winners in suit led.
 - 3. Partner may be leading a singleton looking for a ruff.
- E. Count situations
 - 1. Dummy has long suit of partner's lead.
 - 2. Dummy has 3 small of bid and raised suit.
 - 3. 5+ level contracts partner leads the King and dummy has the Queen.

II. Trick 1 at notrump contracts

- A. If dummy wins Ace or King, play attitude.
- B. Partner leads Ace, play honor or count.
- C. If dummy wins the Queen or lower, giving count is rarely wrong, i.e. partner leads from Kxxx and you have the J.
- D. Be careful to unblock if necessary.

III. Making accurate signals while following suit

- A. With a long suit in the dummy, always give count to help partner take winner at the appropriate time.
- B. Give count in side suit if it will help partner defend correctly.
- C. Do not give count if it could help declarer play a key suit correctly.

IV. First discard is most critical signal of the hand

- A. With a clear, appropriate card in the only suit you can help, make an encouraging discard in this suit.
- B. Do not encourage by pitching a possible winner.
- C. When there are only 2 logical suits to play, you can get across your message by discouraging in the suit that you don't like.
- D. With equal holdings in 2 suits, it is often right to discard a discouraging card in the 3rd suit.
- E. Encourage equally with Ace or Queen behind KJ(x) holding in dummy

IV. Suit preference

- A. When giving partner a ruff, play the card that indicates which suit you want returned. Low card = low suit, high card = high suit.
- B. When partner knows your attitude in a suit and count is not needed, use the opportunity to signal your suit preference in remaining key suits.
- C. With equal spot cards, play suit preference when following suit – even in the trump suit.

