



## Lesson 19 Teacher's Notes

### Coping with overcalls

#### Aims

- To revise the reasons for competing in the bidding
- To describe how overcalls affect the bidding of the side that has opened
- To emphasise that it is all right to Pass when we have nothing to say, especially when partner has another chance to bid.

#### Content

- 1 Explain why we should **compete** in the bidding after opponents have opened:
  - we may have enough values to play the hand ourselves and make a plus score
  - we may suggest a good lead by bidding our best suit
  - we may disrupt opponents' bidding

Competition disrupts our bidding in two ways:      it introduces unfamiliar sequences  
it uses up '**bidding space**'

- 2 Talk about how to cope with competition

**Rule 1: When partner opens the bidding and RHO makes an overcall that does not prevent you from making your normal response - make your normal response**

Note that further bidding is not affected – **a change-of-suit-response is still forcing.**

**Rule 2:** When you would have made a 1-over-1 response but the overcall forces you to bid at the 2-level instead, you must have **at least a 5-card suit** and **at least 10 HCP**

**Note:** this Rule does not apply when you would have made a 2-over-1 without the overcall  
**If the overcall does not stop you making the bid you would have made if RHO had passed** - make that bid. It is only if RHO cuts out your bid, **so that you have to bid at a higher level**, that Rule 2 applies.

- 3 Bidding no-trump over an overcall:

**Rule 3:** Responses in no-trump promise at least one **stopper** in opponent's suit.

You can respond 1NT with 6-9 HCP, or 2NT with 10-11 HCP, or 3NT with 12+HCP as before – but only when you have a **stopper** in the suit they have bid. With no stopper find another bid – or pass.

- 4 Discuss how the overcall affects your bidding:

Not at all if you can still make the bid you would make with no intervention

You need the values for a 2-over-one plus at least a five-card suit if you now have to respond a level higher than without the intervention

And when an opponent has overcalled in a suit you were about to bid you do not want to play there!

**We cannot bid that suit to play in it.** If we were about to respond in that suit we must find another bid – a different suit, or no-trump, or pass.

- 5 Emphasise that when you have no suitable bid it is all right to Pass!

When you cannot make your first choice bid because RHO has stolen your suit or used up your space you sometimes just have to pass.

But there is no need to worry too much about this – when RHO bids and you pass partner has the chance to bid again, and he will do so if he has a good hand.