

Transfer Bids after 1 No-trump opening

Transfer bids initially had an intention for the lead to come to the stronger hand. A transfer bid provided an opportunity to describe the hand much better and is now being played by almost all players.

There are different versions of transfer bids. However what I propose to present to you is quite a simplified version and should be pretty adequate presently.

2 Clubs shall be Stayman as usual.

2 Diamonds will be transfer to Hearts and promises at least 5 cards of Hearts.

2 Hearts will be transfer to Spades and promises at least 5 cards of Spades.

2 Spades is transfer to 3 Clubs and is used for signing off in Clubs or Diamonds.

2 No-trumps shall be as usual 11-12 points with no majors.

3 No-trumps shall be as usual 13 or more points with no majors.

3 level suit bids are special showing usually 6 card suit and slam interest.

Playing transfer bids 0-10 points ask if any 5 or 6 card major if the answer is a positive transfer and pass partner's transfer. If the answer is negative pass 1 No-trump. Look below for exceptional hand with 6 card minor suit.

With 11 or more points ask if any major?

If answer is in the negative bid 2 or 3 No-trumps depending on points.

If answer is in the positive ask if it is a 4 card suit or more number of cards.

With 4 cards bid 2 Clubs Stayman.

With 5 cards or more transfer to major first.

With 0-10 points and 6 card minor suit bid 2 Spades and pass 3 Clubs by partner or bid 3 diamonds and partner should pass.

With 5 card suit transfer first and bid 2 No-trumps with 11-12 points leaving it to partner to take further action.

With 5 card suit transfer first and bid 3 No-trumps with 13 or more points leaving it to partner to take further action.

With 5 card major transfer first with 13 or more points and bid a new suit and is forcing and shows 5-4 in the two suits. It is usually very useful with 5-4 in majors.

With 6 card suit transfer first and bid 3 of the major with 11-12 points leaving it to partner to take further action.

With 6 card suit transfer first and bid 4 of the major with 13 or more points.

With 0-10 points you would bid 2 Clubs Stayman with 5-4 in majors and pass if partner bids a major or bid your 5 card major if partner bids 2 Diamonds. A jump to 3 Hearts or 3 Spades after partner's 2 Diamonds response can be played as 5-4 in majors with 11-12 points.

Occasionally, with 0-10 points with 4441 with singleton Club you could start with 2 Clubs – Stayman and pass whatever is partner's response.

Transfer Bids after 1 No-trump opening explained further

As explained before 0-10 points with you and there is no game
11-12 points and game may be there
13 or more points game must be bid

With 0-10 points

Pass

Or signoff in Hearts or Spades but you need to do it with a transfer bid.

Or signoff in Clubs or Diamonds with six cards and you need to do it by bidding 2 Spades transfer to Clubs and then pass or correct

With 11 or more points

Ask if any major? If answer is negative bid 2 or 3 No-trumps depending on points.

If 4 card major bid 2 Clubs –Stayman convention.

If 5 card major transfer first then bid 2 or 3 No-trumps depending on points.

If 6 card major transfer first then bid 3 or 4 of the suit you have again depending on your points.

New suit bid after transfer

A new suit bid shows 4 cards in the 2nd suit and also shows 13 or more points and it is forcing.

5-4 in majors

0-10 points you could either sign off by transfer bid

or bid Stayman first and pass if partner bids a major or else bid 2 of your 5 card suit.

11-12 points transfer followed by 2 No-trumps
or bid Stayman first and bid 3 if partner bids a major or bid 3 of your 5 card suit.

13 or more points transfer first followed by bid of the 2nd major as explained above.

Stayman with less than 11 points

As explained above you can use Stayman with 0-10 points with 5-4 in majors.

Also if you have 4441 distribution with singleton Club and you wish to pass partner's response.