

## System Summary: Strong No Trump (15-17), 5 Card Majors, Better Minor

There are many bidding systems in the world encompassing a core set of agreements as to what different bids mean. The system we are using is one that most Australian bridge players are familiar with and is summarised as follows:

### Strong No Trump (15-17)

If our hand is balanced (4333, 4432 or 5332 shapes) and has between fifteen and seventeen High Card Points, we will always open One No Trump. It doesn't show high cards in every suit it just confirms it is a balanced shape (with no more than one doubleton) and that it sits within a tight bracket strength-wise. Never less than fifteen, never more than seventeen.

♠ KQJT5	♠ AK43	♠ Q85	♠ A43
♥ Q75	♥ Q643	♥ K62	♥ A52
♦ K42	♦ 95	♦ AKQJ	♦ 65
♣ A8	♣ AKJ2	♣ 542	♣ AKQT9

We would open all of these hands One No Trump. Our partner knows such a lot about our hand and will be well placed to drive the auction to our best contract.

### Five Card Majors

We agree that if we open One of a Major (Hearts or Spades) we will have twelve or more High Card Points and a five card suit.

♠ KQJT5	♠ AKQ	♠ AKQ94	♠ AK843
♥ K75	♥ 975432	♥ T3	♥ KQJ52
♦ KT42	♦ 9	♦ J4	♦ 6
♣ 8	♣ AQT	♣ T987	♣ 94
12 HCP Open 1S	15 HCP Open 1H	10 HCP <i>Pass</i>	13 HCP Open 1S

By following this rule, whenever our partner has three or more cards in the major we have opened they will know we have a *fit*. They can raise us immediately by bidding the same suit at a higher level.

### Better Minor

Sometimes we will hold only four card majors and will therefore be unable to open them. In that instance, we will show our *Better Minor*. This means we will bid the longer of our minors and that sometimes we will only have three of them when we open One Club or One Diamond.

♠ A953	♠ KQJ	♠ AKQ9	♠ KQ83
♥ K7	♥ J952	♥ KJT3	♥ KJT9
♦ KT42	♦ AQ5	♦ 53	♦ A94
♣ A32	♣ J92	♣ 983	♣ 94
14 HCP Open 1D	14 HCP Open 1D	13 HCP Open 1C	13 HCP Open 1D

Our partner will be wary of raising our opening bid of one of a minor immediately and is likely to look for major suits or No Trumps first. As a general rule, you should only raise a one-of-a-minor opening bid if you hold at least five cards in the suit yourself. You should always respond with a four card major first before rushing to agree to play in a minor suit contract.