

# Dealing with Overcalls in the Indirect Seat

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## Short Review: The LAW (corollary), the Useful Space Principle, and Captaincy

### 1 Situation #1: You open 1 of a suit. Your partner raises (1♥-2♥). RHO overcalls.

- 1.1 You are the captain because the raise limited your partner's hand.
- 1.2 How do you make **game tries** (transfer the captaincy)?
- 1.3 What has been lost?
  - 1.3.1 If you have enough for game, you can just ignore the overcall.
  - 1.3.2 If you wanted to make a game try, the bid you want may not be available.
- 1.4 What has been gained?
  - 1.4.1 The knowledge that RHO has some strength.
  - 1.4.2 The knowledge that RHO probably has at least five pieces in the overcalled suit.
  - 1.4.3 The meaning of pass has changed because partner has another bid if you do.
  - 1.4.4 Additional bids: double and the cue bid.
- 1.5 The double:
  - 1.5.1 Penalty
  - 1.5.2 "Maximal"
    - 1.5.2.1 If there is room to bid a suit, bidding that suit becomes a **generic game try**.
    - 1.5.2.2 If not, double becomes a generic game try.
- 1.6 What, if anything, does the cue bid mean? It certainly shows strength.
- 1.7 What does bidding the trump suit at the three-level (3♥) mean?

### 2 Situation #2: You open 1 of a suit. Your partner bids (1♥-1♠). RHO overcalls.

- 2.1 No one is the captain yet.
- 2.2 What has been lost?
  - 2.2.1 Since you have not found a fit yet, any lost bidding space might be precious.
  - 2.2.2 An LHO with support might make bidding very difficult for your partner.
- 2.3 What has been gained?
  - 2.3.1 The knowledge that RHO has some strength.
  - 2.3.2 The knowledge that RHO probably has at least five pieces in the overcalled suit.
  - 2.3.3 Additional bids: double, the cue bid, and pass.
- 2.4 Double: penalty or **support double**?
- 2.5 Cue bid: strength and support for partner's suit?
- 2.6 Cue bid at three level: **Western (asking for a stopper)**?
- 2.7 Raise partner's suit (support with support)
- 2.8 Fourth suit: stopper or search for a fit? Or something else?
- 2.9 Rebid of original suit: length, length plus strength, or what?
- 2.10 Pass: none of the above.

Next week: Some stupid mistakes are systematically preventable.