

Loser Count and When to Pre-empt

Counting Your Losers

- In each suit, count a loser for each ace, king or queen you are missing...but...
- With a singleton, only worry about a missing ace, and..
- With a doubleton, only worry about missing aces and kings

Pre-emptive Bidding – How High?

- Count your losers, assuming your long suit is trumps.
- Assume your partner (dummy) will be good for exactly one trick

Bid to go down:

- Only one if you are vulnerable and opponents not
- Only two if equal vulnerability
- Only three if you are not vulnerable and opponents are.
- Assume the opponents will double!

Example: KQJ10843, 5, 73, 1086, not vulnerable vs. vulnerable. Your loser count is 7. Assume partner will provide a trick. 6 losers = 7 tricks taken. You can afford to go down 3. So bid to take 10 tricks. Open 4 spades.

Do not pre-empt with two probable defensive tricks! (Will help keep partner from making a “phantom save.”)