

Overcall

An Overcaller can make a bid to get into the bidding auction over an Opener which is normally a competitive bid so that the auction will compete to a certain level. However it may be a bid which can stop the opposition in getting into the right contract, by stopping them bidding GAME (particularly NT) or even better Slams!!

For an Overcall in a Suit: The person should have at least a 5+ card suit, 8 to 14 HCP and have at least one or more honors in that suit.

Note:

1. It should be an unbid suit
2. The bulk of the Overcallers HCP should not be in Openers' Bid Suit(s) unless it is sitting directly over the hand with suitable honors and lead coming up to it!
3. From 2 above the Overcaller should not have too many cards in Openers Bid Suit as these will have to be ruffed if they win the contract!!!
4. Good Overcall examples are AKxxx, KQxxx, AQxxx, KJxxx, QJxxx
Bad Overcall Jxxxx, xxxxx
5. Pre-empt with 7/8 card suit 6-10 HCP. NOTE VULNERABILITY!!
6. As an Overcaller you probably have a 2nd 4+card suit also containing an honor
7. As an Overcaller your partner may support you with a 3 card suit and points
8. However, if you lose the auction and your partner is on lead your partner should lead your suit and YOU SHOULD HAVE QUICK WINNERS or can HOLD UP THE SUIT!!
9. The biggest down side if an Overcall is that the opposition can now identify what the necessary holds are for NT (Usually Two, but 1 is sufficient) and that they now have an idea where the missing points are and will play through that hand to make the required contract.

IMPORTANT NOTE: THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE IN BRIDGE

This is what makes bridge interesting with the unexpected just around the corner
PLAY PERCENTAGE BRIDGE - 9 out of 10 time's things will work like making the correct lead, Finesses, etc. EXCEPT GRACEFULLY THE BAD BREAKS!!

For an Overcall with 12+ HCP and NO 5 card suit use the TAKEOUT X Double

The Take Out X Double has support for the unbid suits.

Your partner MUST Bid their best SUIT if there is an immediate PASS.

OR if there is an intervening bid they can PASS or bid an Unbid Suit or NT with 8+ HCP and distribution.

For an Overcall with 15+ HCP and a 5+ card suit use the TAKEOUT X Double

The Take Out X Double has support for the unbid suits.

Your partner MUST Bid their best SUIT if there is an immediate PASS.

OR if there is an intervening bid they can PASS or bid an Unbid Suit or NT with 8+ HCP and/or distribution.

The Overcaller can then either bid their suit – now showing a 5 card+ suit and 15+ HCP
OR PASS OR RAISE PARTNER'S BID Suit.