

Competing When Opponents Open 1NT

When to Compete:

- With about 10 high card points (HCP) and either a 6+ card suit or two 5+ card suits. Most of the points in your suits. Unbalanced shape is important for the success of your contract.
- Compete either directly after the 1NT bid or after partner of 1NT opener passes. Both OK.
- Note: If partner of 1NT opener passes, their side typically has about 21 HCP (at most 17+7 = 24, perhaps as little as 15+0 = 15). This means your side has typically about 19 HCP.
- **Partner of 1NT opener:** Can use Stayman, transfers or bid 2NT if bidding still low enough.

Cappelletti Convention: After an opponent 1NT opening bid:

- **Double:** Shows 15-17 points. (Partner can pass for penalty, or use Stayman & transfers.)
- **2C:** One 6+ card suit. (If next opponent passes, partner bids 2D so the bidding will not end at 2C. The 2C bidder passes if diamonds is the 6 card suit, bids the 6 card suit otherwise.)
- **2D:** Both majors. (Partner bids partner's best major at the 2 level. Game is unlikely.)
- **2H:** Hearts & a minor. (Partner passes or bids 2NT to request that you bid your minor.)
- **2S:** Spades & a minor. (Partner passes or bids 2NT to request that you bid your minor.)
- **2NT:** Both minors. (Partner bids partner's best minor at the 3 level. Game is unlikely.)
- **Any 3 or 4 level bid:** To play. A pre-empt.
- **Exception:** If partner makes an unexpected bid, partner wants to play in their 6+ card suit.

Examples of Cappelletti: (Opponent bids shown in brackets.)

1. **(1NT)-2C-(P)-2D-(P)-2H:** The 2C bid shows a hand with one 6+ card suit. Partner bids 2D so the bidding will not end with 2C-(P)-P-(P). The 2C bidder then bids a 6+ card heart suit.
2. **(1NT)-2D-(P)-2S:** 2D bid shows 5-5 in the majors. Partner has more spades than hearts.
3. **(1NT)-P-(P)-2H-(P)-2NT-(P)-3D:** The 2H bid shows 5 hearts & a 5 card minor. Partner with 0-2 hearts but 3+ cards in each minor bids 2NT to ask the 2H bidder to bid the minor.
4. **(1NT)-2H-(P)-2S:** The 2H bid shows 5 hearts & a 5 card minor. Partner bids 2S in order to play in partner's own 6+ card spade suit. The 2H bidder should pass.

Blooman Convention (like inverted Cappelletti): After an opponent 1NT opening bid:

- **Double:** Two-suited hand. Partner bids 2C so the bidding will not die out. You then bid:
 - **2D:** Both majors. (Partner bids partner's best major at the 2 level.)
 - **2H:** Hearts & a minor. (Partner passes or bids 2NT to request you bid your minor.)
 - **2S:** Spades & a minor. (Partner passes or bids 2NT to request you bid your minor.)
- **2C, 2D, 2H, 2S:** Single suited hand with a 6+ card suit.
- **Everything else:** Same as Cappelletti.

Pros & Cons:

- **Cappelletti:** Allows a penalty double. But your desire to double for penalty rarely occurs.
- **Blooman:** 6 card suits occur about 4 times more often than 5-5 hands. You get to mention your suit immediately. This interferes more with the opponents' bidding.