

Transfers by Responder in Competition

Duplicate Lite

Jane Youngberg



<http://www.duplicatelite.ca/>

Tools you need in today's

dynamic competitive bidding

What is a Transfer by Responder in Competition?

When partner opens and the next opponent overcalls, **responder** can make a **transfer bid**.

For example, partner opens **1C** and the next person overcalls **1D**, the responder makes a transfer bid of **1H!** which means,

“Partner, I am transferring you to Spades so you can possibly play the contract”

Focus of this presentation is to explain:

- What a transfer by responder in competition is
- Why transfers in competition by responder can be advantageous
- How to use a few transfer bidding tools

Transfers by responder in competition were not allowed until May, 2015

“The first change is that transfer responses in competition by the Responder (Opening Bidder’s Partner) are now GCC legal. It has been GCC legal for some time to play transfers by the Advancer (Overcall’s Partner). These bids require an alert.”

Standard Bidding

Opener	Overcaller	You/Responder	Advancer
1C	1D	1S	P
2S	P	P	P

Who has the Strong hand – Opener

Who will play the hand - Responder

Why do we play Jacoby transfers after a 1NT opening?

1NT	P	2D!	P
2H	P	P	P

Who has the Strong hand – Opener

Who will play the hand – Opener

Transfers in competition by responder are based on the same principle:

- The strong hand plays the contract
- Responder bids the suit below to transfer

Auction with a Transfer by Responder in Competition

Opener	Overcaller	You/Responder	Advancer
1C	1D	1H! (alert)	P
2S	P	P	P

1H! by responder is a transfer to Spades
2S by opener shows 4 card support and 12-14 HCP

The opener - the strong hand- is playing the hand!

Rationale For Playing Transfers

- 1) Opener can become declarer protecting his honors from the opening lead:
- 2) The responder is able to describe h/his hand more fully after the transfer is accepted: a weak hand, an invitational hand, or a game force hand.
- 3) Competing for a part score and lead-directing bids are powerful aspects of transfer advances.

The following are 2 examples from the ACBL Bulletin *Fighting Fire with Fire* by Fred Hamilton and Bob Claffone

Dlr: East ♠ K J 5 4
 Vul: N-S ♥ K 5 4
 IMPs ♦ 9 8 7 7 HCP
 ♣ 10 7 6

West	North	East	South
1D	1H!	Pass	1C
Pass	4S	All Pass	3S

♠ 7 2 8 HCP ♠ 10 9 8
 ♥ 8 7 6 ♥ Q J 9 3 2
 ♦ A J 10 4 3 ♦ Q 6 7 HCP
 ♣ K 8 5 ♣ Q 4 3

♠ A Q 6 3
 ♥ A 10 18 HCP
 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ A J 9 2

1H! = a "transfer" showing the next higher suit (spades)
 Played from the South, the defense can't attack declarer's ♦ K. After drawing trumps, declarer will finesse twice in clubs, setting up his long club for a diamond pitch from dummy. If the auction began Pass-1♣-1♦-1♠, North will likely become declarer in 4♠, which will fail on a diamond lead from East.

Transfers convey to partner a weak raise or a constructive raise?

Standard Bidding	Partner Overcaller	You
	1H	1S
	2H	2H

This auction means 6-9 HCP and 3+H

With transfers, you have the advantage of making a more specific bid when the opposition overcalls.

- 1H, 1S, 2H! (alert) = 3+Hearts 5-7 HCP
- 1H, 1S, 2D! (alert) = 3+hearts 8-9 HCP

In a competitive auction, the ability to give more accurate information is very valuable.

When partner's opening bid has been overcalled, the responder has the following options available with transfers:

1. Weak hand with a 6-card or longer suit;
2. Invitational hand with a 5-card suit;
3. Invitational hand with a 6-card or longer suit;
4. Game forcing with a 5-card suit;
5. Preemptive, invitational, and game forcing hands with a fit;
6. Balanced hands with an option to make partner play a notrump contract.

Dlr: South ♠ A J 8 3 2
 Vul: N-S ♥ 7 5 2 12 HCP
 IMPs ♦ Q 8
 ♣ A 8 3

West	North	East	South
1H	Dbl!	Pass	1D
Pass	4S	All Pass	1S

♠ 7 5 ♠ Q 10 4
 ♥ A Q 10 4 3 ♥ J 9 4 HCP
 ♦ 7 4 9 HCP ♦ 9 6 3 2
 ♣ K 6 5 2 ♣ Q J 9 7

♠ K 9 6
 ♥ K 8 6
 ♦ A K J 10 5
 ♣ 10 4 14 HCP

DBL! = a "transfer" showing the next higher suit (spades)
 Notice how South's K of Hearts is protected
 In a standard auction, the contract would fail, as the weak hand is playing the contract

A Few Examples

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	?	

Responses

Dble	Transfer to Hearts
1♥	Transfer to Spades
1♠	Transfer to Clubs or NT
1NT	Natural, better to play from responder's side
2♣	Transfer to Opponent's suit – Game Force
2♦	Transfer to Hearts, 6+ hearts (Weak or Game Force)
2♥	Transfer to Spades, 6+ spades (Weak or Game Force)

Transfers are also useful because they give the responder a 2nd chance to bid after opener accepts the transfer:

- A) With a weak hand responder passes;
- B) With an invitational hand responder invites opener to a game or a slam;
- C) With a strong hand responder forces to game.

We expect the use of transfer bids after an overcall to steadily increase. It will take some time before there is a general consensus of opinion on the best methods to use, so there is a fertile field for exploration. We hope our discussion has pointed you in the right direction to do your own thinking on this fascinating subject. ■

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Challenges

- The learning curve
- You and your partner must be on the same page
- Always a few errors when you are using a new system

However

Most auctions occur at the competitive part score level. Perhaps this set of tools is more important in today's dynamic competitive bidding than any other conventions or systems!

