

Standard American Yellow Card (SAYC) Bidding System Mantra

First:

Determine which suit to play in the following priority:

- 1) Try for a **MAJOR** suit contract
- 2) Try for a **NO TRUMP** contract
- 3) As last resort, settle for a **MINOR** suit contract

Second:

After the suit or No Trump is determined, then determine the contract level

Hand Evaluation

Opening Bid

- **Sum of HCPs** (Honor Card Points) in the hand - suit location of the HCPs does not matter
- **Hand Shape** (X-X-X-X) - the number of cards in each suit - the longest suit is the most important

Suit Contract - use Distribution Points after the suit is determined

No Trump Contract - do NOT use Distribution Points

Bidding Process

- 1) Support the opened major suit when possible
- 2) Propose the other 4-card major suit when possible
- 3) Propose all new 4-card suits at the lowest possible level