

04 Open the Better Minor

5/27/2026

Opening the Better Minor

When the opener has **12+ HCPs**, does **not** have a 5+card major suit, and **cannot** open Not Trump, the opener must open the **Better Minor**. This does not automatically mean the opener wants to play a minor suit contract. The opener might hold a 4-card major (but could open with it), and if the responder holds the same 4+card major, the partnership might still be able to play a major suit contract which is the First Priority!

The better minor is the **longest** minor suit. The amount of points in either minor suit does not matter.

- When diamonds is the longer suit (more diamonds than clubs), bid **1♦**.
- When clubs is the longer suit (more clubs than diamonds), bid **1♣**.

When the number of clubs **equals** the number of diamonds:

- with 4, 5 or 6 cards each, the opener bids **1♦**, the higher ranking suit.
- with **3 cards** each, **EXCEPTION** the opener bids **1♣**.

By using the Better Minor system, the opener guarantees the opener is holding at least 3+cards in that opened minor suit.