

# Priority 1) Open a 5+card Major

## Open 1♠

The 1♠ opening has two requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Suit length: **5+spades**, with the same number of hearts or less. Lengths of the other suits are not important.

Opening Bids in Spades 9 to 21 HCPs and 5+spades (with equal or fewer hearts)														
Length of Spade Suit <small>(3/14/2026)</small>	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand			
<b>5+ Spades</b>	Pass	Pass			1♠									
exactly 6 Spades *		2♠ Weak 2												
exactly 7 Spades *		3♠ Preempt 3												
exactly 8 Spades *		4♠ Weak 4												
* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the spade suit														

## Open 1♥

The 1♥ opening has two requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Suit length: **5+hearts**, with more hearts than spades. Lengths of the other suits are not important.

Opening Bids in Hearts 9 to 21 HCPs and 5+hearts (with more hearts than spades)														
Length of Heart Suit <small>(3/14/2026)</small>	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand			
<b>5+ Hearts</b>	Pass	Pass			1♥									
exactly 6 Hearts *		2♥ Weak 2												
exactly 7 Hearts *		3♥ Preempt 3												
exactly 8 Hearts *		4♥ Weak 4												
*Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the heart suit														

# Priority 2) Open 1 No Trump

Opening Bids in No Trump - NO 5-card major and Balanced														
HCPs Range and Bid	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Pass		Opening Count 1♣ or 1♦			1 NT			Strong Hand 1♣ or 1♦		2 NT		

The No Trump opening is the **second** priority in Yellow Card Bidding. This does not automatically mean the opener wants to play a No Trump contract. The opener might hold one or two 4-card major suit(s) that could not be opened. 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 3 criteria for opening a No Trump hand are:

<p><b>1) No 5+card major</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When holding a 5+card major, open that 5+card major instead of NT.</li> <li>This practice clarifies the nature of the NT opening hand, and makes it easier to identify an 8+card fit in a major suit.</li> <li>Special Note: SAYC allows a NT opening with a 5-card major. Reed suggests not opening a NT when holding a 5+card major.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2) Must be Balanced</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no voids, no singletons, and 1 or 0 doubleton</li> <li>distributions of balanced hands are described by the general notation:                      4-3-3-3                      4-4-3-2                      5-3-3-2 (major suit cannot be 5-cards)</li> </ul>	<p><b>3) Specific HCP (Honor Card Point) Ranges</b></p> <p>Each No Trump opening bid must be in one of three specific HCP (Honor Card Point) ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 to 17 HCPs - 1 NT</li> <li>20 to 21 HCPs - 2 NT</li> <li>25 to 27 HCPs - 3 NT</li> </ul>
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# Priority 3) Open the Better Minor

## Open 1♦

The 1♦ opening has four requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Does not have a 5+card major (otherwise open with that major). It is possible that the opener has one or both 4-card major suits, but can not open either one of them.
- 3) Does not qualify for a **1 NT** opening.
- 4) Suit length: **3+diamonds** when diamonds is the **Better Minor**. Go to the [Better Minor](#) web page for more information.

Opening Bids in Diamonds NO 5+card major, 9 to 21 HCPs and 3+diamonds (Better Minor)														
Length of Diamond Suit <small>(3/14/2026)</small>	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand			
<b>3+ Diamonds</b>	Pass	Pass			<b>1♦</b>									
exactly <b>6 Diamonds</b> *		2♦ Weak 2												
exactly <b>7 Diamonds</b> *		3♦ Preempt 3												
exactly <b>8 Diamonds</b> *		4♦ Weak 4												
* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the diamond suit														

## Open 1♣

The 1♣ opening has four requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Does not have a 5+card major (otherwise open with that major). It is possible that the opener has one or both 4-card major suits, but can not open either one of them. The responder will likely try to see if the opener has a 4-card major suit.
- 3) Does not qualify for a **1 NT** opening.
- 4) Suit length: **3+clubs** when clubs is the **Better Minor**. Go to the [Better Minor](#) web page for more information.

Opening Bids in Clubs NO 5+card major, 9 to 21 HCPs and 3+clubs (Better Minor)														
Length of Club Suit <small>(3/14/2026)</small>	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand			
<b>3+ Clubs</b>	Pass	Pass			<b>1♣</b>									
exactly <b>6 Clubs</b>		Pass												
exactly <b>7 Clubs</b> *		3♣												
exactly <b>8 Clubs</b> *		Pass												
* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the club suit														