

Weak Opening Bids Criteria

Weak opening bids have less than 12 HCPs (9 to 11 HCPs *) and a long suit (6, 7, or 8 cards). These are preemptive, defensive bids that make it difficult for the opposition to bid. The weak opener tells the partner which suit is preferred for a contract. Most weak opening bids are gambles. Factors to consider:

- Suit Strength: 5+HCPs in the opened long suit - CRITICAL ! The majority of the points must be in the opened suit.
 - Suit Length: 6, 7, or 8 cards long.
 - Suit Texture: prefer a 4+card sequence at the top of the opened suit - want as few gaps between the top cards as possible (the number of holes between the highest cards).
 - Position at the Table:
 - Preferred position is seat 3 (after seats 1 and 2 PASS).
 - Next preferred position is seat 1 (the opener).
 - If sitting in seat 4 after 3 PASSES, do not make a higher level preemptive bid - who are you preempting?

* For experienced players, the weak opening point count range is 6 to 11 HCPs. The upper point count range is 9 to 11 HCPs and the lower point count range is 6 to 8 HCPs. I suggest beginning players use the upper point count range only for weak opening bids. With more playing experience, the opening point count range can be expanded.

Weak Opening Bids

Weak 2 Opening Bid (9 to 11 HCPs)

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|------|
| 7♣ | 7♦ | 7♥ | 7♠ | 7 NT |
| 6♣ | 6♦ | 6♥ | 6♠ | 6 NT |
| 5♣ | 5♦ | 5♥ | 5♠ | 5 NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ | 4♥ | 4♠ | 4 NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ | 3♥ | 3♠ | 3 NT |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 2 NT |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | 1 NT |

Opening a suit at the 2-level reduces the bidding room which makes it more difficult for the opposition to communicate with each other.

Weak 3 Opening Bid (9 to 11 HCPs)

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|------|
| 7♣ | 7♦ | 7♥ | 7♠ | 7 NT |
| 6♣ | 6♦ | 6♥ | 6♠ | 6 NT |
| 5♣ | 5♦ | 5♥ | 5♠ | 5 NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ | 4♥ | 4♠ | 4 NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ | 3♥ | 3♠ | 3 NT |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 2 NT |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | 1 NT |

Opening a suit at the 3-level significantly reduces the bidding room which makes it more difficult for the opposition to communicate with each other.

Weak 4 Opening Bid (9 to 11 HCPs)

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|------|
| 7♣ | 7♦ | 7♥ | 7♠ | 7 NT |
| 6♣ | 6♦ | 6♥ | 6♠ | 6 NT |
| 5♣ | 5♦ | 5♥ | 5♠ | 5 NT |
| 4♣ | 4♦ | 4♥ | 4♠ | 4 NT |
| 3♣ | 3♦ | 3♥ | 3♠ | 3 NT |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 2 NT |
| 1♣ | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | 1 NT |

Opening a suit at the 4-level eliminates the bidding room for the opposition. The opposition's next bid must be a game level bid.

Responses to Weak 2 Opening Bids

| Responses to a Weak 2♥ or 2♠ Opening Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|--|
| Responder's Suit Length in the Opened Major | Responder's Point Count and Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 to 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | |
| 2+ Card Support in Opened Major (use distribution points) | PASS | PASS or 3-level Opened Major | | | 4-level Opened Major | | | | | | | | 4♣ Gerber | | | |
| No Support (1 or 0 cards) in Opened Major (no distribution points) | | PASS | | | 3 NT or 3-Level Longest New Suit | | | | | | | | Explore Slam | | | |
| 6/16/2025 | 10 to 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | |
| | PASS | Partial Score | | | Medium Hand | | | | Strong Hand | | | | Slam | | | |
| Minimum PARTNERSHIP Points (assume opener holds 10 HCPs) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Responses to a Weak 2♦ Opening Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|----|----|------------|----|----|---------------------------------|------------|----|----|----|------|----|---------------------------|
| Responder's Suit Length | Responder's Point Count and Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 to 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| #1 Priority - 6+ card Major | PASS | 2-level major | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4♣ Gerber Explore Slam |
| 2+ Card Support in Diamonds (use distribution points) | PASS | PASS or 3♦ or 3 NT | | | | | | 3 NT or 5♦ | | | | | | | |
| No Support (1 or 0 cards) in Diamonds (no distribution points) | | 3 NT | | | | | | New 5-card Major at the 2-level | | | | | | | |
| 6/16/2025 | 10 to 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |
| | PASS | Partial Score | | | Game Major | | | | Game Minor | | | | Slam | | |
| Minimum PARTNERSHIP Points (assume opener holds 10 HCPs) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Responses to Weak 3 Opening Bids

| Response to a Weak 3 Opening: 3♣ or 3♦ or 3♥ or 3♠ (exactly 7 cards long) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------|------------------|----|----|------------------|------------|----|----|------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Opener's Weak 3 Bid | Responder's Point Count and Bid | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Responder has | 0 to 11 | 12 to 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 3♥ or 3♠ | does not matter | PASS | | 4♥ or 4♠ or 3 NT | | | | | | | | | 4♣ Gerber Explore Slam | |
| 3♣ or 3♦ | biddable 7-Card Major | PASS | 3-Major | 4♥ or 4♠ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | does not matter | PASS | | PASS or 3 NT | | | 5♣ or 5♦ or 3 NT | | | | | | | |
| 6/16/2025 | | 10 to 21 | 22 to 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 |
| | | PASS | Partial | Game Major / NT | | | | Game Minor | | | Small Slam | | | |
| | | Minimum PARTNERSHIP Points (assume OPENER has 10 HCPs) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Responses to Weak 4 Opening Bids

PASS