

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 is known, determine the contract level

Hand Evaluation

For an Opening Bid:

- **Sum of HCPs** (Honor Card Points) in the hand - suit location of the HCPs does not matter
- **Suit Length** - the number of card in each suit - a 5+card major suit is the most important
- **NO Distribution Points** are used to evaluate the hand

For a Suit Contract:

Use distribution points to reevaluate both hands **AFTER** the suit to be played is known

For a 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 a new 4-card suit at the lowest possible level