

Given 2 passes ahead of you, you now have an option to bid in 3rd seat. You may do so and should with a little less than normal - often with 9+ HCPs, 10 or 11 total points - for the following reasons,

- Best reason to open light is to interrupt your opponent's normal auction. Your LHO probably has an opening bid. Give 1st and 2nd seat 9ish- or 10ish- HC points, you have 9ish, leaving LHO with 12/13ish or more. It is definitely harder to bid after your opponents have opened so your LHO may struggle to show a good hand.
 - Consider P P 1S ? holding S Jxx H AQxx D Axxx C Qx. What to bid? No 5 card suit to overcall nor can you double with only 2 clubs and no shortness in spades. Hence with a hand you were about to open 1D, you have to Pass
 - Note that over 1S, if opponents can overcall, they are starting the bidding at the 2-level, removing one level of bidding space
- Lead directing; You hold S xxx H KQJxx D KTxx C xx, open 1H. If your LHO declares the hand, you would like a heart lead
- Partner has already passed, so her hand is limited and she will not likely push the bidding too high
- Your side may get the contract at a low level
- You very well may go down in a contract but probably not doubled, so -50 or -100 will often be a good result. Give some consideration to vulnerability, meaning take liberties not vul, be more cautious vulnerable

Make a 3rd seat light opening when

- You have 10-12 total points, just under a normal opening bid
- You are okay 1) passing any response by partner or 2) making a rebid. Typically 1) means you have some length in the majors (4-3 or better), and can afford to pass partner's 1 major response
 1. S Qxxx H KJx D KQxx C xx
 - Open 1D, happy to pass any of partner's 1H, 1S or 1N response. If partner bids 2C (in standard only, not 2/1), pass and hope the opponents take another bid.
 - If partner bids spades and opponents then compete, you are ok to make a "gentle" raise to 2S
 2. Holding S xx H KJxx D xxx C AQxx if you open 1C light and partner bids 1S, what next? Cannot rebid any other suit and 1N by you won't be pretty
- Your hand is more offensive than defensive, ie, more suited to playing vs defending
- You wish partner to lead your suit if applicable
- Consider a very strong 4-card (yes, exception time) major over a weak usual minor opening
 1. You hold S AQJT H xxx D Qxxx C Qx Open 1S

Do not open light when...

- Opening a minor can actually help opps get into auction since they can make a 1-level overcall with as few as 8 points.
- You have few cards in the majors. This increases the chances opponents have a major fit, and can outbid you for a partscore. Holding S xx H xxx D AQxx C KJxx best to pass (may be able to double for minors later?)

The pre-emptive value of 1C or D is much less than 1 Major, so weak minor suit openings are less effective, hence opening a minor is less likely to be a light hand.

Quiz

- What do you bid in 3rd seat after 2 Passes, none vul

1. S AQJxx H Kxx D xx C Txx _____

2. S Qxxxx H Axx D Kxx C Jx _____

3. S xxx H KQJT D Axxx C xx _____

4. S xxxx H AJx D KQTx C xx _____

5. S Kx H Qxx D KQx C Jxxxx _____

6. S xx H Txx D AJx C KQxxx _____