

# **Single course: Intro to Jacoby Transfers over 1 No Trump**

*Etobicoke BC (from Conventions Course Notes)      Last revised March 25/18*

Transfers are bids that are artificial and force partner to make the next available bid. Standard bidding over a 1 No Trump opening is a sign-off in any 2-bid except 2 Clubs (Stayman) and shows a 5+ card suit, in an effort to improve the contract. Playing Jacoby transfers over 1NT, instead, means that you bid the suit just below your 5+ card suit, forcing partner to bid your suit. If you have hearts, you bid 2 Diamonds, if you have spades, you bid 2 Hearts. You cannot transfer to diamonds at the 2-level because 2 Clubs is not available.

## **Why use transfers?**

- The main reason is that it makes the 1 NoTrump opener the declarer. Since opener will almost always have more points than responder, it hides the majority of the side's points, making it harder for the defense.
- The 1NT opener often has holdings that are ideal in 4<sup>th</sup> (last) position on the opening lead. Consider suit cards such as AQx, or Kx. In 4<sup>th</sup> position, having Kx, for example, in a suit guarantees a trick/stopper (on opening lead), but would not do so in 2<sup>nd</sup> position.
- They make it easier to invite game, since responder has more bidding room

Transfers can be used with any number of points

- Holding S xx H Q9xxx D xx C xxxx      bid 2 Diamonds, then pass partner's 2 Heart bid. This shows 0-7 pts and 5+ hearts.
- Holding S KJxxx H xx D Axxx C Kx      bid 2 Hearts, then bid 3NT over partner's 2 Spades. This shows 10-15 pts and exactly 5 Spades
- Holding S Axx H QTxxx D xx C Qxx      bid 2 Diamonds, then bid 2NT over partner's 2 Hearts. This shows 8-9 pts, exactly 5 Hearts, and is invitation to 3 NT or 4 Hearts. With exactly 2 hearts, partner can Pass, or bid 3NT. With 3+ hearts, partner will bid 3 or 4 Hearts.

If you have 6 or more cards in your major suit, you know your side has a golden (8-card) trump fit, since partner should hold at least 2 cards in every suit for a 1 NT opening. Play in the major at the appropriate level.

- Holding S AJ10xxx H xx D xxx C xx      bid 2 Hearts, then PASS over partner's 2 Spade rebid. This shows 0-7 Pts and 6+ Spades
- Holding S xx H KQJxxx D Ax C xxx      bid 2 Diamonds, then bid 4 Hearts over partner's 2 Heart rebid. This shows 10-14 pts and 6+ hearts
- Holding S KJ10xxx H x D Kxx C xxx      bid 2 Hearts, then bid 3 Spades over partner's 2 Spade rebid. This shows 8-9 pts and 6+ spades, and is invitation to 4 Spades.

**Please Turn Over**

## **Transferring to a minor suit**

Transfers over 1NT Opening (Page 2 of 2)

You can also transfer to a minor suit, but it is much rarer, as you need a 6+ card suit, and have to play at the 3-level. Bid 2 Spades to transfer to clubs or diamonds. Best to only do this with a very weak hand.

- Holding S xx H x D Qxxx C J10xxxx bid 2 Spades, then pass partner's forced 3 Club bid. This shows 6+ clubs and 0-7 HCPs.
- Holding S xx H xx D QJxxxxx C xx bid 2 Spades, then bid 3 Diamonds over partner's 3C bid.
- Holding S xx H Jx D AQxxxx C Kxx Don't transfer, just bid 3 NT. If a minor slam is unlikely, forget your suit and play the 9-trick NT game

## **Transfers over 2NT Openings**

Transfers are also on over both a 2NT opening (and a 2C – 2X – 2NT sequence). Here transfers allow greater flexibility as with a bust hand, responder can pass the transfer and play at the 3-level.

Over partner's 2NT Opening:

- Holding S Jxxxxx H xx D xxx C xx Bid 3H, then Pass partner's 3S bid

With exactly 5 of either major and 5+ HCPs, transfer, then bid 3NT. Partner will pass with 2 cards in your major, with 3+ cards he will bid 4 Major

- Holding S xx H KQxxx D Qxx C xxx Bid 3D, then rebid 3NT over partner's 3H bid

Over 2C – 2D (waiting) – 2NT (showing 22-24 HCPs), bid as over 2NT direct opening, but allowing that partner has an even better hand

- Holding S QJxxxx H xx D x C xxxx Bid 3H, then rebid 4S over partner's 3S bid

(note most open players use Texas transfers, which means with a 6+ card major and desire to play game, you immediately bid 4D or 4H to have partner play in 4H or 4S)

Hmwk: Transfers over 1NT, 2NTs Excel worksheet

Email Steve with any questions: etobickebridge@gmail.com

**WHAT A GAME !!**