## DEFENSIVE AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING

## OVERCALLS (Style: Responses: 1/2 Level; Reopening)

 NATURAL, position dependent on the $1^{\text {st }}$ level, PRE on higher levels:
## iNT OVERCALL ( $\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }} / 4^{\mathrm{th}}$ Live; Responses; Reopening

## 15-18 HCP

Over a passed partner it's 17-20hcp (e.g. p-(1x)-1nt,
while still 15-18 in sandwich position)
12-14(15) in reopening
JUMP OVERCALLS (Style; Responses; Unusual NT)
Preemptive, natural continuation
could be equivalent to leaping-Michaels in positions where it makes sense (e.g. (1s)-p-(2s/3s)-4m)
Reopen: intermediate 12-14, $6+$ cards
DIRECT \& JUMP CUE BIDS (Style; Response; Reopen)
$(1 \mathrm{M})-2 \mathrm{M}=5 \mathrm{OM}+5 \mathrm{~m} 6(+)$ LT or $\leq 4 \mathrm{LT}$
(1M) $-3 \mathrm{M}=$ asking for stopper
(1m) $-2 \mathrm{~m}=55+\boldsymbol{\Downarrow}, \mathbf{\Delta} 7+\mathrm{LT}$, or $55+\boldsymbol{\downarrow}, \mathbf{\Delta} \leq 4 \mathrm{LT}$
(1m) $-3 \mathrm{~m}=55+\boldsymbol{\mathrm { Q }}, \mathbf{\mathrm { A }} \sim 5 \mathrm{LT}$
VS. NT (vs. Strong/Weak; Reopening;PH)

## DB L- penalty

2c- both majors
2d-one major

## h/2s- one major constructive(<7LT

2NT-minors
3x natural
VS.PREEMTS (Doubles; Cue-bids; Jumps; NT Bids)
DBL-take out, non-leaping/leaping Michaels, Lebensohl
4 m bids after 3 m preempt are slightly different from just
Michaels, look at the notes/github for more
VS. ARTIFICIAL STRONG OPENINGS- i.e. 1\& or 2\&
Vs. 1c- DBL- black suits or red suits
1d-majors or minors
1M- 3+cards either canape or natural
$1 \mathrm{NT}-\mathrm{s}+\mathrm{d}$ or $\mathrm{h}+\mathrm{c}$
2 x is constructive and natural
OVER OPPONENTS' TAKEOUT DOUBLE

| LEADS AND SIGNALS |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OPENING LEADS STYLE |  |  |  |
|  | Lead |  | In Partner's Suit |
| Suit | 3/lowest |  | 3/lowest |
| NT | Attitude, low encouraging |  | 3/lowest |
| Subseq | Top from seq |  | Top from seq |
| Other: We're allowed to lead $2^{\text {nd }}$ from even if we believe count is the only relevant information we convey (e.g. 9832 it's allowed to lead 8) |  |  |  |
| A/Q asks for attitude from partner, K asks for count/unblock |  |  |  |
| LEADS |  |  |  |
| Lead | Vs. Suit |  | Vs. NT |
| Ace | AKx(...), Ax |  | AKx(...), Ax |
| King | KQ(...), Kx, AK(...) |  | KQ(...), Kx, AK(...) |
| Queen | QJx(...), Qx, KQ(...) |  | $\mathrm{QJx}(\ldots), \mathrm{Qx}, \mathrm{AQJ}(\ldots), \mathrm{KQ}(\ldots)$ |
| Jack | KJ10(...), J10(...), Jx |  | AJ10(.), KJ10(...), J10(...), Jx |
| 10 | Q109(...), 10x(...), Tx |  | Q109(...), 109xx(...), Tx |
| 9 | H98(...), 9x(...), 9x |  | H98(...), 9x(...), 9x |
| Hi-X | Hx. Xx. xXxx, xxXx |  | Hx, Xx, Xxx(...), xXx(...) |
| Lo-X | xxX, xxxxX |  | HxX, HxXx, HTxX, HHxX |
| SIGNALS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY |  |  |  |
|  | Partner's Lead | Declarer's Lead | Discarding |
| 1 | Count | Count | Lavinthal |
| Suit 2 | Lavinthal | Lavinthal | Count |
| 3 | Attitude | Attitude | Attitude |
| 1 | Count | Lavinthal | Lavinthal |
| NT 2 | Lavinthal | Count | Count |
| 3 | Attitude | Attitude | Attitude |

Signals (including Trumps): lo-hi even, no signals in trumps
Lavinthal: high card asks for higher suit, low for lower, middle might want continuation or no preference
small is encouraging

## DOUBLES

## TAKEOUT DOUBLES (Style; Responses; Reopening)

Promises suits not bid/some tolerance for partners suit(s), or is a precursor to showing a strong hand
aggressive in balancing positions

## SPECIAL, ARTIFICIAL \& COMPETITIVE DBLS/RDLS

Doubles in competitive bidding are cooperative - showing extras and more
or less (semi)balance d hand.
Penalty doubles after we pass takeout double, redouble for penalty or double a 2 -suiter, after partner pre-empts and obvious cases.
We play optional support doubles, those will usually have a t/o-ish shape

EBL CONVENTION CARD


## CATEGORY: Red

NCBO: Croatia
PLAYERS: Ivan Žufić \& Kristijan Štefanec EVENT (Netherlands 2023, U31)

## SYSTEM SUMMARY

## GENERAL APPROACH AND STYLE

1st/2nd seat: We open all 9hcp
Polish style 1m openings
(8) $9-11 \mathrm{hcp} 1 \mathrm{nt}$ opening, 1 M and 2 m are natural with 8 hcp minimum. 2 M is $\sim 14-17 \mathrm{hcp}$ natural
2 NT and 3 m are artificial 2 -suiters of various storing-ish ranges. We keep our system mostly up to date on this link 3rd/4th seat: $1 / 2$ nt is $17-19 / 22-24$, 1c is $14-16$ bal or any $18+$ other is non-constructive
We upgrade/downgrade very often (usually not more than + 2hcp, but have been seen with more drastic upgrades for freakish hands) and use LTC extensively to help us with that
SPECIAL BIDS THAT MAY REQUIRE DEFENSE
$2 \mathrm{nt}=5+\mathrm{M} 4 \mathrm{M} 14-17 \mathrm{hcp}$
$3 \mathrm{c}=5+\mathrm{d} 5+\mathrm{c} 12-14 \mathrm{hcp}$
$3 \mathrm{~d}=5+\mathrm{s} 5+\mathrm{h} 14-17 \mathrm{hcp}$

## SPECIAL FORCING PASS SEQUENCES

Forcing pass sequences apply when we have established gam force and have shown strength
Forcing pass after $1 \mathrm{nt}-(\mathrm{x})-\mathrm{xx}$ (xx as strong, penalty)

## IMPORTANT NOTES

|  | 我 |  |  | DESCRIPTION | RESPONSES | SUBSEQUENT ACTION | COMPETITIVE \& PASSED HAND BIDDING |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1* | X | 0 | 4h | ANY 12-14HCP BAL <br> or ANY $18+\mathrm{HCP}$ <br> In the $3 \mathrm{rd} / 4$ th seat it's $14-16 \mathrm{bal}, 20-22 \mathrm{bal}$, $25+$ bal or any $18+$ unbal | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{D}=0-5(6) \mathrm{HCP}, 1 \mathrm{M}=4+\mathrm{M}, 6+\mathrm{HCP}, \\ & 1 \mathrm{NT}=6-10 \mathrm{HCP}, 2 \mathrm{c}=\text { nat or bal, inv+, } \\ & 2 \mathrm{~d}=5+\mathrm{d} \text {, inv }+ \text {. } \mathrm{F} 1 \\ & 2 \mathrm{M}=\text { strong, natural, } \mathrm{GF}, 6+\mathrm{M} \end{aligned}$ | 2-way checkback, new minor forcing $1 \mathrm{c}-1 \mathrm{~d}-1 \mathrm{~h}$ is hearts, strong bal or gf hands over $1 \mathrm{c}-1 \mathrm{~d}$ we pass with $12-14 \mathrm{bal}$ | Weak balanced hand is allowed to pass/show fit/bid support/take-out-ish double below 2M after 1c-1M all other bids are $18+$ |
| 1* | X | 0 | 4h | Any 12-17HCP unbal/semibal without 5M or any $15-17 \mathrm{HCP}$ BAL <br> In the $3 \mathrm{rd} / 4$ th seat it's natural, up to 17 hcp , not very constructive | $1 \mathrm{M}=4+\mathrm{M},(0) 4+\mathrm{HCP}, 1 \mathrm{NT}=7-9 \mathrm{HCP}$, partner invites with $16-17 \mathrm{bal}, 2 \mathrm{c}=$ any inv w/o 4M, NF $2 \mathrm{~d}=$ any GF w/o 4M | 2-way checkback, new minor forcing | good/bad 2nt (2nt showing weaker than 3 m openers hand in competitive NF situation where 2 m is not available) |
| $1 \vee$ |  | 5 | 3d/h neg. dbl only if it's the first responders bid | (8)9-13(14)HCP, 5+ $\boldsymbol{\text { / }}$ ^ <br> We upgrade and downgrade often, but should open all 9hcp and somewhat more than a half 8 hcp hands. <br> In the $3 \mathrm{rd} / 4$ th seat it's natural, up to 17 hcp , not very constructive | With fit: $2 \mathrm{M}=$ fit below inv; $2 \mathrm{nt}=$ $3+$ cards, inv+; $3 \mathrm{M}=4+$ cards, competitive, $\sim 8 \mathrm{LTC}$ (below inv); 3 x (or $1 \mathrm{~h}-2 \mathrm{~s}$ ) $=$ fit showing, (inv+, HHxxx or better in x with 4 card support) without fit: $1 \mathrm{nt}=\mathrm{NF} ; 2 / 1$ is F 1 , usually invitational, natural | Natural, except on 1M-2nt | If we showed fit with 2nt, x is shortness |
| 1* |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| INT |  | - | - | (8)9-11 HCP BAL possibly semibalanced, we open with all 9hcp, some 8hcp vul and often with 8hcp non-vul 3rd/4th seat it's 17-19hcp with stayman and four transfers | $2 \mathrm{c}=$ asking for 4 H , either inv with 4 h or various GF hands; $2 \mathrm{~d}=$ asking for 4 S , either GF with spades or various invitational hands; 2M = natural, signoff $2 \mathrm{nt}=$ invitational; $3 \mathrm{x}=$ to play | We play some very simple relays after 1nt2 c to show distribution of the opener, otherwise mostly natural | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1nt-(x) }-x x=\text { penalty } \\ & \text { 1nt-(x) }-2 x=x+\text { higher suit } \\ & \text { 1nt-(x)-pass }=5+\text { card suit, likely wants to } \\ & \text { escape } \end{aligned}$ |
| 2* |  | 5 | - | 8-11hcp, various distributions as long as we consider it's good to open $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{d}$ with it. $3 \mathrm{rd} / 4$ th seat it's natural and to play | $2 \mathrm{~d}=$ relay, asking for $4 \mathrm{M} ; 2 \mathrm{M}=$ natural, $\mathrm{F} 1 ; 2 \mathrm{nt}=$ asking for strength; $3 \mathrm{c}=$ to play | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \mathrm{~m}-2(\mathrm{~m}+1) \text { is relay: } \\ & 2 \mathrm{~d}-2 \mathrm{~h}-2 \mathrm{~s}=5+\mathrm{d}, 4 \mathrm{~s} \\ & 2 \mathrm{~d}-2 \mathrm{~h}-2 \mathrm{nt}=5+\mathrm{d}, 4 \mathrm{~h} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 2* |  | 5 | - |  | $2 \mathrm{~h}=$ relay, asking for $4 \mathrm{M} ; 2 \mathrm{~s}=$ natural, $\mathrm{F} 1 ; 2 \mathrm{nt}=5+\mathrm{h}, \mathrm{F} 1 ; 3 \mathrm{~d}=$ to play |  |  |
| 2 - |  | 5 | - | 5+cards, 14-17hcp, cannot have 4 hearts <br> $3 \mathrm{rd} / 4$ th seat it's natural and to play | 2 s is natural F 1 ; transfers between 2 nt and $3 \mathrm{M} ; 3(\mathrm{M}-1)$ shows inv+ w/ $2+\mathrm{M}$ <br> 3 M is invitational w/ 3+M | Natural apart from: 3oM bids usually show good hands with fit |  |
| 2^ |  | 5 | - |  |  |  |  |
| 2NT | X | - | - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 5+M4M 14-17hcp } \\ & \text { 3rd/4th seat it's (22)23-24bal with standard } \\ & \text { responses } \end{aligned}$ | 3 c is relay <br> 3d asks to bid longer major $4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{d}$ shows preference for $\mathrm{h} / \mathrm{s}$ other to play | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 2nt-3c-3d }=6+\text { card suit, } 3 \mathrm{~h} \text { asks further } \\ & 2 \mathrm{nt}-3 \mathrm{c}-3 \mathrm{M}=5 \mathrm{M} 4 \mathrm{oM} \\ & 4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{d} \text { by responder always shows slamtry } \\ & \text { and preference for } \mathrm{h} / \mathrm{s} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 3* | X | 5 | - | $\begin{aligned} & 5+\mathrm{d} 5+\mathrm{c}, 12-14 \mathrm{hcp} \\ & 3 \mathrm{rd} / 4 \mathrm{th} \text { seat it's natural and to play } \end{aligned}$ | 3 m is to play, 4 m is slamish, 3 M is $6+$ cards F1 | natural |  |
| 3 - | X | 0 | - | $\begin{aligned} & 5+\mathrm{s}, 5+\mathrm{h}, 14-17 \mathrm{hcp} \\ & 3 \mathrm{rd} / 4 \mathrm{th} \text { seat it's natural and to play } \end{aligned}$ | 3 M is to play $4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{d}$ is preference for $\mathrm{h} / \mathrm{s}$ |  |  |
| 3 |  | 6 | - | Preemptive, vul and position dependent, 411 HCP | New suit is forcing, searching for a game or with a slam ambition | Repeating suit shows minimum, new suit shows extra |  |
| 3* |  | 6 | - |  |  |  |  |
| 3NT | x | 7 m | - | Solid minor suit, no outside A | Some values besides the solid suit, but not much | HIGH LEVEL BIDDING |  |
| 4* |  | 6 | - | Preemptive, vul and position dependent, 411 HCP |  | RKCB answers 14/03; 5NT odd keycards, void; 6x even keycards, when cue bidding 5nt is $1 / 3$ of trump AKQ <br> No exclusion unless painfully obvious it cannot be anything else, responses are 14/03 again Forcing pass when shown strength and GF, pass wants to bid on, x wants to penalize |  |
| 4 |  | 6 | - | Preemptive, vul and position dependent, 411 HCP |  |  |  |  |
| $4 \vee$ |  | 6 | - | Preemptive, tactical |  |  |  |  |
| 4* |  | 6 | - | Preemptive, tactical |  |  |  |  |
| 4NT |  | - |  | Minors preemptive |  |  |  |  |

