

# "Bid by the Number Rules"

## •Rule of 2, 3 & 4:

Be disciplined in your preempt bidding, don't ever preempt your partner if your partner is not a passed hand, you'll still get an opportunity to show your long suit.. Along with this line of thinking you should always hold 2 of the top 3 cards when vulnerable or 3 of the top 5 when not vulnerable. Pre-empt such that you expect to lose two tricks when vulnerable or three tricks with equal vulnerability and four tricks with favorable vulnerability.

## •Rule of 7:

When declarer in a NT contract, you can determine how many tricks to hold up by subtracting the number of cards that you and your dummy hold in the suit led from 7 and then you hold up that many times. Hence if spades are led and you have a total of six spades between both hands, subtract that from six = 1 so hold up only one round and take the second spade trick. On the other hand, if you have five spades between you, hold up twice and take the third trick, etc.

## •Rule of 11:

When opponent is playing NT & your partner leads his 4<sup>th</sup> best card from his longest and strongest suit, you can subtract the value of his lead from the number 11. You can see how many cards higher than that number are in dummy and you can see how many cards higher in your own hand so you should be able to know exactly how many the declarer holds that are higher ranked than what your partner holds.

## •Rule of 15:

When there have been three passes and deciding whether to open light in fourth position, you can count the number of high card points and the number of spades you hold. If the result is at least 15, you may open.

## •Rule of 15 for a takeout double:

Count your own HCP, add 6 for a void, 4 for a singleton or 2 for a doubleton in the enemy suit. Consider a double if your total is 15.

**•Rule of 16:**

When deciding to raise your partners 1 NT opening to 3 NT, count the number of high card points and the number of cards which are valued 8 or higher. If the sum is greater than 16 you should raise partner to 3NT. Note: This avoids the need for the use of 2NT as a bid showing 8 points and asking partner to raise if he's at the top of his NT bid.

**•Rule of 17:**

If your partner opens with a preempt bid, add the number of your own high card points plus the number of your partners bid suit that you hold. If the sum is 17 or more, bid game in partner's suit.

**•Rule of 20:**

When deciding to open, you may open if the sum of your high card points and the number of cards in your two longest suits is at least 20.

**•Rule of 160:**

If the ages of your opponents add up to 160 ... don't underestimate their ability!!