

What is a Transfer by Responder in Competition?

When partner opens and the next opponent overcalls, responder can make a transfer bid.

For example, partner opens 1C and the next person overcalls 1D, the responder makes a transfer bid of 1H! which means,

"Partner, I am transferring you to Spades so you can possibly play the contract"

Focus of this presentation is to explain:

- · What a transfer by responder in competition is
- Why transfers in competition by responder can be advantageous
- How to use a few transfer bidding tools

Transfers by responder in competition were not allowed until May, 2015

"The first change is that transfer responses in competition by the Responder (Opening Bidder's Partner) are now GCC legal. It has been GCC legal for some time to play transfers by the Advancer (Overcall's Partner). These bids require an alert."

Standard Bidding

Opener	Overcaller	You/Responder	Advancer
1C	1D	1S	Р
2S	Р	Р	Ρ

Who has the Strong hand – Opener Who will play the hand - Responder

Why do we	plav Jac	oby trans	fers after a 1NT
		pening?	
1NT	Р	2D!	Р
2H	Ρ	Р	Р
		Strong hand	•
Who	will play	y the hand -	- Opener
Transfers in on the same			onder are based
The strong	hand pla	ays the cont	tract

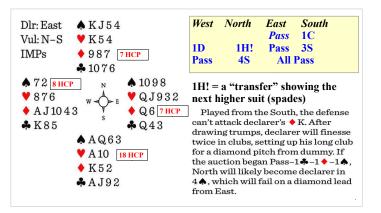
Responder bids the suit below to transfer

Aucti		ansfer by Resp mpetition	onder in
Opener	Overcaller	You/Responder	Advancer
1C	1D	1H! (alert)	Р
2S	Р	Р	Р
1H!	by responder	is a transfer to Sp	ades
2S by op	ener shows 4	card support and	12-14 HCP
<u>The op</u>		rong hand- is pla hand!	<u>ying the</u>

Rationale For Playing Transfers

- 1) Opener can become declarer protecting his honors from the opening lead:
- 2) The responder is able to describe h/his hand more fully after the transfer is accepted: a weak hand, an invitational hand, or a game force hand.
- 3) Competing for a part score and lead–directing bids are powerful aspects of transfer advances.

The following are 2 examples from the ACBL Bulletin <u>Fighting Fire with Fire</u> by Fred Hamilton and Bob Claffone



Transfers convey to partner a weak raise or a constructive raise? Standard Bidding Partner Overcaller You

1H 1S 2H

This auction means 6-9 HCP and 3+H

With transfers, you have the advantage of making a more specific bid when the opposition overcalls.

1H, 1S, 2H! (alert) = 3+Hearts 5-7 HCP

1H, 1S, 2D! (alert) = 3+hearts 8-9 HCP

In a competitive auction, the ability to give more accurate information is very valuable.

When partner's opening bid has been overcalled, the responder has the following options available with transfers:

- 1. Weak hand with a 6-card or longer suit;
- 2. Invitational hand with a 5-card suit;
- 3. Invitational hand with a 6-card or longer suit;
- 4. Game forcing with a 5-card suit;

5. Preemptive, invitational, and game forcing hands with a fit;

6. Balanced hands with an option to make partner play a notrump contract.

Dlr: South	West North East South 1D 1H Dbl! Pass 1S Pass 4S All Pass	
$ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow 75 \\ \hline A \ Q \ 10 \ 4 \\ \hline 7 \ 4 \ 9 \ HCP \\ \hline 7 \ 4 \ 9 \ HCP \\ \hline 8 \ K \ 6 \ 5 \ 2 \\ \hline 8 \ K \ 8 \ 6 \\ \hline 8 \ K \ 8 \ 6 \\ \hline 4 \ K \ 9 \ 6 \\ \hline 8 \ K \ 8 \ 6 \\ \hline 4 \ K \ 10 \ 5 \\ \hline 10 \ 4 \ 14 \ HCP \\ \hline \end{array} $	DBL! = a "transfer" showing the next higher suit (spades) Notice how South's K of Hearts is protected In a standard auction, the contract would fail, as the weak hand is playing the contract	

	A Few E	xamples		
W	N	E	S	
1≛	1+	?		
	Respor	ises		
Dble		Transfer to Hearts		
1•		Transfer to Spades		
1≜	Ti	Transfer to Clubs or NT		
1NT	Natural, bett	Natural, better to play from responder's side		
2♣	Transfer to Opponent's suit – Game Force			
2+	Transfer to Hearts,6+ hearts(Weak or Game Force)			
2♥	Transfer to Spades,6+ spades(Weak or Game Force)			

Transfers are also useful because they give the responder a 2nd chance to bid after opener accepts the transfer:

A) With a weak hand responder passes;

B) With an invitational hand responder invites opener to a game or a slam;

C) With a strong hand responder forces to game.

We expect the use of transfer bids after an overcall to steadily increase. It will take some time before there is a general consensus of opinion on the best methods to use, so there is a fertile field for exploration. We hope our discussion has pointed you in the right direction to do your own thinking on this fascinating subject.

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Challenges

- The learning curve
- You and your partner must be on the same page
- · Always a few errors when you are using a new system

However



Most auctions occur at the competitive part score level. Perhaps this set of tools is more important in today's dynamic competitive bidding than any other conventions or systems!