

## Losing Trick Count

### What Is It:

- A measure of the trick-taking potential of your combined hands once an 8+ card trump holding has been found.
- It is just ONE measure. Other things to consider include high card points, placement of your honors relative to the opponents' bids in a competitive auction, and duplicated values with partner.

### How Do You Do It:

- Each suit has a maximum of 3 losers (a loser is a missing A, K, or Q). Examples:
  - AKx has one loser
  - AQx has one loser
  - AJ9 has two losers
  - KQx has one loser
  - Axx, Kxx, and Qxx have two losers (some people count Qxx as 2.5 losers)
- A singleton cannot have more than one loser (a singleton Ace has no losers)
- A doubleton cannot have more than two losers (a doubleton Qx or less has two losers; AK has no losers; Ax and Kx have one loser, but some people count AQ as .5 losers)
- A suit of 3 or more cards can have up to 3 losers if you are missing the Ace, King, and Queen (example: 952 or J107)
- With a known 9-card trump fit, you can subtract one loser.
- Add the number of losers from your two hands (yours and partner's) and subtract from 24 to estimate the number of tricks you can take in a suit contract.

### How Do I Know How Many Losers My Partner Has?

- Estimate based on the bidding, for example:
  - Simple raise = 9 losers
  - Limit raise or overcall = 8 losers
  - Minimum opening hand = 7 losers
  - 1NT opener, reverse, or invitational opening hand = 6 losers
  - 2NT opener or jump shift = 5 losers
  - 2C opener = 4 or less losers

### What Is It Used For:

- To decide whether to invite to game
- To decide whether to accept partner's invitation
- To decide how high to compete in a competitive auction
- DO NOT use it to decide whether to open a hand (however, some people use it as one criteria to decide whether to open 2C)

How Many Losers In Each Hand?

<p>♠AQ532 ♥K2 ♦KT4 ♣764</p> <p>As opener, would you invite partner to game in Spades with this hand? Would you accept their invitation?</p>	<p>♠T987 ♥A984 ♦Q7532 ♣--</p> <p>As responder, when partner has opened 1S, would you jump to game with this hand?</p>	<p>♠AQ532 ♥A2 ♦KT4 ♣A64</p> <p>As opener, would you invite partner to game in Spades with this hand? Would you accept their invitation (limit raise)?</p>	<p>♠987 ♥K753 ♦AQ62 ♣T8</p> <p>As responder, would you accept partner's invitation to game in Spades?</p>
<p>♠5 ♥A87 ♦96 ♣AKJ9732</p> <p>You are South, and West is the Dealer. Both vulnerable. The auction goes 1D – P – 1S – 2C – 2D – 2H – 3D – ? Would you compete to the 3-level in Hearts with this hand?</p>	<p>♠K83 ♥87 ♦KJ953 ♣A63</p> <p>You are South, and North is the Dealer. N/S vulnerable. The auction goes P – P – 1D – P – 1S – 2C – 2S – 3C – P – P – ? Would you compete to the 3-level in Spades with this hand?</p>		