SPECIAL DOUBLES

After Overcall: Penalty ☐
Negative ☑ thru 4♥
Responsive: ☑ thru 4♥ Maximal ☐
Support: Dbl ☑ thru 2 level Rdbl ☑
Card-showing ☐ Min. Offshape T/O ☐
most X are Takeout

SIMPLE OVERCALL

1-level 7 to 16 HCP (usually)
Often 4 cards ☐ Very light style ☐

Responses

New Suit: Forcing ☐ NFConst ☑ NF ☐
Jump Raise: Forcing ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☑
Q 10+& supp 3M jmp rai 7-9 4 tr

JUMP OVERCALL

Strong ☐ Intermediate ☐ Weak ☑

OPENING PREEMPTS

	Sound	Light	Very Light
3/4-bids	☑	☑	☐

Conv./Resp. Vul NV

DIRECT CUEBID

Over:	Minor	Major
Natural	☐	☐
Strong T/O	☐	☐
Michaels	☑	☑

(1M)-2M-any-4C asks for minor

NOTRUMP OVERCALLS

Direct: 15 to 18 Systems on ☑
Conv. nat over Pen X
Balance: 11 to 15
Jump to 2NT: Minors ☐ 2 Lowest ☑
Conv.

DEFENSE VS NOTRUMP

vs:	direct UPHonly	balancing / PH
2♣	Majors 2D ask	C + higher
2♦	♥	D + Major
2♥	♠	nat
2♠	♣	nat
Dbl	Penalty	♥ + ♠ 2D ask

Other:
3C = ♦

OVER OPP'S T/O DOUBLE

New Suit Forcing: 1-level ☑ 2-level ☐
Redouble implies no fit ☑

2NT Over	Limit +	Limit	Weak
Majors	☑	☐	☐
Minors	☐	☐	☐

Other: 1M-2C sup 8-11...1m: syst on

VS OPENING PREEMPT DOUBLE IS

Takeout ☑ thru 4♥ Penalty ☐
Conv. Takeout:
Lebensohl 2NT Response ☐
Other: 2NT/Weak 2=15+-19 HCP

SLAM CONVENTIONS Gerber ☑ 4NT: Blackwood ☐ RKC ☑ 1430 ☑
Gerber jump after 1NT & 2NT only. 4NT-5D shows 0 or 3 KC
Specific king responses to 4NT-5NT
vs. Interference: DOPI ☑ DEPO ☐ Level: D=0, P=1, Next suit=2, etc. ROPI ☐

LEADS (click card led, if not in bold)

versus Suits	versus Notrump
x x	x x
x x x	x x x x x
A **K** x	**10** 9 x
K Q x	K **J** 10 x
Q J x	K **10** 9 x
J 10 x	Q **10** 9 x
K Q 10 9	
x x	x x
x x x	x x x x x
A K J x	A Q J x
A J 10 9	A **10** 9 8
K Q J x	K Q 10 9
Q J 10 x	Q **10** 9 8
J 10 9 x	**10** 9 8 x

Length Leads:

	vs Suits	vs NT
4th Best	☐	☐
3rd/5th Best	☑	☑
Attitude		☐

K from AK after trk 1

Primary signal to partner's leads
Attitude ☑ Count ☐ Suit Preference ☐

DEFENSIVE CARDING

	vs Suits	vs NT
Standard:	☐	☐
Except ☐		
Q led from AKQ		
Upside-Down Count	☐	☐
Upside-Down Attitude	☑	☑

FIRST DISCARD

Lavinthal	☐	☐
Odd/Even	☐	☐
	☐	☐

OTHER CARDING

Smith Echo	☐	☐
Trump Suit Pref.	☐	
Foster Echo	☐	☐

SPECIAL CARDING ☐ PLEASE ASK

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NAMES K Balcombe and A Lloyd. UPDATED Sept 27 2026

GENERAL APPROACH

2 over 1 weak 1NT
Two Over One: Game Forcing ☑ Game Forcing Except When Suit Rebid ☐
VERY LIGHT: Openings ☐ 3rd Hand ☐ Overcalls ☐ Preempts ☐
FORCING OPENING: 1♣ ☐ 2♣ ☑ Natural 2 Bids ☐ Other ☐

NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS

1NT
11 to 14
to
5-Card Major Common ☑
System On Over art X 2C
2♣ Stayman ☑ Puppet ☐
2♦ Transfer to ♥ ☑
Forcing Stayman ☐
2♥ Transfer to ♠ ☑
2♠ D 3sny NS short
2NT

3♣ D 3sny NS short GF
3♦ 5-5+ Maj, GF
3♥ 6+♥, GF, slammish
3♠ 6+♠, GF, slammish
1NT-(X)-XX 2 suited
Texas jump in comp
4♦, 4♥ Transfer ☑
Smolen ☑
Lebensohl ☐ (fast denies)
Negative Double ☑
1N-2C-2M-3OM art sup

2NT 19+ to 21
Puppet Stayman ☐
Transfer Responses:
Jacoby ☑ Texas ☑
3♠ C + D
2NT-Jac tfr-accpt = 3+
3NT 25 to 27
bal. no Major interest

Conventional NT Openings

MAJOR OPENING

Expected Min. Length	4	5
1st/2nd	☐	☑
3rd/4th	☐	☑

RESPONSES

Double Raise: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☑
After Overcall: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☑
Conv. Raise: 2NT ☑ 3NT ☐ Splinter ☑
Other: 3M jmp 7-9 3C LR UPH
1NT: Forcing ☑ Semi-forcing ☐
2NT: Forcing ☐ Inv. ☐ to
3NT: 12 to 15
Drury ☐ : Reverse ☑ 2-Way ☐ Fit ☐
Other: 1H/S-1N-2C = ♣ or Stg NT

MINOR OPENING

Expected Min. Length	4	3 NF	0-2	Conv.
1♣	☐	☐	☑	☐
1♦	☑	☐	☐	☐

RESPONSES

Double Raise: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☑
After Overcall: Force ☐ Inv. ☐ Weak ☑
Forcing Raise: J/S in other minor ☐
Single raise ☑ Other: 1C-2D, 1D-3C LR
Frequently bypass 4+♦ ☐
1NT/1♣: 8 to 10
2NT: Forcing ☐ Inv. ☑ 11 to 12
3NT: 13 to 15
Other: Stg NT rebid...1D-2C-2M 11+

DESCRIBE

2♣ 22 to + HCP 2H neg. (0-3 HCP, no King)
Strong ☑ Other ☐ 22 HCP or 9+ tricks
2♦ Response: Neg ☐ Waiting ☑ GF

2♦ 5 to 11 HCP Normally good 6-card suit
Natural: Weak ☑ Intermediate ☐ Strong ☐ Conv ☐

2♥ 5 to 11 HCP Usually 6-card suit
Natural: Weak ☑ Intermediate ☐ Strong ☐ Conv ☐

2♠ 5 to 11 HCP Usually 6-card suit
Natural: Weak ☑ Intermediate ☐ Strong ☐ Conv ☐

RESPONSES/REBIDS

in Comp P=0-3 X=art GF

RONF; 2NT asks feature
2NT Force ☑ New Suit NF ☐

RONF; 2NT asks feature
2NT Force ☑ New Suit NF ☐

RONF; 2NT asks feature
2NT Force ☑ New Suit NF ☐

OTHER CONV CALLS: New Minor Forcing ☐ 2-Way NMF ☑ 2C inv 2D GF.
Weak jump shifts: In Comp. ☑ Not In Comp. ☑ 3C CBS/2NT rebid
4th Suit Forcing: 1 Round ☐ To Game ☑ UPH.....SANTA after 1m-(1NT) ovrcl
Unusual over opp 2 suiters.....1NT comp: X=Stay, NS NF, jump GF
1M-2N-3M=13+... comp: inv minor GF Q=LR... splinters void