

Priority 1) Open a 5+card Major

Open 1♠

The 1♠ opening has two requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Suit length: **5+spades**, with the same number of hearts or less. Lengths of the other suits are not important.

Opening Bids in Spades 9 to 21 HCPs and 5+spades (with equal or fewer hearts)														
Length of Spade Suit	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand		Strong Hand				
5+ Spades	Pass	Pass			1♠									
exactly 6 Spades *		2♠ Weak 2												
exactly 7 Spades *		3♠ Weak 3												
exactly 8 Spades *		4♠ Weak 4												
* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the spade suit														

Priority 1) Open a 5+card Major

Open **1♥**

The **1♥** opening has two requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Suit length: **5+hearts**, with more hearts than spades. Lengths of the other suits are not important.

Opening Bids in Hearts														
<i>9 to 21 HCPs and 5+hearts (with more hearts than spades)</i>														
Length of Heart Suit	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand		Strong Hand				
5+ Hearts	Pass	Pass			1♥									
exactly 6 Hearts *		2♥	Weak 2											
exactly 7 Hearts *		3♥	Weak 3											
exactly 8 Hearts *		4♥	Weak 4											
*Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the heart suit														

Priority 2) Open 1 No Trump

The No Trump opening is the **second** priority in Yellow Card Bidding. This does not automatically mean the opener wants to play a No Trump contract. The opener might hold one or two 4-card major suit(s) that could not be opened. If the responder holds the same 4+card major, the partnership might still be able to play a major suit contract (which is the first priority).

Opening Bids in No Trump - NO 5-card major and Balanced														
HCPs Range and Bid	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Pass			Opening Count 1 ♣ or 1 ♦			1 NT			Strong Hand 1 ♣ or 1 ♦		2 NT	

The 3 criteria for opening a No Trump hand are:

1) No 5+card major

When holding a 5+card major suit, open that 5+card major suit instead of NT. This practice clarifies the nature of the NT opening hand, and makes it easier to identify an 8+card fit in a trump suit.

- Note: SAYC allows a NT opening with a 5-card major. Reed suggests not opening a NT when holding a 5+card major.

2) Must be Balanced

The criteria for a balanced hand are:

- no void
- no singleton
- 1 or 0 doubleton

The shape of the balanced hand must be described by the following general description:

4-3-3-3

4-4-3-2

5-3-3-2 (major suit cannot be 5-cards)

3) Specific HCP Ranges

A No Trump opening bid must be in one of three exact HCP (Honor Card Point) ranges:

- 15 to 17 HCPs - 1 NT
- 20 to 21 HCPs - 2 NT
- 25 to 27 HCPs - 3 NT

Priority 3) Open a 5+card Minor

Open 1 ♦

The 1 ♦ opening has four requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Does not have a 5+card major (otherwise open with that major). It is possible that the opener has one or both 4-card major suits, but can not open either one of them.
- 3) Does not qualify for a 1 NT opening.
- 4) Suit length: **3+diamonds** when diamonds is the **Better Minor**. Go to the [Better Minor](#) web page for more information.

Opening Bids in Diamonds														NO 5+card major, 9 to 21 HCPs and 3+diamonds				(Better Minor)	
Length of Diamond Suit	Opener's HCPs and Bids																		
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand								
3+ Diamonds	Pass	Pass			1 ♦														
exactly 6 Diamonds *		2 ♦	Weak 2																
exactly 7 Diamonds *		3 ♦	Weak 3																
exactly 8 Diamonds *		4 ♦	Weak 4																

* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the diamond suit

Priority 3) Open a 5+card Minor

Open 1♣

The 1♣ opening has four requirements:

- 1) Points: **12-21 HCPs** (no distribution points). The suit **location of the HCPs is NOT important**.
- 2) Does not have a 5+card major (otherwise open with that major). It is possible that the opener has one or both 4-card major suits, but can not open either one of them. The responder will likely try to see if the opener has a 4-card major suit.
- 3) Does not qualify for a **1 NT** opening.
- 4) Suit length: **3+clubs** when clubs is the **Better Minor**. Go to the [Better Minor](#) web page for more information.

Opening Bids in Clubs NO 5+card major, 9 to 21 HCPs and 3+clubs (Better Minor)														
Length of Club Suit	Opener's HCPs and Bids													
	0-8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pass	Weak Opening			Opening Count			Medium Hand			Strong Hand			
3+ Clubs	Pass	Pass			1♣									
exactly 6 Clubs		Pass												
exactly 7 Clubs *		3♣	Weak 3											
exactly 8 Clubs		Pass												
* Special Condition - must have at least 5 HCPs in the club suit														