

## PREEMPTS & RULE OF 2 and 3

**Original Rule of 2 and 3 was that you should be within 3 tricks of your bid if non vulnerable and within 2 tricks of your bid if vulnerable.**

When I mentioned that partner (of preempter) almost always has one trick for you, was not trying to make it an established principle in calculating 2 and 3 with hands, but was trying to help partner feel better about “breaking” rule of 2.

### Quality of Suit

I believe it is worth bidding a weak 2, **even vulnerable**, when you have an excellent suit and nothing else—although this violates the Rule of 2. My reasoning is that you win three ways; partner gets off to the best lead on defense—a vital issue; the preempt has a chance to wreak havoc with opponents' communication; and we are bidding with the field which is usually desirable in matchpoints. Yes, partner may miscalculate your winners/losers for bidding game, but I believe that happens less often and is less significant than the first two.

I will bid a Weak Two—vulnerable--with any 6-2-3-2 pattern when all I have is AKQxxx; AKxxxx; AKJxxx; AQJxxx; KQ10xxx---6 tricks in some cases but only 5 tricks in others.

### Issue of Losing Trick Count versus Counting Playing Tricks

A hand such as QJ10xxx Kx Kxx xx has only 7 losers by Losing Trick Count. In terms of counting winners (counting playing tricks), it has only 4 spades tricks, ½ heart and ½ diamond so 5 winners (and thus 8 losers). I think most people would still bid a Weak Two with this, even though it violates the Rule of 2 if you are vulnerable. I think most people are now using LTC rather than counting playing tricks in these cases.

### Ownership of the Spade Suit

I will “stretch” to bid a Weak Two when I have the spade suit—the advantage of starting the bidding at 2 spades is clear cut.

### Great Shortness in the Majors

I will “stretch” to make a 3-level preempt when I have very little in the majors and I want to take up their room. I would bid 3C with x xx Jxxx KQJ10xx even though I only have 5 winners.

### Caliber of the Opposition

On marginal hands (to preempt or not to preempt?), I will be guarded by the quality of our opponents and whether or not they like to make low-level penalty doubles (as does Budak)

### Difference between First and Second Seat

On marginal hands, I will probably NOT preempt in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat because one opponent has passed and I am just as likely to preempt partner as to annoy the 2<sup>nd</sup> opponent. So, a hand I might choose to preempt on in 1<sup>st</sup> seat, I could pass in 2<sup>nd</sup> seat.

**All of the above ONLY applies to situations arising in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seat. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seats are totally different issues.**