



Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

Pre-empt openings are very difficult for the opponents because they have to overcall at a high level.

To open 3 clubs, diamonds, hearts or spades you need:

- 6 to 9HCP
- and 7 cards in that suit including 2 high honors (ace, king or queen)

Be Careful ! Don't open 3 in a suit if you have 2 aces; 1 ace and a void or if you have 4 in a major. These rules only apply in 1st or 2nd seat. In 3rd or 4th seat you can do all of the above !

S	W	N	E
1 ♦			

10 ♠	4 ♠	A ♥	Q ♥	10 ♥	2 ♣	K ♦	Q ♦	10 ♦	9 ♦	8 ♦	7 ♦	4 ♦
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Problem E1312 : 9HCP is the maximum for a pre-empt opening, therefore 11HCP is too many!

S	W	N	E
3 ♦			

7 ♠	9 ♥	4 ♥	10 ♣	6 ♣	4 ♣	A ♦	K ♦	J ♦	9 ♦	8 ♦	7 ♦	6 ♦
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Problem E1311: This pre-empt opening is perfect :

- 7 good ♦
- 6 à 9HCP (no more : here, it's 8HCP)



Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

Be Careful!

Don't open 3 in a suit with :

- 2 aces
- 1 ace and a chicane
- or with 4 in a major

These rules (not 2 aces, no ace and a chicane or a 4 card major) in 1st and 2nd seat. In 3rd and 4th seat you can do any of the above !

A	K	10	7	3	A	3	5	3	2	K	8	2
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

S	W	N	E
Pass			

Q	J	9	8	2	A	J	10	9	8	6	4	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦

Problem E1313 **Pass** No pre-empt here because of the 4 ♠.

S	W	N	E
1 ♠			

A	J	10	9	5	4	3	A	10	8	3	5	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♦	♦

Problem E2463 **1 ♠** With 2 aces and 11 cards in the major suits - a pre-empt is out of the question.



Pre-empt: weak three and weak four bids

Pre-empt openings at level 4 in a suit need:

- A strong 8-card suit
- Between 6 and 9HCP
- And no defensive trick

S				W				N				E			
4 ♠															

A	Q	10	9	6	5	4	3	4	4	J	10	3
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E2475: It's the number of spades that determines the level of your pre-empt bid

- with 6 cards = 2 spades
- with 7 cards = 3 spades
- with 8 cards = 4 spades. Easy, isn't it?

S		W		N		E	
4♥							

K♥	Q♥	10♥	9♥	8♥	5♥	4♥	3♥	5♣	4♣	3♣	6♦	3♦
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Problem E2476: If you have a strong 8-card heart suit, even with nothing else beside, don't hesitate even a second to open 4 hearts. It's then up to the opponents to plunge in at 4 spades and take all the risks.