



The rule of 20

The rule of 20

You have a weak hand in terms of HCP but it is 2-suited and you are wondering if you should open. Marty Bergen's rule of 20 says :

- Add the HCP in both long suits
- Add to that total the total number of cards you have in these suits
 - If the total reaches 20, open
 - If it is inferior to 20 : pass !

In 3rd or 4th position , Marty Bergen proposes opening under the same circumstances, but with a total of 18.
Example :

You are in South in 1st position ; Will you open or pass ?

Exercise 9635 10HCP only and a poor shape ! Honors are scattered. You must pass and wait ! The 'rule of 20' confirms your good judgment 10 cards in your long suits and 5HCP only in these suits...for a total of 15.

[Exercise 49881](#)

'Marty Bergen's rule of 20' tells you to open (10HCP in the suits + 10 cards = 20 the price is right !)



The rule of 20

In 3rd or 4th position, the 'rule of 20' becomes the 'rule of 18' !

Example :

You are in South in 3rd position ; Will you open or pass ?

Exercise 4989 1 ♥ , yes ! 8H only, but 10 cards in your 2 long suits, for a total of 18. In 3rd position, it is enough...
