



## Unusual NoTrump

THE UNUSUAL NO-TRUMP is a convention used to show two suited hands with one bid.

REMEMBER: The most common is 1H by East overcalled with 1NT by South.

This IS an opening 1NT bid 15-17 H.C.P. with at least one stopper in opener's suit, NOT AN UNUSUAL NO TRUMP.

Direct overcall of 2NT Example: 1D - 2NT is unusual showing the same type of hand as before, the two lower ranking suits, in this case Hearts and Clubs.

WITH A HAND THAT WAS A 2NT OPENING, (20-21) (22-24) (depending on your range) ONE WOULD DOUBLE FIRST AND THEN BID NO-TRUMP.

RESPONDING TO THE UNUSUAL NO-TRUMP.

Rather than trying to memorize a list of rules on responding, try to visualize partner's hand. You should see two long suits and you know what they are. If you have a good fit for one of these suits and as much as an Ace outside, you are close to game if partner is an unpassed hand.

THE UNUSUAL NO TRUMP BIDDER (unless a passed hand) SHOULD NOT USE THE BID LIGHTLY.

Standard Unusual NO-Trump overcall by a passed hand:

South West North East

pass pass pass 1H

1NT

South has the lower unbid suits and they are at least 5-5. A typical hand might be Kx x A8765 QJ876 and he wants to prepare a place to compete.

South should NOT have a balanced hand of 13 or fewer points.

NOTICE: In the example the two lower suits were promised.

What if the unusual no-trump bid is made over a minor?

Example: Pass Pass Pass 1D

1NT

Partner is showing the two lower-ranking unbid suits. A possible hand might be: x KQxxx xx Axxxx

ANY DIRECT OVERCALL OF ONE OR TWO NO-TRUMP BY A -PASSED- HAND IS UNUSUAL AND SHOWS THE TWO LOWER RANKING BID SUITS. THE DISTRIBUTION WILL ALMOST ALWAYS BE 5-5 OR 6-5.

(EXCEPT OVER WEAK TWO-BIDS) which will be clarified later.

The unusual no-trump over a major suit shows both minors; the unusual no-trump over a minor suit always shows hearts and the other minor.

A NO-TRUMP CALL BY A PASSED HAND IS UNUSUAL ONLY IF MADE IN THE DIRECT SEAT.

If South had something like Kx x Q10987 AJxxx,

HE MUST REOPEN WITH 2NT. REOPENING BIDS OF 2NT BY A PASSED HAND ARE UNUSUAL AND SHOW THE TWO LOWER UNBID SUITS.

IN CLOSING: A DIRECT OVERCALL OF 2NT OVER A WEAK TWO BID (2 -2 -2 ) SHOWS AN OPENING 1NT (15 1/2 to 18 POINTS) BY AN UNPASSED HAND. IF A PASSED HAND BIDS 2NT IT IS OF COURSE UNUSUAL.

WATCH YOUR VULNERBILITY WITH THIS BID/ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GUIDES.