

## 10) Overcall on opponent 1NT

As we have seen, if we have the proper tools, we can manage all kind of hands in response to partner 1NT opening bid.

We have to assume that also our opponents are well equipped and, for this reason, we have to try to overcall opponents NT as often as possible in order to try to disrupt their well organised communication.

Overcalling 1NT is a topic that has been deeply studied by analysts and many conventions are available in bridge literature.

The most widely known are the following: Landy, Brozel, Becker, Astro, Astro pinpoint, Cappelletti, DONT e DONT R&N .

All these conventions have one point in common, they all recommend overcalling with an unbalanced hand, that is a 2 suiter at least 5-4, and have all the same declared intention to disturb opponents communication.

The overcall scope has therefore a distinct destructive connotation more than a constructive one.

In order to be able to select a convention among such a large choice, we need to use objective criteria.

**1)** Frequency of use: our aim is to disturb opponents communication, the more frequently we overcall the greater will be the impact on opponents bidding.

**2)** Major suits always made known to partner: major suits have the highest pre-emptive power because they force opponents to bid at higher level. It is therefore highly desirable that over caller major suits become known to partner as often as possible.

**3)** Frequency with which over caller both suits are known to partner: either for the bidding development or for the lead, the more often both over caller suits are known to partner the better it is.

**4)** Over caller partner choosing response bidding level: the lower is the bidding level of the choosing response made by over caller partner the better it is. The lower the bidding level the more defensible the resulting contract is. The lower the bidding level the less stringent become the requirements necessary to overcall and therefore more frequent becomes the overcall.

According to the above 4 criteria, the most performing convention is DONT R&N that works as follows:

W	N	E	S
1NT	2♣ = minors 5-4 over which South pass or corrects to 2♦.		
	2♦ = majors 5-4 over which South chooses between 2♥ or 2♠.		
	2♥ = 5♥ plus an unknown 4+minor or 6♥+.		
	2♠ = 5♠ plus an unknown 4+minor or 6♠+.		

HCP required go from 6-7 to opening hand and depend on vulnerability. The main purpose of such overcalls is to disrupt the well-organised development of 1NT opening bid. It has to be noted that South choice between the suits implied by North overcalls can always be made at 2 level thus making such choice easily defensible.