



Opener's Priority List

What Does Opener Consider When Making a First Bid

Opener's Priority List

Dealer is the first person who may bid in the auction.

Let's assume that Dealer has counted high-card points (hcp) and has a Standard Opening hcp.
12 – 20 hcp is the Opening point range for a Standard Opening Bid

Standard Opening Bids are made on the 1-level.

Opener's Priority List

There are 3 Choices for an Opener's Standard Opening Bid.
There IS a Priority Order.

1st Choice: 1H, 1S 12 – 20 hcp 5+ cards in Hearts or Spades
Any 5 cards in a Major Suit
Honors are not necessary

If you have 5 Hearts and 5 Spades, Open Spades

If you don't have 5+ Spades or 5+ Hearts, then look for this type of hand:

2nd Choice: 1 NT 15-17 hcp AND Balanced Hand
No 5+ card Major Suit
No Voids, No Singletons
No More Than One Doubleton

One of 3 Balanced Shapes to Open 1NT
 4 – 3 – 3 – 3

 4 – 3 – 3 – 2

 5 – 3 – 3 – 2 (5-card Minor is okay)

*It does not matter which suits have 4 cards, 3 cards,
or 2 cards.*

If you can't open 1 of a Major or 1NT, then open with Clubs or Diamonds:

3rd Choice: 1C, 1D 12 – 20 hcp 3+ cards in Clubs or Diamonds
Open the Longer Minor Suit

Any 3 cards; No Honors Necessary

With 4 – 4 in the Minors, Open Diamonds
With 3 – 3 in Minors, Open Clubs