



Bridge on Sundays

Bidding – Rule of 14

This guidance rule can be used to see whether you can respond at the two level (for those playing basic Acol)

Partner has opened one of a suit and there is no opposition bidding.

- If you have a suit that you can respond at the 1 level always do so. Support your partner's suit whenever you can. Any 4 card suit is biddable at the 1 level.
- If your hand has 8-9 points and you cannot bid at the 1 level or support partner's suit, you have the choice of bidding 1NT or at the two level. With 6-7 points, 1NT is the only choice
- The Rule of 14:
Add together the number of points held + the length in the suit. If the sum is less than 14, bid 1NT. If the sum is equal to or greater than 14, consider bidding at the two level
- Remember that a 1NT response is a *dustbin* bid and may contain hands totally unsuitable for playing in 1NT

Examples of Rule of 14

- Partner opens 1♠ and you hold ♠96 ♥AQ76 ♦K852 ♣762. Applying the rule of 14, points= 9, longest suit= 4, so sum = 13. Bid 1NT
- Change the holding to ♠9 ♥AQ763 ♦K952 ♣762. Then the sum = 14 so you are just good enough to respond 2♥. However, with a singleton prudence might suggest a 1NT response.
- Change the hand to ♠963 ♥AQ763 ♦K952 ♣7, then you are definitely good enough to bid 2♥

Those who play a two-over-one system are likely to have higher values for the 1NT response