Bridge on Sundays

Bidding – Rule of 20

Bridge is full of useful guidance rules for bidding. These are NOT laws of bridge.

The rule of twenty is guidance on opening in a SUIT at the 1 level. Add your high card points to the length of two longest suits. If the result is LESS than 20, you will probably not open the bidding. Does not apply to opening 1NT

Examples:

- points = 11, shape = 6331. Thus 11+6+3 =20. Consider opening with the 6 card suit.
- Points = 12, shape 4342. Do not open a suit but open 1NT
- Points = 10, shape 5-5-2-1, thus 10+5+5 = 20. Consider opening in the higher ranked suit

Remember: if the hand meets the rule of 20, you may decide to pass because of wasted points (e.g. singleton K or doubleton KQ)