

## Insufficient Bid

As a director, you are often called to the table because there has been an insufficient bid.

Basically, the opponents have 2 options - accept the insufficient bid or don't accept the insufficient bid.

I often get the comment - oh I don't know- what should I do.

The simple answer is, if it is to your advantage to accept the insufficient bid, then do so.

Otherwise don't accept the insufficient bid.

## When to accept an insufficient bid

1S      1H (insufficient)

If you have spade support, accept the bid because now you can show your support at a level lower.

Normal bidding

1S      P      1NT

1S      P      2S

1S      p      3S

Bidding after accepting the insufficient bid of 1H

1S      1H      1NT      normal 1NT response but showing a heart stop

1S      1H      1S      normal raise to 2S

1S      1H      2S      normal raise to 3S

If you force the opponents to bid 2H, then you will have to bid one level higher.

Normal Bidding

1S      P      2C

1S      P      2D

Bidding after accepting the insufficient bid of 1H

1S      1H      2C      normal response of 2C

1S      1H      2D      normal response of 2D

By accepting the 1H bid, you can still show a 2C or 2D response at the 2 level.

If you force the opponents to bid 2H, then you will have to bid at the 3 level.

Normal Bidding			
Us	Them	Us	Them
1H	P	1S/1NT	P
2D	Possible rebids by opener		
2H			
3D			
3H			

Bidding after accepting insufficient bid			
Us	Them	Us	Them
1H	P	1S/1NT	1C
1D	Possible rebids by opener are now all at a level lower		
1H			
2D			
2H			

In the above situation, by accepting the insufficient bid, you can show your hand at a level lower giving your side more bidding space to reach the correct contract.

Normal Bidding			
Us	Them	Us	Them
1H	P	2H	P
3D	Possible rebids by opener		
3H			
4H			

Bidding after accepting insufficient bid			
Us	Them	Us	Them
1H	P	2H	2C
2D	Possible rebids by opener are now all at a level lower		
2H			
3H			

In the above situation, by accepting the insufficient bid, you can show your hand at a level lower giving your side more bidding space to reach the correct contract.

### When Not to Accept an Insufficient Bid

If you cannot use the insufficient bid to your advantage, don't accept it.

For example, if you intended to pass your partner's opening bid, don't accept the insufficient bid - force the opponent to correct their bid.

1S      1H (insufficient)

As responder, if you don't have a bid, then don't accept the bid.

1H      P      2H      2C

As opener, if you don't have another bid, then don't accept the bid.

If the insufficient bid is not accepted, the offender then has 3 options: -

1. Correct the bid to the lowest sufficient level which specifies the same denomination.
2. Correct the bid with a comparable call that would have the same meaning.
3. Make any other sufficient bid or pass.

In options 1 & 2, there is no penalty and the bidding proceeds as normal. For option 3, the offender's partner must pass for the rest of the auction and there will be lead penalties.

So, by not accepting the insufficient bid, you could force the opponents into error.