

## Limit Raises in Competition

### Over 1 of a Major (1M)

Playing *all 3-level raises* in competition as *weak* (6-9 HCP and 4-card support), whether jump raises (1♣-[1 ]-3♣) or cheapest bid (1♥-[2 ]-3♥), requires conventional responses for limit raises.

The conventions that have been developed to show support with limit raise values are as follows. All are in standard use except for a double after an intervening overcall of 3♣/♦ after opener bids 1♥/ . In this last case, the only available bid is a double; i.e. in this one case, the double cannot be played as negative.

Opening-Overcall	Limit Raise Response	Applicable Convention
1M-Double	2NT	Jordan 2NT
1M-2♣/♦	3♣/♦	Unassuming Cue Bid
1M/2M	2NT/3♣ [by opener]/3M	Good-Bad 2NT
1♥/2	2NT/3♣ [by opener]/3M	Good-Bad 2NT
1M/3m	Double	
1M/2NT	3♣ (hearts)/3♦ (spades)	Unusual/Unusual

M: major      m: minor

### Over 1 of a Minor (1m)

*The identical bidding sequences can be used over 1♦.* For example, 1♦-[Double]-2NT shows a limit raise in diamonds without a 4-card major; 1♦-[2♦]-2NT shows a limit raise in diamonds, but 1♦-[2♦]-3♦ shows a weak diamond raise.

Over 1♣, however, good-bad 2NT cannot be used without possibly passing the 3NT barrier. In this case, after an overcall of 2♦ or 2♥, a negative double can be played negative free; i.e. as not promising 4 spades. Opener should bid naturally, as if responder did have 4 spades, and responder will correct to 3♣ with a limit raise in clubs. The bidding might therefore go thus: 1♣-[2♥]-D-2 -3♣. Negative free doubles are alertable.

Negative free doubles cannot be used after 1♣-[2 ], since opener might bid 3♥ and force the partnership to 4♣. So 1♣-[2 ]-3♣ is ambiguous. Fortunately, this sequence will seldom arise.