

## LEADS

### The card to lead from a short suit:

- 1) Doubletons – lead the top card (eg: A5, KJ, Q7, 83, 32)
- 2) Three card suit:
  - rule 1: lead top of sequence (eg: KQx, QJx, J10x, 109x, KJ10, K109, Q109 AKx)
  - rule 2: with one or two honours but not touching cards, lead the BOTTOM card (eg: K82, Q104, J95, 1062)  
(exception: Axx (v. suit contract, lead A; versus NT contract lead bottom))
  - rule 3: three small cards with no honour, lead MIDDLE card, next round play top card. (eg: 962 – play the 6 follow by 9 next round)

NB: rule 3 is to distinguish from doubletons, or longer holdings.

### The card to lead from a long suit:

- 1) Sequence lead
- 2) 4 or more with an honour, lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest
- 3) from 4 rags, recommend to lead 2<sup>nd</sup> highest

### Leads against Suit v. NT

3 exceptions:

- a) AKxx or longer (v. NT lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest; v. suit contract lead Ace or King)
- b) KQxx or longer (v. NT lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest; v. suit contract lead K)
- c) Axxx or longer (v. NT lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest; v. suit contract lead A – *it's not an attractive lead – if possible find another lead*)

In No-Trump – you aim to set up your long suit.

In Suit Contract – you aim to cash your winners.

### Sequence lead tells partner your holding:

- A queen lead denies the K
- A jack lead denies the Q
- A ten lead denies the J

### Rule of 11

Subtract the card from 11. The answer = the number of cards higher than the card led in the other 3 hands (dummy, 3<sup>rd</sup> hand and declarer).

Rule 10 = lead 5<sup>th</sup>  
Rule 11 = lead 4<sup>th</sup>  
Rule 12 = lead 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Summary:

- If there's an unbid suit and you don't have an obvious lead, lead that suit.
- Lead low promises an honour in that suit.
- Lead high denies an honour in that suit.
- Lead an honour should at least show an honour above or below.
- NOT recommended to lead away from Axxx in a suit contract – you may lose to a singleton K.

## **Passive & Active Opening Leads:**

### *When to make a passive lead:*

- 1) Against a grand slam (eg: lead a trump from 2 or more rags against suit contract)  
*DO NOT lead a suit containing an honour against 7NT unless it's a sequence.*
- 2) Against 6NT.
- 3) Against a suit contract where there is no evidence that dummy has a long suit  
(eg: 1H:2H:4H)

### *When to make an active lead:*

1. Against suit contract when dummy is know to hold a 5-card or longer suit. (eg: collect your tricks as quickly as possible or declarer will throw losers on the long suit unless your holding in the side suit is strong and no prospect of discards for declarer).
2. Against a small slam in a suit (eg: lead an ace)
3. Against pre-emptive opening (eg: lead an ace and see dummy to judge which suit to tackle).
4. Against 3NT when dummy is expected to hold a long running suit.