

Franklin Bridge Club

2026 BRIDGE LESSONS



Your Teacher: Maureen Nelson

Email: lessons@franklinbridgeclub.com

Website: www.franklinbridgeclub.com



Lesson Seven

Overcalls



Reasons for Overcalling

- To get into the bidding and make life difficult for your opposition
- Express a genuine desire to play in a suit
- Suggest a lead for your partner



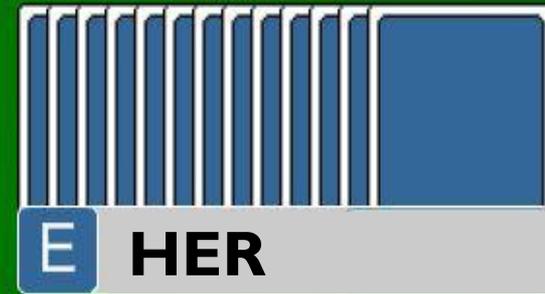
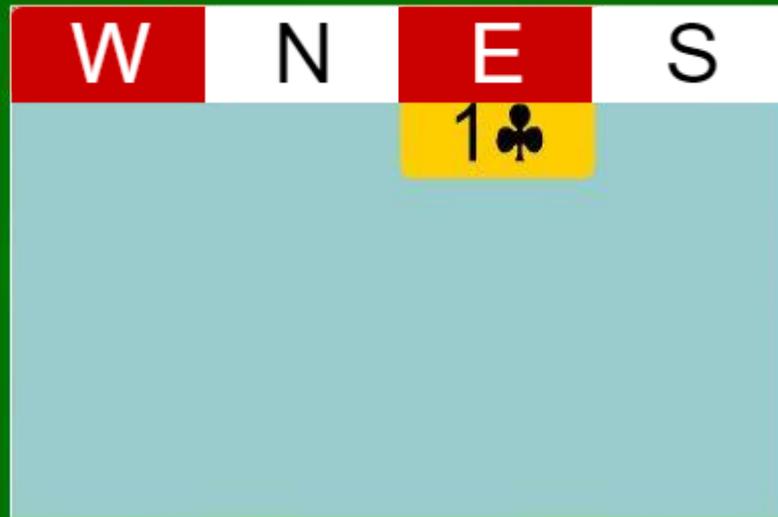
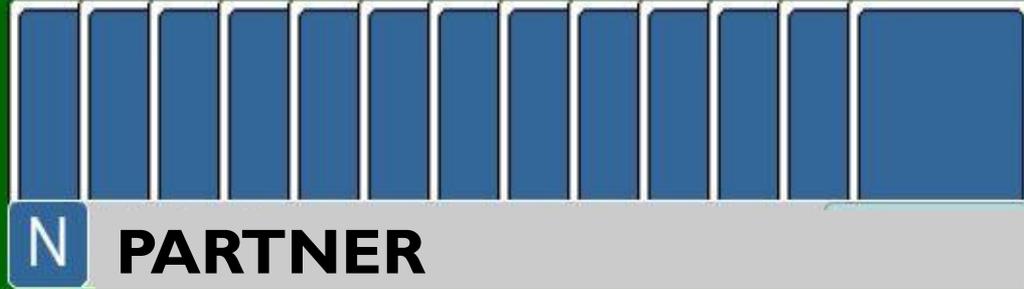
Rules for Overcalling...



- You **MUST** have a good 5+ card suit with at least 2 honour cards
- Your HCP count should be close to opening values if overcalling at the 2-level



Overcalling a suit 1 of 3



Overcalling a suit 2 of 3

N PARTNER



W HIM



W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥

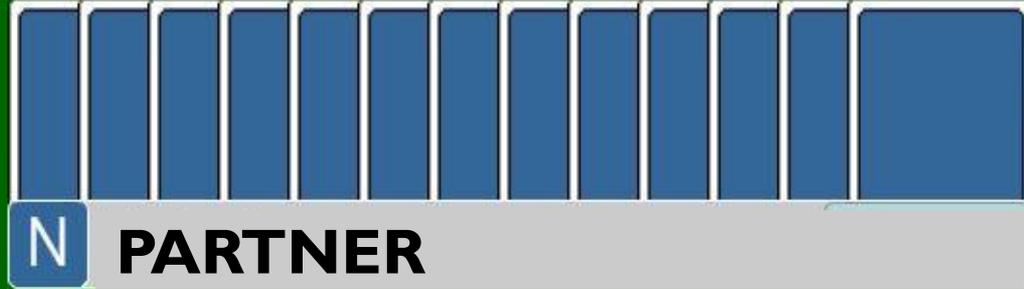
E HER



S YOU

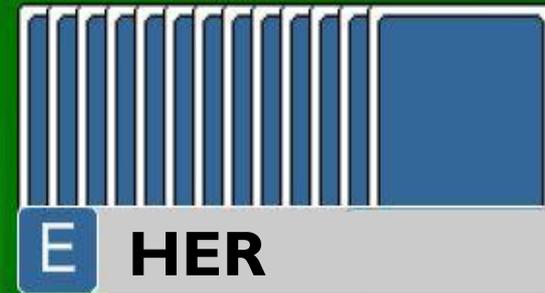


Overcalling a suit 3 of 3



W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♥

South has an Opening Hand
with a **GOOD** 5-card suit
(at least two honours in the suit)



Overcalling a suit 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♥	

E HER

S YOU



Overcalling a suit 2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

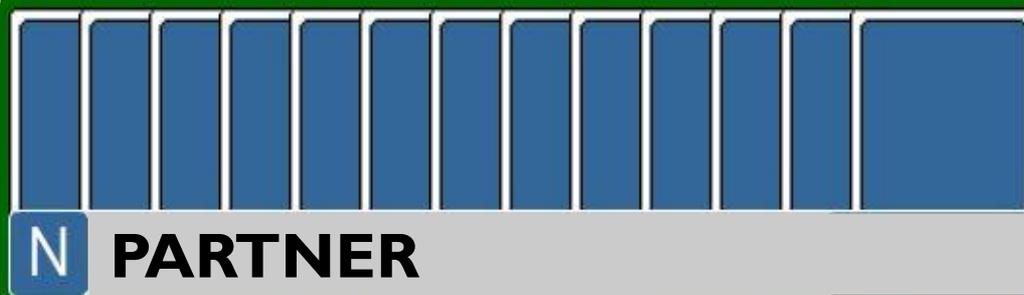
W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠

E HER

S YOU



Overcalling a suit 3 of 3



W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠
South has an Opening Hand with a GOOD 5-card suit (at least two honours in the suit)			



Overcalling a suit 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♦	

E HER

S YOU

A	7	6	5	J	5	Q	5	4	3	2	A	J	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦



Overcalling a suit 2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♦	PASS

E HER

S YOU

A♠ 7♠ 6♠ 5♠ J♥ 5♥ Q♣ 5♣ 4♣ 3♣ 2♣ A♦ J♦



Overcalling a suit 3 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♦	PASS

Opening Hand BUT poor suit
DO NOT BE TEMPTED to
overcall

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

A	7	6	5	J	5	Q	5	4	3	2	A	J	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦



Overcalling a suit 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♠	

E HER

S YOU

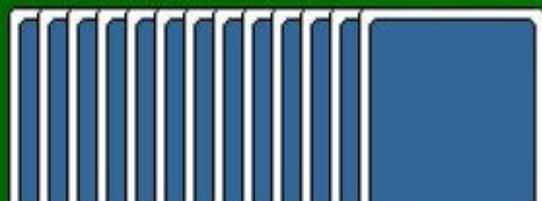


Overcalling a suit 2 of 3

N PARTNER

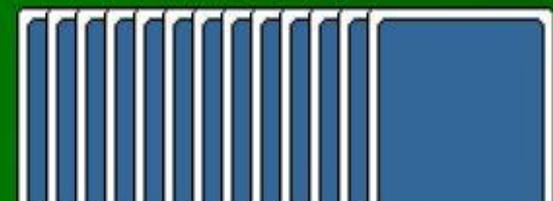


W HIM



W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♥ or PASS

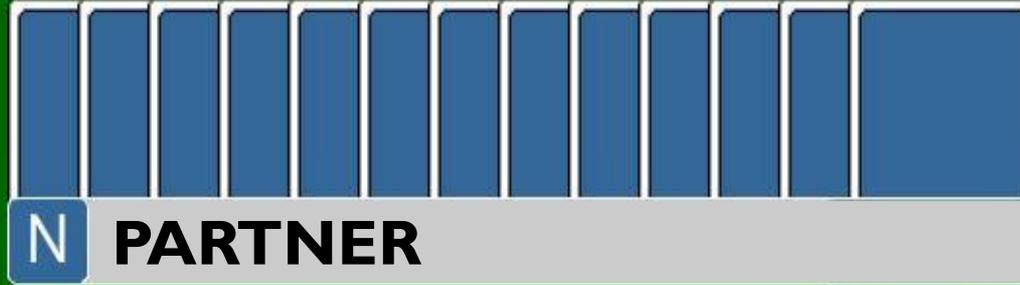
E HER



S YOU



**Overcalling
a suit
3 of 3**



W	N	E	S
		1♠	2♥ or PASS

Opening Hand. Suit OK.
Bidding will make it very
difficult for the opposition
but could be risky



Response to Overcall of a suit

- Only bid with a fit (3+ support)
- Support partner if you can ... keeping in mind that partner has shown  of the suit – need 6+ points
- With 12+ points, jump in partner's suit



Response to a suit overcall 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♦	Pass	

E HER

S YOU

A 7 6 4 A 4 7 6 9 7 5 4 3

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♦

E HER

S YOU

A 7 6 4 A 4 7 6 9 7 5 4 3

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♠	2♦	Pass	3♦

Show a minimum raise
Mainly to make it as hard as
possible for the opposition ...
you have a 10-card fit in
diamonds

E HER

S YOU

A 7 6 4 A 4 7 6 9 7 5 4 3

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♦	Pass	

E HER

S YOU

AKJ9453285354

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♦	Pass	PASS

E HER

S YOU

AKJ9453285354

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♥	2♦	Pass	PASS

Cannot support diamonds
DO NOT bid the spade suit as
your hand is not good enough

E HER

S YOU

AKJ9453285354

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦



Response to a suit overcall 1 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	Pass	

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ K♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 4♥ 3♥ 9♣ 7♣ 9♦ 8♦



Response to a suit overcall 2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ K♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 4♥ 3♥ 9♣ 7♣ 9♦ 8♦



Response to a suit overcall 3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1♠	Pass	2♠

Support partner's 5-card spade suit
You have a fit
Ignore your own heart suit

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ K♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 4♥ 3♥ 9♣ 7♣ 9♦ 8♦



Rules to Overcall in No Trumps

- You need to have **BETTER** points than opening 1NT (16–18 HCP)
- **MUST** have a cover in the opposition's suit



Overcalling INT I of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♦	

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ J♠ K♥ 9♥ 8♥ A♣ 9♣ 6♣ 3♣ A♦ J♦ 7♦



Overcalling
INT
2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1NT

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ J♠ K♥ 9♥ 8♥ A♣ 9♣ 6♣ 3♣ A♦ J♦ 7♦



Overcalling INT 3 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1NT
18 points balanced hand with a Diamond hold			

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ J♠ K♥ 9♥ 8♥ A♣ 9♣ 6♣ 3♣ A♦ J♦ 7♦



Overcalling INT I of 3

N PARTNER

W N E S

1♠

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

K♠ J♠ 9♠ 5♠ Q♥ 9♥ 4♥ A♣ 6♣ 5♣ A♦ Q♦ 9♦



Overcalling
INT
2 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♠	1NT

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

K♠ J♠ 9♠ 5♠ Q♥ 9♥ 4♥ A♣ 6♣ 5♣ A♦ Q♦ 9♦



Overcalling
INT
3 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♠	1NT
16 points balanced hand with a Spade hold			

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

K♠ J♠ 9♠ 5♠ Q♥ 9♥ 4♥ A♣ 6♣ 5♣ A♦ Q♦ 9♦



Overcalling INT I of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♠	

E HER

S YOU

8♠	7♠	3♠	A♥	9♥	8♥	K♣	10♣	4♣	A♦	K♦	Q♦	8♦	♦
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----	---



Overcalling
INT
2 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
		1♠	PASS

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

8♠ 7♠ 3♠ A♥ 9♥ 8♥ K♣ 10♣ 4♣ A♦ K♦ Q♦ 8♦



Overcalling
1NT
3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
		1♠	PASS
16 points balanced hand <u>BUT</u> no Spade hold You cannot overcall 1NT			

E HER

S YOU

8♠ 7♠ 3♠ A♥ 9♥ 8♥ K♣ 10♣ 4♣ A♦ K♦ Q♦ 8♦



Overcalling
INT
2 of 2

N PARTNER

NEXT
WEEK'S
LESSON!

W	N	E	S
		1♣	?

16 points
balanced hand BUT
no Club hold
You cannot overcall 1NT

W HIM

E HER

S YOU

A♠ Q♠ 10♠ 3♠ K♥ 9♥ 6♥ 4♥ Q♣ 8♣ K♦ Q♦ 2♦



Response to Overcall of INT

Balanced Hand

- 0–7 HCP – PASS
- 8 HCP – 2NT (inviting to game)
- 9+ HCP – 3NT (want to be in game)



Response
to INT
overall
1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	

E HER

S YOU

A 8 7 6 5 4 10 9 2 9 4 3 2

♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response
to INT
overall
2 of 3

N	PARTNER										

W	HIM										

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	PASS

E	HER										

A	8	7	6	5	4	10	9	2	9	4	3	2	
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	♔	YOU											



Response
to 1NT
overcall
3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	PASS
BALANCED HAND not enough points for game, therefore, PASS			

E HER

S YOU

A 8 7 6 5 4 10 9 2 9 4 3 2

♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to
Overcall
of INT
1 of 3

N PARTNER

W **N** **E** **S**

1♦ 1NT Pass

W HIM

E HER

S  YOU

K Q 7 2 Q J 9 8 6 4 K 7 2

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response to
Overcall
of INT
2 of 3

N PARTNER

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	3NT

W HIM

E HER

S  YOU

K	Q	7	2	Q	J	9	8	6	4	K	7	2	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦



Response to
Overall
of INT
3 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♦	1NT	Pass	3NT
BALANCED HAND points for game bid 3NT			

E HER

S YOU

K♠ Q♠ 7♠ 2♠ Q♥ J♥ 9♥ 8♣ 6♣ 4♣ K♦ 7♦ 2♦



Response to
Overcall
of INT
1 of 3

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
N	PARTNER											

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
W	HIM											

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
E	HER											

A	10	7	3	Q	J	8	6	5	J	9	7	4	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	♠	YOU											



Response to
Overcall
of 1NT
2 of 3

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
N	PARTNER											

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
W	HIM											

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	2NT

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
E	HER											

A	10	7	3	Q	J	8	6	5	J	9	7	4	♦
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	♠	YOU											



Response to
Overall
of INT
3 of 3

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
N	PARTNER											

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
W	HIM											

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	2NT
BALANCED HAND with 8 points you are close to game. 2NT invites partner. If they have 17 or 18 they bid to game			

13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
E	HER											

A	10	7	3	Q	J	8	6	5	J	9	7	4	
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	♠	YOU											



Response to Overcall of INT

Unbalanced Hand

Use same responses as for opening INT but adjust point count...

- 0–7 HCP – bid your own suit
- 8+ HCP – bid your 5-card suit (major) at 3-level or bid your 6-card suit at GAME



Response
to INT
overall
1 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	

E HER

S YOU

J 10 7 6 5 K J 2 9 5 J 9 2

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦



Response
to INT
overall
2 of 3

N PARTNER

W HIM

W	N	E	S
1♣	1NT	Pass	2♠

E HER

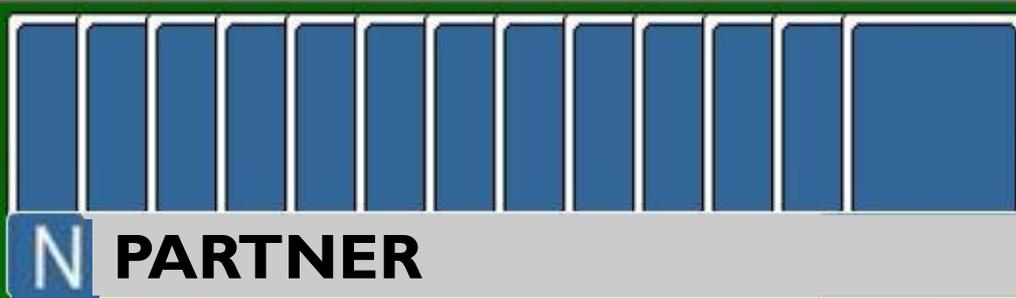
S YOU

J 10 7 6 5 K J 2 9 5 J 9 2

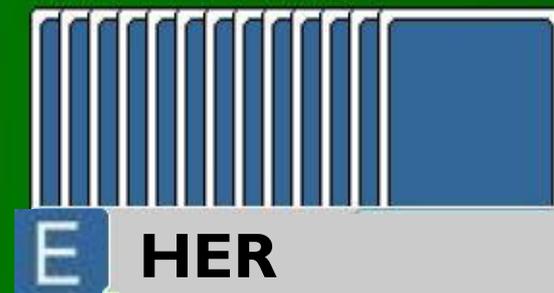
♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦



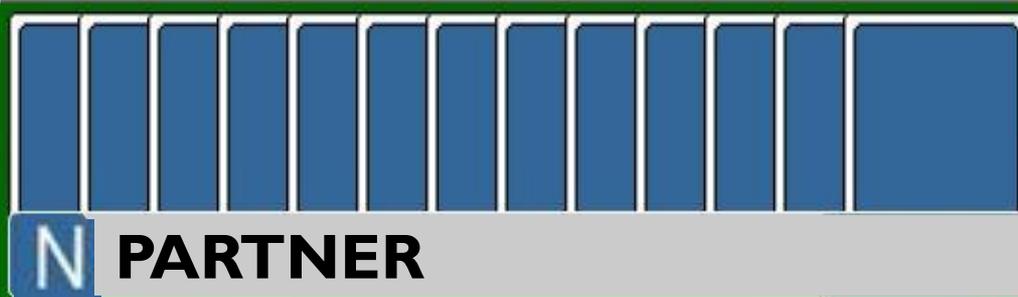
Response
to INT
overcall
1 of 3



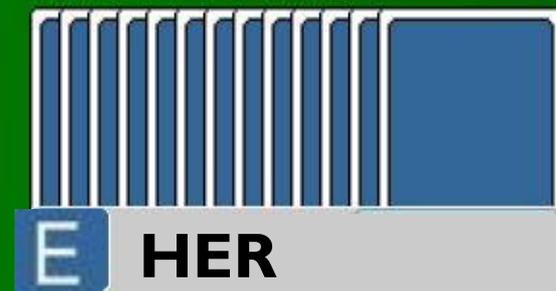
W	N	E	S
1♥	1NT	Pass	



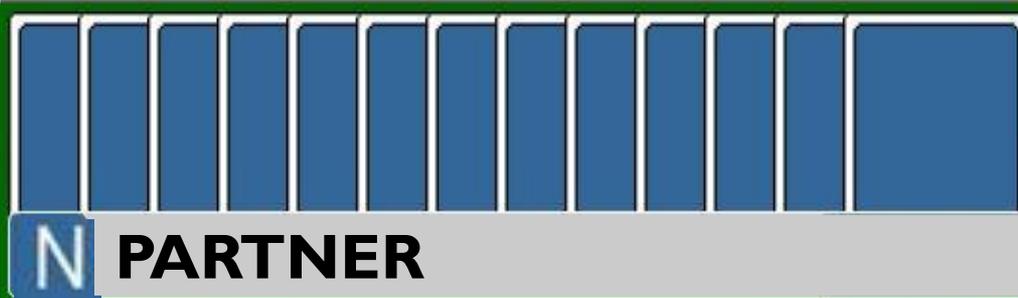
Response
to INT
overcall
2 of 3



W	N	E	S
1♥	1NT	Pass	3♠

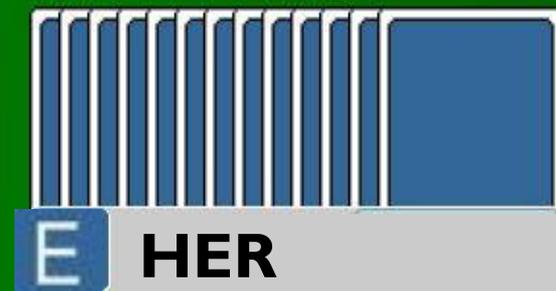


Response
to 1NT
overcall
3 of 3



W	N	E	S
1♥	1NT	Pass	3♠

UNBALANCED HAND
with points for GAME
Show your 5-card suit by bidding
at the 3-level



Questions?



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