

Eight over Eight

The eight over eight principle is a way of re evaluating your hand when deciding whether to bid on. Add up all the cards that are over 8 - requiring 8 cards bid again.

For example ; when partner raises 1NT to 2NT....Apply the 8 over 8 test to help decide whether to accept the invitation and go to game.

It is easy if you have a flat 15 points or a maximum 17 points, but how do you decide with a middle range, 16 points? Say yes, accept the invitation when you have 16 points with a decent 5 card suit, two four card suits or with a wealth of those valuable but un-point counted tens and nines.

No with ♠A97 ♥A863 ♦A72 ♣A76 (only 5 over 8)

Add a jack somewhere and you still should still probably decline the invitation

Yes with ♠A6 ♥KJ9 ♦AQJ7 ♣J 10 9 8

or ♠A8 ♥KJ9 ♦AJ7 ♣Q J 10 9 4

As a side note for every 10 attached to an honour you can add ½ a point in hand evaluation and that applies to this guideline also.

As always, what is important is a clear partnership agreement on the values needed to invite and bid game. Apply the 8 over 8 test to help find game wherever possible