OPENING ONE OF A SUIT

If it's too good to pass, and it doesn't qualify for any other opening bid, then you open one of a suit.

Hands opening one of a suit will have one of:-

5 - 4 shape
a six-card suit
balanced shape and 15 - 19 points
4-4-4-1 shape

Strength for an opening one of a suit is

rule of 20

(e.g. 5-4 or 6-3 shape and 11 points)

and less than 23 points.

Do not open one of a suit if

the hand is 12 - 14 balanced (open 1NT)
the hand is 20 - 22 balanced (open 2NT)
the hand is 23+ (open 2♣)
the hand contains a 6-card suit in diamonds, hearts or spades and 5 to 10 points (open a weak two)
the hand contains a 7-card suit and less than 10 points (open a weak three).

With 5-5 shape open the higher-ranking suit and plan to rebid in the lower-ranking.

With 6-4 shape open one of the 6-card suit and plan to rebid in the four-card suit.

4-4-4-1 hands are a special case.

See the sheet dedicated to such hands.

Some of the guidance on this page will be modified slightly when you adopt strong reverses.

When you open one of a suit you should always have your next bid planned.

With 5-4 shape you will open one of your 5-card suit and plan to rebid in your four-card suit.

With a 6-card suit and no other 4-card suit you will open one of your suit and plan to rebid in the same suit.

With 15+ points in a balanced hand you will open one of a suit and plan to rebid in no trumps.