

Approach to loose minor openings and transfer responses

| | | | |
|------|-------|-------------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1C | Pass | 1H (spades) | ? |

The canonical problem is that two balanced 13-counts might pass throughout. Other problems occur when a hand with clubs and values cannot act immediately, and when it eventually does act, partner does not know whether it is full value or just balancing.

“Standard Polish” defence to Polish Club is to double to show a Polish Club, e.g.

64 AJ73 AK5 Q942

would double a 1C opening. Some also use 1D as a distributional (but limited and therefore non-forcing) takeout of clubs, e.g.

J432 AQ97 KQ64 4

If you play this way, then you don't have the above problem, but you need some mechanisms for responding to the double.

A 2C overcall is natural, like a Polish 2C opening (with a stronger hand, you double, just as you would open 1C playing Polish). Polish Club uses 2D as a relay over its 2C opening; you can use 2D as a UCB (or play 2NT as forcing).

If you don't play this way, then fourth hand needs to act with a decent weak no trump. Hence:

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|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Double | Like double of a Multi – decent weak no trump or very strong. In later auction, club bids are natural, spades are the only cue bid. |
| 1S | Distributional takeout of spades. In later auction, club bids are natural, spades are the only cue bid. |
| 1NT | 15-18 or so. You probably do not need “system on” since second hand didn't overcall or double. |
| 2C | Suggest natural, but if you play as two-suited OK. |
| 2H | Natural. But if you play double as hearts, you need to know what hands double and what hands bid 2H. |
| 2S+ | As you play over a 1S response. But if you play 2C as two-suited, you should probably play 3C as natural (and intermediate). |

Different UCBs

If you do not play 2C as natural over a nebulous 1C, then you may need to show clubs after partner enters the auction.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 1C | Pass | 1H (hearts) | 1S |
| Pass | ? | | |
| 2C | Natural, NF | | |
| 2D | Clubs, forcing (can't be diamonds because you didn't overcall) | | |
| 2H | UCB | | |
| 2S | Less than a 2H bid | | |
| 2NT | Natural | | |
| 3C | Four-card spade raise | | |

General principle: the cheapest "impossible" bid shows clubs and is forcing.

Responding to second hand overcall

It is probably not worth giving up the standard UCB for the sake of being able to bid clubs naturally at the two level. However, it probably is worth playing:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| 1C | 1S | Pass | ? |
| 2NT | Clubs, weak or strong | | |
| 3C | Four-card spade raise | | |