

Penalty-seeking sequences

These occur when:

- We redouble a takeout double of partner's opening bid
- We double a natural no trump bid for penalty
- We create a game force and an opponent overcalls

Definitions

Aggressor Player who makes the initial double or redouble
Advancer Aggressor's partner

Principles

Advancer's pass means "Either I have my own penalty double, or I would not pass your penalty double".

Advancer's double means "I would pass your penalty double".

Aggressor then doubles if she would pass advancer's penalty double (or if she has her own penalty double, but she expects advancer to pull in that case).

Examples

West	North	East	South
Advancer		Aggressor	
1H	Dble	Rdble	2C
?			

West	North	East	South
Advancer		Aggressor	
	1NT	Dble	2C
?			

If West passes, she has a club stack or a club shortage that does not want to defend.

If West doubles, she typically has two or three clubs (maybe one with an otherwise very good defensive hand).

If advancer passes and then pulls aggressor's double, she shows extra values; if she does other than pass or double at the first opportunity her action is weak.

Hunting season – further examples

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dble	2♣	?

♠K643 ♥Q72 ♦J843 ♣76

Double – prepared to defend if North wants to defend

♠K643 ♥Q762 ♦J843 ♣7

Pass – not prepared to defend even if North wants to defend, but showing some values. Will remove North's double to 2♦, forcing for one round.

♠76 ♥Q72 ♦J843 ♣K643

Pass – wanting to defend unless North doesn't

♠8643 ♥8762 ♦9843 ♣7

2♦ - not prepared to defend, hoping for the best. You should probably make the same bid with 4=4=3=2 shape. Not forcing.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dble	2♣	Pass
Pass	?		

♠AQ87 ♥AJ10 ♦K10 ♣Q1092

Double – happy (putting it mildly) to defend if South has a stack. If the opponents are genuine, East will pass and South will probably pull with shortage, but that won't do you any harm since you know of some values opposite. If East runs, the same mechanism applies over any subsequent suit bid by the opponents.

♠AQ87 ♥AJ109 ♦KQ1095 ♣None

2♦ - not prepared to defend even if South has a stack. Forcing for one round.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Dble	2♣	Dble
Pass	?		

♠AQ87 ♥AJ109 ♦K10 ♣Q102

Pass – opponents are in an eight-card fit at most with less than half the deck.

♠AQ87 ♥AJ109 ♦KQ1095 ♣None

2♦ - no desire whatever to defend. Forcing for one round.