

Jim's Lessons Week 3 #6 – **Competing Against Opponent's 1NT.**

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 6 4 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ 9 7 5 3
♣ A 10 2

♠ A K
♥ K 9 8
♦ K J 10 6 4
♣ Q J 8



♠ Q J 10 5 3
♥ 10 6 4 3 2
♦ Q
♣ K 4

♠ 9 8 7
♥ J 5
♦ A 8 2
♣ 9 7 6 5 3

Makeable Contracts:

NS 3♥; NS 2♠; EW 1N; EW 2♦; EW 2♣;

Competing for part scores is very important. Many players are intimidated by the 1 NT bid. While you can use your own judgment a guideline might help.

One way to help judge the strength of your hand is to use Mel Colchamiro's rule know as **Mel's Rule** of 8.

Add your 2 longest suits. Subtract from that number the number of losers you have.

If the subtraction results in a number of 2 or more, then the player should decide to compete and make an overcall.

If the subtracted number is less than 2, then the player should not make an overcall, but decide to defend. There is one more requirement: Your hand should contain at least 6 points. It is from this number of minimum values that the designation for this particular rule is derived. A minimum of 6 points plus the maximum difference of 2 equals the number 8, hence the Rule of Eight.

In the hand above if South pass 1 NT bid by the West hand, then E/W can score +90. If South competes preferably with a bid showing hearts & spades then N/S might make +110 in spades or +140 in hearts.

Below are two examples to demonstrate this concept.

Example 1

♠ K 4 3
♥ A Q 5 3 2
♦ K 6 4
♣ 8 6

Example 2

♠ K 8 6 4 2
♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ 7 2
♣ 9

In Example 1 above, there are eight cards in the two long suits but seven losers (2 in spades, 2 in diamonds, 2 in clubs and 1 in hearts). Despite the fact you have 12 high card points you should pass. $8-7 = 1$

In Example 2 above, you have 10 cards in the two long suits and again have 7 losers. However $10 - 7 = 3$ and you have 6 points so you should compete. You can adjust according to your own comfort level/vulnerability/ etc.

This Rule can be used when the partnership is playing any form of conventional overcalls such as Brozel, Cappelletti, D.O.N.T, or Blooman. Even if you have the requirements for the Rule if your overcall is limited to only one suit I think you should have a bit more.