

## Ask Dwight for February 3, 2019 Newsletter

North opens 1NT. East bids 2D. South bids 2S.

**Question...Are all systems off?** Surely Stayman is off. But is there a way to transfer to those spades?

For example, South could possibly bid

- 3D - transfer to hearts?
- 2H - transfer to spades?
- 2S - transfer to minors?

Thanks Dwight,

Like Toknow

North

♠ A 6  
♥ K 10 7  
♦ J 8 4  
♣ A K 10 9 8

West      D V      East      V

♠ J 10 3      ♠ Q 5  
♥ 8 6 4 2      ♥ A Q 5  
♦ 5 3 2      ♦ A K Q 9 7 6  
♣ 7 4 3      ♣ 6 5

South      V      HCPs

♠ K 9 8 7 4 2      15  
♥ J 9 3      1 17  
♦ 10      7  
♣ Q J 2

[Monday morn, January 28, Board 4](#)

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### Response

Hi Like Toknow,

When the opponents interfere with any suit at the 2 level other than clubs all systems are generally off. If RHO makes a 2 - club o/c then systems can still be on with **double** being Stayman and other bids as you would always make including all transfers.

When the o/c is any of 2D, 2H, or 2S all bids at the 2 level should be natural and to play. Any bid made at the 3 level should be forcing and natural whether it is a jump or not. **Also, a cue bid of the overcalled suit should be Stayman and is forcing to game.**

An extension of those general guidelines is to add a little further twist, namely that 2 NT by responder is a transfer to 3C and responder can pass if they want to play a club partial or bid a suit below the overcalled suit which is then to play. The name for this system is **Lebensohl** and can be found in any bridge conventions book. As always there are a few more twists but the version I have explained above is almost always adequate.

#### **Just to explain why transfers are no longer on:**

If RHO makes a 2H overcall and you have a good hand with 4 or more hearts, you would prefer to make a penalty double rather than transfer to Spades. Other situations can easily arise when you as responder want to **double** the overcall. Hence it is generally more profitable to bid as I have suggested above. It covers virtually possible situations. As previously written, the only non-penalty double is a double of 2 clubs, which should be treated as Stayman.

I hope you find this helpful. Let me know if you have further questions.

**db.**