

## LESSON 15 – Two-over-One Game Forcing (2/1 GF)

In the "Standard American" system, if your partner opens 1♣ and you respond 2♦, it is natural indicating diamonds and 10+ HCP. If opener has 12+ HCP for his opening, that bid leaves you in "no-man's land." indicating the partnership has 22+. All it does is cause confusion as to whether or not game should be reached or whether you should pass below game level.

In the superior "2/1 GF" system, the response of 2♦ to partner's 1♣, promises an opening bid (13+). Now we have two opening bids facing each other, so game should be reached. Neither player can pass until game is reached. In its simplest terms, the "system" described as **2-over-1 game-forcing** refers to the following 6 bids;

1♦ - 2♣      1♥ - 2♣      1♥ - 2♦      1♣ - 2♣      1♣ - 2♦      1♣ - 2♥

These are the only 6 possible "2/1" auctions. Anything else would be either a raise (i.e., 1♥-2♥) or a jump-shift (i.e., 1♥-2♣). When responder uses a game-forcing "2-over-1" bid he is informing the opener that he, too, holds at least opening-bid values. Thus, the partnership should proceed to a "game" contract (i.e., neither player can pass until a game contract is reached). This does not mean that Game is guaranteed in a minor, however. Game in a minor (5♣ or 5♦) usually requires 29+ pts, but distribution is always a factor to be considered. Openers rebid should show his "shape," without implying HCP. Bidding is natural to best describe your hand.

***This system is not on if partner has "passed".*** The first bid must be by the dealer or the player in 2nd position. If there are 2 or more passes before the first player bids, then 2/1 GF response does not apply. Why? Seat 3 or 4 could be a weak opening and not totally reliable. ***This system also is not on if the opponents interfere (either with an overcall or a double).*** An overcall by your partner over a bid by an opponent may not indicate a full opening bid. For example:

YOU	OPPONENT	PARTNER	OPPONENT
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass

As opener, what do you rebid with the following hands?

A)	B)	C)	D)	E)	F)
♠ 5 4	♠ 3 2	♠ A K J 2	♠ A Q 3	♠ Q J 2	♠ A 2
♥ K Q 10 8 7 4	♥ Q J 10 8 7	♥ A Q 8 7 6	♥ K J 8 7 6	♥ Q 9 7 6 4	♥ A K Q J 9 8
♦ A J 3	♦ A 4	♦ A 5 4	♦ 9 8 7 6	♦ Q 9 2	♦ K 7 6
♣ K 4	♣ A Q 5 4	♣ 2	♣ K	♣ A Q	♣ 5 2

## ANSWERS

- A) 2♥ (Repeat the 6-card suit)
- B) 3♣ (Forcing, of course—until at least game is reached. No extras promised)
- C) 2♣ (Natural again – and just coincidental that you have extras)
- D) 2♦ (Just bid naturally—even though the suit is of poor quality)
- E) 2NT (Natural—also, not promising extras)
- F) 3♥ (An unnecessary jump should show a solid suit)

Assuming the bidding proceeded as follows:

PARTNER	OPPONENT	YOU	OPPONENT
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	???	

**As responder, what do you bid with these hands?**

G)	H)	I)	J)	K)
♠ K J 3	♠ 4 2	♠ 4	♠ 4 3	♠ K Q J
♥ A 2	♥ A Q J	♥ A 5	♥ A Q 2	♥ 10 3
♦ K Q 10 8 7	♦ A Q 8 7 6 5	♦ A K Q 10 8 7 2	♦ K Q J 10 8 2	♦ A Q 10 8 4
♣ 4 3 2	♣ A 7	♣ Q 3 2	♣ 5 2	♣ A Q 5

## ANSWERS

- G) 3NT
- H) 3♥ (Forcing, of course. Leave room for investigation)
- I) 3♦ (No need to rush into Blackwood)
- J) 4♥ (Most players use this jump to show a minimum with all the pictures in the suits bid.)
- K) 4NT (Quantitative)

Once you decide to use 2/1 Game Forcing bids, you must have an alternative to respond with fewer than 12 points (6 to 11 HCP)...Thus the complement bid in the 2 over 1 Game Force system is 1NT Forcing.

### Requirements for 1NT Forcing:

1. Responder must have 6-11 points
2. After a major suit opening bid (1♣ or 1♥) made in 1st or 2nd seat, a 1NT bid requires the opener to bid for one round. **Note: When Responder bids 1NT over a major suit opening bid, Opener must immediately say "Forcing" or "Forcing for one round" so opponents know that 1NT is an artificial bid that indicates as stated above.**
3. After a minor suit opening bid, 1NT is not forcing. Bidding a 1NT response after a minor suit opening denies a 4-card major and 6-9 pts. Opener can pass.
4. If Opener has 6 of his major suit, he should bid the major again at the 2 level.
5. Since Opener has already shown 5 of a major when he opens 1♣ or 1♥, his rebid in response to partner's 1NT Forcing bid is to bid a 4-card suit next.
6. Sometimes opener must bid his 5-card major suit, even though he has just 5 in that major. (say with a 5-3-3-2 distribution). Responder must be aware of that possibility.
7. Since, use the 1NT Forcing bid in the 2/1 Game Forcing system shows 6-11 HCP with no fit for the major opening bid, opener must make a forcing bid with an opening hand with 16+ HCPs. Otherwise, use your judgement to find the best possible (usually a partial) contract..

### In summary,

1. The opening bid must have been made by your partner in 1st or 2nd seat – no exceptions!
2. With 13+ HCP and a 4-card suit, here are the 2/1 Game Forcing bids"
  - 1♦ (Opener) > 2♣ by Responder
  - 1♥ (Opener) > 2♣ or 2♦ by Responder
  - 1♣ (Opener) > 2♣ or 2♦ or (2♥ requires 5 hearts) by Responder

It is not possible to show GF after a 1♣ opening bid.

3. Once a 2/1 response is made, both partners know that bidding should not stop until game is reached in a major or 3NT. Game may not be reachable in a minor with a 2/1 bid.
4. With 6 to 11 HCP, use 1NT Forcing