

Discards

1. No discard agreement.
2. Lavinthal (McKenney)
3. Revolving
4. Dodds
5. Odds & Even

No Discards

Many players do not play any particular system for discards (or signals) and prefer to make natural discards – in fact, as players progress and become more experienced, it is arguable one should be able to decide on what is going on, especially when you take in the bidding, without any! However, some tools can be beneficial, as we will hopefully see....

McKenney

With this agreement, the first discard is suit preference. You do not like the led suit, of course, and you do not like the suit discarded. Your suit preference signal tells partner which of the two remaining suits you prefer. A high card for the higher ranking of the remaining suits and a low card for the lower ranking.

This treatment is known as *Lavinthal* in the United States, or *McKenney* in the UK. The potential disadvantage of this method is that you always have to give preference for one suit or other, and you may not want any switch in particular. This can be overcome at times by signalling for an "impossible" switch, such as a suit in which dummy has a very strong holding e.g. AKQ.

Revolving Discard

As with McKenney, you have the possibility to request suit preference in two ways. A low discard indicates interest in the suit directly below (a low club signaling spades); a high discard signals preference for the suit directly above (a high spade signaling clubs).

In a suit contract, the trump suit is skipped in reading the signal. This is felt by many to be easier to remember than McKenney.

Dodds

With this agreement, the discard depends on both the colour of the suit card and its value.

So, a discard of an odd spot club, asks for the other black suit - ie. Spades.

a discard of an odd spot Spade card, asks for a Club.

a discard of an even spot Club, asks for a Club

a discard of an even spot Spade, asks for a Spade.

Conversely, the same applies to Red Suit discards.

Odd-Even

With this agreement, the first discard shows the following:

if it is an odd spot card (three, five, seven or nine) it is encouraging in that suit;

if it is a low even spot card (deuce or four), it is suit preference for the lower ranking suit of the other two suits;

if it is a high even spot card (six or eight), it shows preference for the higher ranking suit. The even card often has a dual function, in that, it not only indicates suit preference but it is also a negative indication for the suit being used for the even card.