

# Rule of 20

The Rule of 20 is a guideline for deciding whether to open the bidding. It attempts to refine traditional **high card point count** by also taking suit length into consideration. The rule is pretty simple: add your **high card points** plus the number of cards in your two longest suits. If the total is 20 or more, then the hand is worth an opening bid.

## Examples

♠ T8

♥ KT973

♦ 6

♣ AK865

10 HCP + 5 hearts + 5 clubs = 20. Open 1♥ in accordance with the Rule of 20.

♠ AQ9

♥ AJ63

♦ JT2

♣ 754

12 HCP + 4 hearts + 3 of any other suit = 19. Pass.

## Origins

The Rule of 20 was popularized by American expert **Marty Bergen** in the 1990s.