

Hand Evaluation

A recommended evaluation system for advancing players; more aggressive than Seagram's, as it counts length and shortness for dummy after an 8+card fit is found. Refinements may be added in future editions.

Process:

1. Determine if opening using "Opening Guidance"
2. Initial valuation: Add HCP and Length points; make Adjustment(s)
3. After fit is found: Add for Shortness and extra Declarer trump length

Opening Guidance:

- Open Rule of 20 hands (all seats)
- Open all 15 HCP balanced hands with 1NT (no adjustment)
- Open light in third seat (10-11 points) when:
 - ✓ enjoying favorable vulnerability and wanting your suit led, or
 - ✓ holding 7+cards in the majors.

HE Point System:

Initial Valuation	
HCP	A=4, K=3, Q=2, J=1
Length	+1 for each card in suit over 4
Adjust +1	Adjust -1
4441	4333
3+ Aces	No Ace ⁽¹⁾
4 of 5 top Honors in suit	Unprotected K, Q or J ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
3+Tens	4 or more points in Qs & Js ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾
Declarer's Reevaluation	
6 th or more in trump suit	+1 each
Shortness	Doubleton: +1, Singleton: +2, Void: +3
Dummy's Reevaluation	
Shortness	Subtract shortest suit length from number of trumps

"Dummy" is the hand with shorter trumps

⁽¹⁾ No adjustment if Partner shows opening balanced 1NT+ values

⁽²⁾ No adjustment if Partner bid suit

⁽³⁾ Do not count Q&J's in a suit with 4+Honors

**Suggested
HE Points
Required**

Contract	Points Required
3NT	25
4 of Major	26
5 of Minor	29
Small slam	33
Grand slam	37