

## New Minor Forcing for One Round (NMF)

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### Purpose

**New Minor Forcing** (for *at least* One Round) ("**NMF**") is useful when Partners (1) together have at least ~24 (~13 + 11) HCPs (respectively Opener >~12, and Responder >10), (2) the Opening Partner opens either 1**C**, 1**D**, or 1**H** (and, in one possible scenario, 1**S**), and (3) the Responding Partner initially responds either 1**H** or 1**S**. NMF keeps the conversation going within the Partnership that with ~24+ HCPs should be playing a contract, and does so in the hopes of finding (1) the best fit and (2) the optimal level of play: either a part score or a game score contract.

### Requirements

The Responder who pulls the trigger on the artificial NMF bid must hold at least 11 HCPs, and ideally the Responder holds either (1) 5 of the Responder's initially bid Major, and (2) 4 of the unbid Major. If Responder's points are pretty much in the Majors, Responder might pull the trigger in NMF with 10 HCPs. The primary goal of NMF is to find (1) a **4-4** fit in the unbid Major, or (2) a **3-5** 8-card fit in the bid Major, because when Opener bids a Minor, Responder bids 1 of a Major, *Responder holding 5 of Responder's bid Major does not know whether Opener holds 3 of the Responder's bid Major.* The forcing NMF bid, **always made by Responder**, demands that Opener show a 3-card holding in the unbid Major, if Opener has this holding.

### Variations

Some partnerships play NMF only in a scenario (Scenario **#1**) in which (a) Opener bids a Minor, (b) Responder bids a Major,

(c) Opener bids 1NT, and (d) **Responder** then bids NMF by bidding the **unbid Minor**. However, *some* partnerships also play NMF (Scenario #2) where (a) Opener first bids 1H, (b) Responder bids 1S, and (c) Opener then bids a Minor at the 2 level.

### Additional Resources

More information about NMF, and especially NMF in its more complex variations, can be found as Chapter 22 in the Barbara Seagram and Marc Smith book, 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know. A useful summary, "New Minor Forcing," can also be found on the Bridge Bum website:

<https://www.bridgebum.com/new-minor-forcing.php>

### Scenario #1: Opener Bids a Minor

In Scenario #1 the Opener Partner bids either 1C or 1D. At this point, *Responder* knows that Opener (1) holds at least ~12+ HCPs and (2) **does not hold** a 5-card Major. Responder then bids either 1H or 1S. *Opener* now (1) knows that Responder holds at least 4 cards in the bid Major, but Opener **does not know** (2) if Responder holds more than 4 of the bid Major, or (2) whether Responder holds only 6 or so points, versus more than 6 points.

Opener **opens the door** to Responder initiating the New Minor Forcing bidding sequence if, and only if, Opener then bids 1NT (e.g., O: 1C, R: 1S, O: 1NT). A 1NT bid by Opener tells Responder (1) "I do not have 4 of the Major you bid," and (2) "I do not have 5 of the Minor I opened, or I would have rebid my opening Minor."

**Only** the Responder can in this bidding sequence when a Minor was Opened then execute the New Minor Forcing bid by bidding the unbid Minor. Responder's bid of the unbid Minor is **TOTALLY ARTIFICIAL**, and makes *NO CLAIM WHATSOEVER* about Responder holding some or even any cards in the newly bid Minor. Therefore, **Responder's bid of the New Minor must be ALERTED as being artificial and NMF!!!!**

Thus, these 4 are all the possible NMF bids within Scenario #1 (i.e., when the Opener bids either 1C or 1D):

1. O: 1C; R: 1H; O: 1NT; R: 1D **ALERT!**
2. O: 1C; R: 1S; O: 1NT; R: 1D **ALERT!**
3. O: 1D; R: 1H; O: 1NT; R: 2C **ALERT!**
4. O: 1D; R: 1S; O: 1NT; R: 2C **ALERT!**

Responder executing the NMF convention tells the Opener that "I have 11+ HCPs." And in the NMF convention, the Responder is then *demanding more information from the Opener*, and indeed is "**forcing**" the Opener to provide further information by bidding at least 1 more time. **Opener's duty** is to provide this additional information to Responder in the following **strict priority order**.

1. Show Responder more information about distribution fit in the **Majors**.
2. Show Responder additional **HCP strength** by bidding 3NT if Opener has a strong hand and stoppers in both the **unbid Major** and the artificial Responder's **NMF bid Minor**.
3. Show Responder that Opener does not have #1, #2, but does hold a stopper in both the "new Minor" and possibly the Opening bid Minor, but holds a weak hand, by bidding 2NT.
4. Very rarely, since the partnership holds ~24+ HCPs, Opener does not have #1, #2, or #3, and holds a modest (roughly 12 HCP) hand with a long Minor, and Opener then shows this by re-bidding a Minor.

### **Opener's Hierarchy of Bidding Choices**

1. If you as Opener hold **4 of the unbid Major**, then **bid the unbid Major**. If you do not hold 4 of the unbid Major, then...
2. If you as Opener hold **3 of Responder's bid Major**, then **bid Responder's originally bid Major**, in case when Responder bid 1 of Responder's bid Major, showing 4 or more of that Major, Responder *actually held* 5 of Responder's bid Major, and our Partnership holds the magic 8 (3-5) cards in the bid Major. If you do not hold **3 of Responder's bid Major**, then...
3. If you as Opener **do not hold** either (1) **4 of the unbid Major**, or (2) **3 of the bid Major**, but you **do hold a \*BIG\* hand** (knowing that Responder holds >10 HCPs), and you as Opener hold stoppers in both the 2 suits not bid during the first two bids, or at least a stopper in your originally bid Minor, then **bid 3NT**. If not, then...
4. If you as Opener **do not hold** either (1) **4 of the unbid Major**, or (2) **3 of the bid Major**, but you **do hold a \*MINIMAL\* hand**, with stoppers in both the 2 suits not bid during the first two bids, then **bid 2NT**. If not, then...
5. Very rarely, since the partnerships holds 24+ HCPs, if you as Opener **do not hold** either (1) **4 of the unbid Major**, or (2) **3 of the bid Major**, or (3) a hand with stoppers in the two originally unbid suits, but you hold 5+ of Responder's NMF artificial Minor bid, then **bid** the artificially bid Minor.

## Scenario #2: Opener Bids 1H, Responder Bids 1S

Some (few) partnerships play an O: 1H, R: 2S, O: 1NT, and R: new minor also as New Minor Forcing. There are two variations on this sequence in Scenario #2.

First, some partnerships play "better Minor" (either 2C or 2D) as the Responder's NMF bid. This usually requires that the "better" bid Minor must contain a stopper, in case the Partnership later wishes to explore a NT contract.

Second, some partnerships play a 2C bid by Responder as always being a NMF bid, which may be artificial (and thus **MUST** be alerted), but also may show Clubs, while a 2D bid by Responder always shows Diamonds.

In either case, in Scenario #2 the Opener's duty is to respond to the same NMF hierarchy of Responder's "forcing" information demands as in NMF Scenario #1.