

Isn't it annoying when opponents make an overcall after partner opens 1NT (15-17)? For example, 1NT followed by right-hand opponent's **two spades** puts responder in a dilemma. Lebensohl offers an improved way to cope with such direct seat interference.

Transfers are off. But otherwise (as captain of the hand) responder can still convey **sign off**, **invitational**, or **game forcing** strength. In addition, depending on whether responder employs an artificial response of 2NT, Lebensohl **reveals the presence or absence of a stopper** in opponents' suit. That's not all: Stayman is still available by cue bidding opponents' suit. **Double by responder is used for penalty.**

Lebensohl does not usually apply to an overcall of **two clubs**, since it does not interfere with your communication. In that case, double can be used as Stayman and Jacoby Transfers are still on. Agree with your partner whether to omit two clubs from your use of Lebensohl.

Notice that going through the artificial bid of 2NT is responder's way to indicate a stopper in opponents' suit. Here are the possible sequences of responder's bids and their meanings for each relevant overcall:

Open	Overcall	Responder	After Relay to 3C
1NT	2C	X=Stayman Systems on	
	2D	X=penalty 2H natural to play 2S natural to play <b>2NT forces opener to rebid 3C to play or:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           3D=Stayman  <b>w/stopper</b>            3H invitational 5/6            3S invitational 5/6            3NT game <b>w/stopper</b> </div>
		3C Invitational to game	

3D=Stayman **w/o stopper**

3H forcing w/ 5+

3S forcing w/ 5+

3NT game **w/o stopper**

2H

X=penalty

2S natural to play

**2NT forces opener to rebid 3C to play or:**

3D Natural to play

3H Stayman **w/stopper**

3S invitational 5/6

3NT game **w/stopper**

3C/3D invitational

3H Stayman **w/o stopper**

3S forcing w/ 5+

3NT game **w/o stopper**

2S

X=penalty

**2NT forces opener to rebid 3C to play or:**

3D Natural to play

3H Natural to play

3S Stayman **w/stopper**

3NT game **w/stopper**

3C/3D invitational

3H forcing w/ 5+

3S Stayman **w/o stopper**

3NT game **w/o stopper**