

Unusual vs Unusual (Michaels vs Michaels)

When the opponents show a two suiter below the 3-level after our side has opened one of a suit, we play that simple responses in “our” suits as simply competitive and cuebids in their suits show invitational values or better. The lower cuebid corresponds to the lower of our suits and the higher cuebid corresponds to the higher of our suits.

The strength requirements for a competitive bid in an unbid suit depends on how high one has to go to make the bid. 1C (2C) 2D can be the equivalent of a very weak two diamond bid but a 3S bid after 1H (2H) borders on the strength of an invitational bid.

Doubles show interest in doubling one of the opponent’s suits and willingness to defend against the other of the opponent’s suits.

1♣ (2♣) 2♦: competitive
1♣ (2♣) 2♥: clubs, invitational or better
1♣ (2♣) 2♠: diamonds, invitational or better
1♣ (2♣) 3♣: competitive

1♦ (2♦) 2♥: clubs, invitational or better
1♦ (2♦) 2♠: diamonds, invitational or better
1♦ (2♦) 3♣: competitive
1♦ (2♦) 3♦: competitive

1♥ (2♥) 2♠: hearts, invitational or better
1♥ (2♥) 3♣: natural, forcing
1♥ (2♥) 3♦: natural, forcing
1♥ (2♥) 3♥: competitive

1♠ (2♠) 3♣: natural, forcing
1♠ (2♠) 3♦: natural, forcing
1♠ (2♠) 3♥: spades, invitational or better
1♠ (2♠) 3S: competitive

If the major cuebid shows two specific suits then Michaels vs Michaels applies.

It does not have to be a cuebid to apply. 1♣ (2♦) showing some two suiter would also trigger our defenses. 1♦ (3♣) would be too high.

1♣ (2NT) 3♣: competitive
1♣ (2NT) 3♦: clubs, practically a game force
1♣ (2NT) 3♥: spades, invitational or better
1♣ (2NT) 3♠: competitive

1♦ (2NT) 3♣: diamonds, invitational or better
1♦ (2NT) 3♦: competitive
1♦ (2NT) 3♥: spades, invitational or better
1♦ (2NT) 3♠: competitive

1♥ (2NT) 3♣: hearts, invitational or better
1♥ (2NT) 3♦: spades, invitational or better
1♥ (2NT) 3♥: competitive
1♥ (2NT) 3♠: competitive

1♠ (2NT) 3♣: hearts, invitational or better
1♠ (2NT) 3♦: spades, invitational or better
1♠ (2NT) 3♥: competitive
1♠ (2NT) 3♠: competitive

Submitted by Bill Kent