

Defensive Tactics

A Concise Compilation

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Study the auction to decide whether to make an **active** or a **passive** lead. If the Auction was **aggressive**, make an **active** lead. If the auction was **passive**, do NOT make an aggressive lead; make a **passive** one. If partner rates to be **broke**, make a **passive** lead.

The lead card is itself a **signal**. **Low** from Interest, **top** of nothing, **top** of an honor **sequence**.

When partner leads an **Ace** from AK, or **King** from KQ you must give **attitude**. It does not matter how you do it, just do it!

If partner leads **Low** from interest against No Trump or a suit contract, play your **highest** card. If you cannot **beat** the Dummy, give **count**.

Against a **suit** contract, if you expect partner to **ruff**, the **size** of the card you return for the ruff is **Suit Preference**.

Partner's **first discard** against No Trump or a Suit contract is a **signal**. It does not matter whether you play **Upside Down** or **Standard** discards.

Unblock, Unblock, Unblock! When partner leads the top of a high honor sequence and you hold Kx or Qx, **overtake** with your honor and return the suit.

When defending No Trump, if partner leads an **Ace**, it promises 4 of the top 5 honors. If you hold the **missing** honor, you must drop it. If you do **not** have it, you must give **count**.

When defending a **suit** contract, if partner leads A from AK, and you hold QJxx, you must play the **Queen**. This tactic allows your partner to put you on **lead**.

Lead toward **weakness** in the Dummy on subsequent leads. If partner makes a **top** of nothing lead, return Dummy's **weakest** suit if you gain the lead. ♣