

THE STAYMAN TWO CLUB CONVENTION

The purpose of the Stayman Convention is to allow us to find a 4-4 fit in a major suit after an opening bid of 1 No Trump, 2 No Trump, or 3 No Trump. It is named for Sam Stayman, the New York expert who developed this convention. Stayman is considered the most important convention in bridge after Blackwood.

REQUIREMENTS

At least one four-card major
8 or more high-card points
One or more points in distribution

The Stayman bid in response to 1 No Trump is 2 Clubs. This bid is artificial which means you may or may not have length in the Club Suit. It is not related to the Club Suit. It asks partner, "Did you open the bidding with a four-card major suit?" It is a forcing bid and partner must answer. The answers are:

2 Spades with four or more Spades
2 Hearts with four or more Hearts
2 Diamonds with neither major
2 Spades with both majors*
OPENER MAY NOT MAKE ANY BID EXCEPT 2H, 2S, OR 2D!

*Note: Some experts bid Hearts first, Root suggests you bid your strongest Major first.

After the Opening Bidder answers your 2 Club question, you now know whether or not you have a major suit fit. If you have a fit you will: Raise partner to 3 Spades or 3 Hearts with 8 or 9 points; Jump to 4 Spades or 4 Hearts with 10 to 14 points. Without a trump fit you will: Raise partner to 2 No Trump with 8 or 9 Points; Jump to 3 No Trump with 10 to 14 points.

Remember: We only use Stayman when we have 8 points or more and a four-card major suit. You cannot use Stayman with less points because if partner does not have the suit you are looking for, you **MUST** have enough points to bid 2 No Trump. You do not need any points in the Major Suit, only four of them

STAYMAN CONVENTION

2 Clubs asks, Do you have a 4-card Major?
With Fit: 8 or 9 Points, Bid 3S or 3H
 10 to 14 Points, Bid 4S or 4H
No Fit: 8 or 9 Points, Bid 2 No Trump
 10 to 14 Points, Bid 3 No Trump