

Structured Planning the Play of the Hand At Bridge

Introduction

After the defender on the left played his leading card and dummy has spread his cards on the table, the declarer can use several techniques (tools) to make the contract. How should he plan his game and what technique should he use?

This book offers the Bridge fans, starting at the beginning level through the intermediate level and even on for the little more advanced ones, a systematic way of planning their play of the hand by using structured planning. Meaning, planning the play of the hand the way a computer program would plan it: Determining the checking sequence of the suitability of the techniques to the holding of the cards, and stating the different decisions (if...then...else) to be taken throughout the checking process, until the right technique is concluded. Experienced Bridge players while planning their play of the hand actually do it intuitively due to the long experience they have gained and due to their natural capabilities.

Exercising the use of the structured planning of play of the hand persistently, will bring finally to the applying of this system naturally and will produce more achievements to its users.

The system principles:

The techniques should be checked one by one in the sequence brought below. If the technique is found to be adequate it is applied, otherwise the next technique is checked. There is no advantage by applying a later technique throughout the checking sequence if a previous one has been found adequate. It is because in most of the cases it will not produce a better result but might endanger the success of the contract. Also care should be taken of pitfalls, and mines should be identified which might cause a deviation from different rules in the way the play of the hand is carried out, and might even impose to proceed with the checking process. The meaning of the terms "Pitfall" and "Mine" will be explained later.

The first decision in the planning, meaning the checking process, is made according to the nature of the contract: A suit contract versus a no trump contract. For a no trump contract the techniques in the group of a no trump contract below should be checked, otherwise the techniques in the group of a suit contract below should be checked.

The checking sequence of the techniques in a no trump contract:

1. Promotion
2. Conceding the hand to the defenders
3. End play
4. Finessing
5. Squeeze

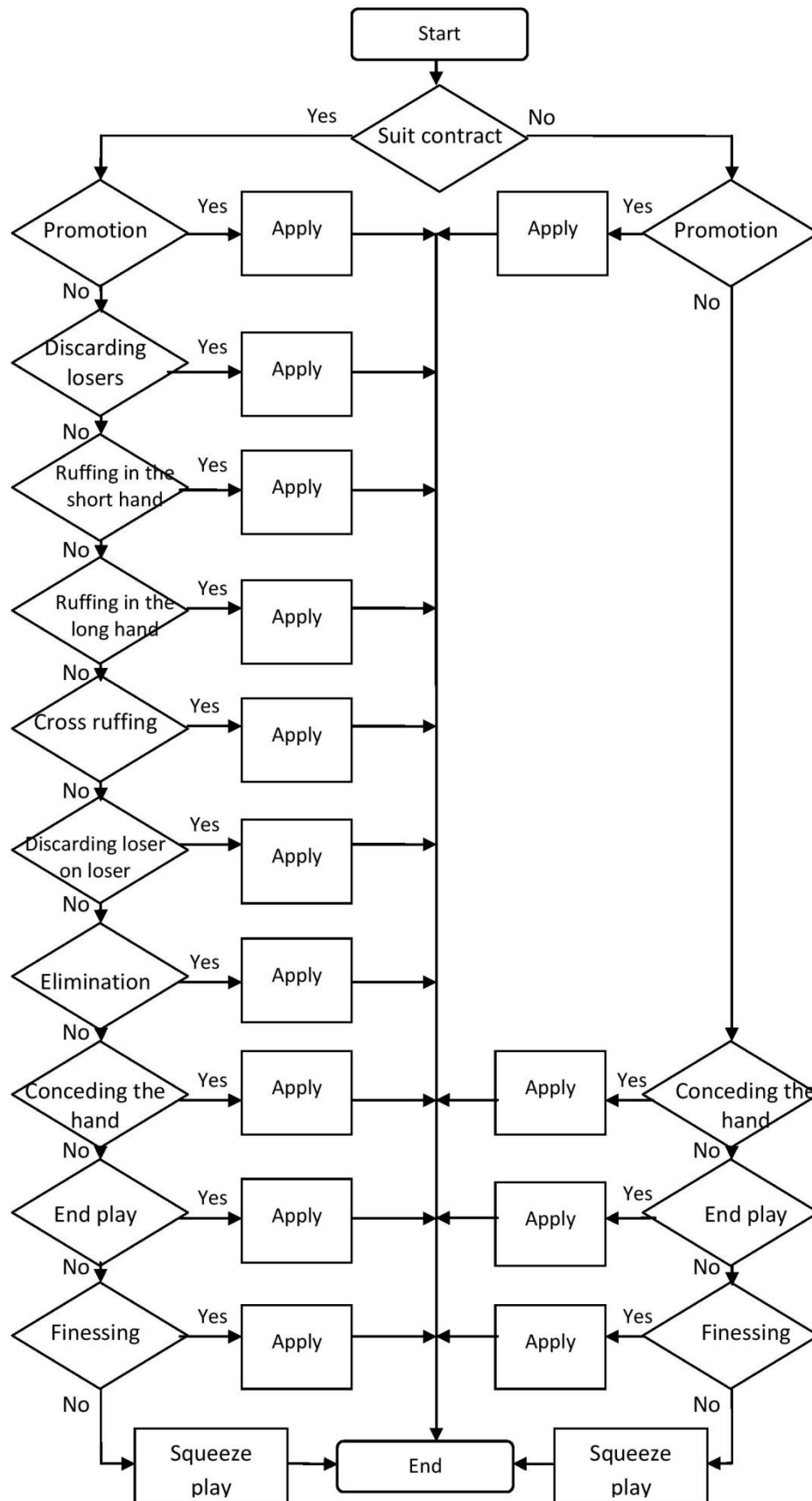
The checking sequence of the techniques in a suit contract:

1. Promotion
2. Discarding losers

3. Ruffing in the short hand
4. Ruffing in the long hand
5. Crossruffing
6. Loser on loser discarding
7. Elimination
8. Conceding the hand to the defenders
9. End play
10. Finessing
11. Squeeze

One can notice that the difference between the two groups of techniques above is that between the promotion technique and the conceding the hand to the defenders technique there are six more techniques for a suit contract. The five equal techniques in the two groups are checked at the same sequence (though the checking considerations of each technique of the five differ between the two groups).

The system's flowchart diagram follows:



The diagram above is an overall diagram. In a more detailed diagram every shape of an action (rectangle) or decision (rhombus) contains several more shapes of actions and decisions.

How the plays go on is described in the book by means of a table as follows:

Tricks	West	North	East	South	Winnings	Remarks
1	♠ 9 ²	♠ T ³	♠ Q ⁴	♠ <u>A</u> ¹	1	
2	♥ <u>A</u> ²	♥ K ³	♥ 7 ⁴	♥ 8 ¹		
3	♣ 2 ¹	♣ <u>A</u> ²	♣ J ³	♣ 5 ⁴	2	
4	♦ 3 ⁴	♦ 6 ¹	♦ 4 ²	♦ J ³	3	
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						

The small digits to the right of the characters of the cards played, denote the sequence the cards are laid on the table starting with the leading one (¹) and ending with the last one (⁴).

A bold underscore signifies the winning card.

If the reader finds it more convenient to use a deck of cards in order to follow the way the play goes on he is absolutely encouraged to do it.

Links to buy:

Lulu.com

Barnesandnoble.com

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