Generalized 3-way Lebensohl (G3LBS)

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1 Abstract

Existing variants of Lebensohl focused on 3 cases: 1NT overcalled; double over 2-level open; and non-GF reverse. Some also forgoes invitational cases when suit is lower than opponents' suit. The generalization here extends it to apply whenever the bidding is below 2NT, no better system on (e.g. relays), and the bidding is possible to land on partial and game contracts, resulting in a memory-saving and effective competitive auction approach.

2 The 3-way Plan

Signoff (SO), invitational (GI), and game-forcing (GF) suit bids are generally avaiable in this scheme.

1. SO: bid suit at 2-level, or one step below the 3-level suit bid.

2. GI: bid 2NT, then stop at the suit at 3-level when it is a non-compulsory bid, GI with ♣ case is included

3. GF: bid suit at 3-level, or perform the symbollic GF sequences of Lebenshol:

    - no 4M nor stopper: 3NT
    - 4M but no stopper: cuebid
    - no 4M but stopper: 2NT, then 3NT
    - 4M and stopper: 2NT, then cuebid

This can be regarded as a rule to bid 2NT when there is stopper in opponents' suit, with exception when opponents has no suit or ♣ suit.

2.1 Typical Schemes

2.1.1 2♠-X-P-?

Suit	SO	GI	FG
♣	2NT, P	(n/a)	3♣
♦	3♣, P	2NT, 3♦	3♦
♥	3♦, P	2NT, 3♥	3♥
4♥	3♦, P	2NT, 3♥	(2NT,) 3♠
no M	(SO at minor)	(n/a)	(2NT,) 3NT

2.1.2 2♥-X-P-?

Suit	SO	GI	FG
♣	2NT, P	(n/a)	3♣
♦	3♣, P	2NT, 3♦	3♦
♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	3♠
4♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	(2NT,) 3♥
no M	(SO at minor)	(n/a)	(2NT,) 3NT

2.1.3 2♦-X-P-?

Suit	SO	GI	FG
♣	2NT, P	(n/a)	3♣
♥	2♥	2NT, 3♥	3♥
♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	3♠
4♥	2♥	2NT, 3♥	(2NT,) 3♦
4♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	(2NT,) 3♦
no M	(SO at minor)	(n/a)	(2NT,) 3NT

2.1.4 2♣-X-P-?

Suit	SO	GI	FG
♦	2♦	2NT, 3♦	3♦
♥	2♥	2NT, 3♥	3♥
♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	3♠
4♥	2♥	2NT, 3♥	3♣
4♠	2♠	2NT, 3♠	3♣
no M	(SO at minor)	(n/a)	(2NT,) 3NT

3 Generalizations

3.1 Super Accepts

For SO or ♣ GI, there is a need to super accept to ensure bidding does not quit by partner's planned pass. All super accept bids are GF.

- #2: waiting (implies major fit if lack room to check the possible major, otherwise bit 3NT)
- cuebid: stopper-ask
- 3NT: no major fit
- more: natural

Take 1NT-2♠-? as example:

Bid	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT
2NT	waiting	♥	s/a	(avoided)
3♣	(normal)	waiting	s/a	(avoided)
3♦	(n/a)	(normal)	♥ fit	no ♥ fit

3.2 Cuebid on ♣ Suit

When ♣ is the suit to cuebid, to replenish the 2NT slow pattern, the 3♦ response can be used:

- 3♦: ♣ stopper
- 3♥: no ♣ stopper, check ♥ fit
- 3♠: no ♣ stopper, check ♠ fit
- 3NT: no ♣ stopper, no M fit

3.3 No Suit to Cuebid

When opponents do not show any 5+card suit, treat 3♣ as opponents' suit. A ♣ suit strong case can be merged into 3♣, using 3♦ response to show preference of 5♣ over 3NT.

- 3♦: 5♣ preference
- 3♥: no 5♣ preference, check ♥ fit
- 3♠: no 5♣ preference, check ♠ fit
- 3NT: no 5♣ preference, no M fit

The no major GF case can also include an extra breakdown of meaning:

- 2NT-then-3NT if honors distributes evenly across suits
- direct 3NT if honors distributes unevenly across suits

3.4 Suit Selection

When another suit is shown, and the transferred suit is not responder's suit, responder may choose a previously shown suit, without a GF meaning. This signoff has higher priority than any super accepts.

Take 1♠-P-2♦-2♥-? as example:

Bid	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT
2NT	♦ SO	♠ fit	♠ SO	no ♠ fit
3♣	♦ NF	♠ fit	♠ SO	no ♠ fit

Take 1♥-P-2♦-2♠-? as example:

Bid	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT
2NT	♦ SO	♥ SO	♥ fit	no ♥ fit
3♣	♦ NF	♥ SO	♥ fit	no ♥ fit
3♦	(n/a)	♥ NF	♥ fit	no ♥ fit

Take 1♣-P-1♦-2♠-? as example:

Bid	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT
2NT	♦ SO	♥ GF	s/a	catch all
3♣	♦ NF	♥ GF	s/a	catch all
3♦	(n/a)	♥ NF	♥ fit	no ♥ fit

3.5 Enhance Major Fit Test from 4-card to Sub-optimal Length

Optimal length for a major suit is extended to be:

- new suit: 5+ cards
- partner min length: 8 - (min length)
- partner max length: 8 - (max length) + 1
- self max length: max length
- self min length: min length + 2

Sub-optimal length is optimal length minus 1. Examples:

- 1♥-P-1♠-2♣-?, to show GF:
    - 7+♥s: 3♥
    - 4+♠s: 3♠
    - 6♥s or 3♠s: 3♣
- 1♥-P-1♠-2♣-P-P-?, to show GF:
    - 3+♥s: 3♥
    - 6+♠s: 3♠
    - 2♥s or 5♠s: 3♣
- 1NT-P-2♣-P-2♦-2♠-?, to show GF:
    - 6+♥s: 3♥
    - 5♥s: 3♠

4 Situations Explained

4.1 Opening Overcalled

The most basic and common examples are direct overcalls:

4.2 Relay Break

4.3 Michaels Cuebid

4.4 Opening overcalled