

Kokish 3-Way Game-Tries

This convention is due to Eric Kokish. It applies when an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ has been raised to 2, and the next player passes. A partnership should agree on whether the convention applies in competition. <http://www.doublesqueeze.com/2008/09/three-way-kokish-game-tries.html>.

The Agreement

- The next available bid, 2N over 2♠, or 2♠ over 2♥ is a reverse help-suit game try; partner is asked to cue-bid the cheapest suit in which he would accept a help-suit game try, or to bid 3 of the trump suit as a negative response.
- Any other non-jump bid below 3 of the trump suit is a short-suit game try. When the agreed suit is ♥, 2N is a surrogate short-suit try in ♠.
- 3 of the trump suit is a trump-suit game try asking partner to bid game with good trumps.

<u>Spades Trump</u>		<u>Hearts Trump</u>	
1♠	2♠	1♥	2♥
2N	Reverse help-suit try	2♠	Reverse help-suit try*
3♣	Short-suit try	2N	Short-suit try, ♠ (2N surrogate)
3♦	Short-suit try	3♣	Short-suit try
3♥	Short-suit try	3♦	Short-suit try
3♠	Trump-suit try	3♥	Trump-suit try
			*Responder accepts in ♠ by bidding 2N

Responses

Short-suit Game Try

- Responder declines the game try by bidding 3 of the agreed trump suit
- Responder accepts the game try by jumping to 4 of the agreed trump suit or, may cue-bid a side-suit control in case opener really has a slam try.

Help-suit Game Try

- Responder declines the game try by bidding 3 of the agreed trump suit.
- When responder cue-bids an acceptance suit, he denies the ability to accept in a lower suit.
- When responder cue-bids an acceptance suit, opener may rebid 3 of the agreed trump suit or jump to 4, in either case to play there.
- When there is an intervening suit between responder's acceptance suit and the agreed trump suit, opener may make a secondary help-suit try by cue-bidding that suit directly.

1♠	2♠	1♥	2♥
2N	3♣ Would accept game try in ♣	2♠	2N Would accept game try in ♠
3♦/3♥	Secondary help-suit try in ♦/♥	3♣/3♦	Secondary help-suit try in ♣/♦
1♠	2♠	1♥	2♥
2N	3♦ Would accept game try in ♦	2♠	3♣ Would accept game try in ♣
3♥	Secondary help-suit try in ♥	3♦	Secondary help-suit try in ♦