

The concept of "Ceiling":

Ceiling is defined as the contract we would prefer not to pass unless we are trying for a slam. The ceiling is a specified contract as follows:

If a Minor suit fit has been established, the ceiling is 3 No Trump (or 4 NT if we are already past 3 NT).

If a Major suit fit has been established, the ceiling is 4 in the Major.

If no fit has been established, the ceiling is normally 3 No Trump.

If no fit has been established, but we know we are going to play in a Major (i.e. after a 2nd opening), the ceiling is 4.

The concept of the ceiling is relevant in several situations:

The "0 or 3 aces" step in RKCB is never above the ceiling.

After a 1-suited preemptive opening you need 2 aces (out of 5) to pass the ceiling if partner uses RKCB.

The "No feature" (normally "No short suit") step in LoHiNo is never above the ceiling.