

Did ye know?

That there are guidelines to determine what sort of hand qualifies for a strong club or artificial 2-level opening (Benji 2C, 2D). It must satisfy ONE of the following criteria:

Minimum of 16 high card points

Hand that meets the Rule of 25 (see below)

Hand contains as a minimum the normal high card strength of 1-level opening bid plus minimum of 8 clear tricks

Rule of 25 = number of high card points (HCP) + total length of 2 longest suits \geq 25

For example, if you hold a 6 card suit headed by AKQ plus 2 outside Aces, the HCP total is 17, length of 2 longest suits is 6 + 3 (at least e.g. 6-3-2-2 shape or 6-4-2-1), which equals $17+9 = 26$.

However, a hand containing a single 8 card suit headed by the AKQJ, with no values in outside suits, does not meet this rule - $10\text{HCP} + \text{length of 2 longest suits (assuming 8-2-2-1)} = 10+ 8 + 2 = 20$. (Incidentally you should consider opening this hand with a 4-level opening e.g. 4H).