

## COURSING ORDER

Coursing order is something to use throughout your ringing career. It has a precise definition with respect to Plain Hunt, but it is useful in ringing most methods we ring (Stedman is the main exception to this). You should memorize it so that it rolls off your tongue and you know where your bell falls in the coursing order when you stand up to ring a method. When learning a new method, one of the things to look at is where a bell's course and after bells interact with it.

**Definition of Coursing Order:** The order in which the bells come to the front or back in Plain Hunt (i.e., 531246 in Minor). In a method, the coursing order omits the treble and is constant through all leads of the method (i.e., 53246 in Plain Bob Minor).

In more complex methods, the coursing order is defined by the same transformation from the lead head (the backstroke of the treble's whole pull lead) as in Plain Hunt and Plain Bob, even when the paths of bells may not actually be coursing for significant parts of the lead. When calls are made, the coursing order changes, and the new coursing order can be derived from the lead head that follows the call. Thus a lead head of 146352 gives a coursing order of 56432.

The coursing order extends logically on higher numbers of bells. The plain course coursing order on 8 bells is 75312468 for Plain Hunt, or 7532468 for other methods.

The coursing order can be stated starting with any bell. Below are two common ways of thinking of it. Note that the treble is not shown. Other than in Plain Hunt, it's usually doing something different from the other bells, so is not included in the coursing order. If thinking of Plain Hunt, simply insert the treble between the 3 and the 2 (so 3 1 2 4 for Plain Hunt on 4).

### Coursing orders on 4 through 12 bells

Number of Bells	Down the Odds/Up the Evens	Up the Evens/Down the Odds
4	3 2 4	2 4 3
5	5 3 2 4	2 4 5 3
6	5 3 2 4 6	2 4 6 5 3
7	7 5 3 2 4 6	2 4 6 7 5 3
8	7 5 3 2 4 6 8	2 4 6 8 7 5 3
9	9 7 5 3 2 4 6 8	2 4 6 8 9 7 5 3
10	9 7 5 3 2 4 6 8 0	2 4 6 8 0 9 7 5 3
11	e 9 7 5 3 2 4 6 8 0	2 4 6 8 0 e 9 7 5 3
12	e 9 7 5 3 2 4 6 8 0 t	2 4 6 8 0 t e 9 7 5 3

Two important terms related to coursing order are:

**Course Bell:** The bell before you in the coursing order. For example, on 5 bells, the 5's course bell is the 4, and on 6 bells, the 5's course bell is the 6.

**After Bell:** The bell after you in the coursing order. For example, on 5 bells, the 5's after bell is the 3, and on 6 bells, the 5's after bell is also the 3.