

## Laws 45 - 47 : Playing a card

*We are often called to the table to adjudicate on whether a card has been played (or not).*

*This could be by a defender, declarer or a card played from dummy.*

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### Law 45A Play of card from a hand

**Each player except dummy plays a card by detaching it from his hand and facing it on the table immediately before him.**



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### **Law 45B Play of Card from Dummy**

**Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table.**

Players should be trained not to help themselves to cards as dummy, before instructed to do so.

Declarers should be encouraged to name cards properly. It saves much time in sorting things out after incorrect terminology like “low” and “high” has been used.

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### **Law 45C Card Deemed to be Played**

- 1. A defender's card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face is deemed played to the current trick.**
- 2. Declarer is deemed to have played a card from his hand if it is**
  - (i) held face up, touching or nearly touching the table; or**
  - (ii) Maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played.**

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### **Law 45C Card Deemed to be Played**

3. A card in the **dummy** is played if it has been deliberately touched by declarer except for the purpose of arranging dummy's cards.
4. A card is played if a player names or otherwise designates it as the card he proposes to play.

Declarer may correct an unintended designation of a card from dummy until he next plays a card from either hand. A change in designation may be allowed after a slip of the tongue, but not a loss of concentration or reconsideration of action.

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### **Law 45F Dummy Indicates Card**

After dummy's hand is faced, dummy may not touch or indicate any card (except for the purpose or arrangement) without instruction from declarer.

If he does so the Director is called. Play continues. At the end of play the Director shall award an adjusted score if he considers dummy suggested a play to declarer and the defenders were damaged by the play suggested.

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## **Law 46 Incomplete or Invalid Designation of a Card from Dummy**

- A. When calling for a card to be played from dummy declarer should clearly state both the suit and the rank of the desired card.**
- B. Incomplete or Invalid Designation**  
Law 46B prescribes the action to take with an incomplete designation.

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- *If declarer calls “**high**” he is deemed to have called the **highest** card of the suit led.*
- *If he directs dummy to “**win**” he is deemed to have called the **lowest** card that is known to win the trick.*
- *If he calls “**low**” he is deemed to have called the **lowest** card of the suit led.*
- *If declarer designates a **suit** but not a rank he is deemed to have called the **lowest** of that suit.*
- *If declarer designates a **rank** but not a suit, declarer is deemed to have **continued** the suit that won the previous trick in dummy.*
- *If declarer calls for a card **not in dummy** the call is invalid and declarer may designate **any legal card**.*
- *If declarer says “**play anything**” **either defender** may designate the play from dummy.*

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