

Leads and Plays Out of Turn

Laws 53 - 59

1

Law 53A Lead Out of Turn Treated as Correct Lead

Prior to the thirteenth trick, any lead faced out of turn may be treated as a correct lead. It becomes a correct lead if declarer or either defender, as the case may be, accepts it by making a statement to that effect, or if a play is made from the hand next in rotation to the irregularity.

Law 53B Proper Lead Made Subsequent to Irregular Lead

If it was properly the turn to lead of an opponent of the player who led out of turn, that opponent may make his proper lead to the trick of the infraction without his card being deemed played. When this happens the proper lead stands and all card played in error to this trick may be withdrawn.

East has won a trick however South leads to the next trick. East doesn't notice South's lead and makes what he thought was his legal lead. East's lead stands, South's card is withdrawn.

2

Law 54 Faced Opening Lead Out of Turn

- A. Declarer may spread his hand, he becomes dummy. If declarer begins to spread his hand, and exposes one or more cards, he must spread his entire hand. Dummy becomes declarer.
- B. Declarer may accept the FOLOOT, and dummy is tabled. The second card to the trick is played from declarers hand.
- C. If declarer could have seen any of dummy's cards he must accept the lead, and presumed declarer becomes declarer.
- D. Declarer may require a defender to retract his FOLOOT. The withdrawn card becomes a major penalty, the lead goes back to offender's partner and Law 50 applies to the major penalty card and lead restrictions will apply.

3

To paraphrase (learn your own spiel for this Law) we assume a spade was incorrectly led:

Declarer you have five options:

- You can accept the spade lead
 - Still be declarer, dummy is tabled and then you get to play from your hand first; or
 - Become dummy and let your partner play this hand. You would put your hand down as dummy and your partner plays (you cannot discuss your choice with partner).
- You can refuse the spade lead, in which case it becomes a major penalty card, and the lead goes back to the correct hand.
 - You can require the correct player to lead a spade, penalty card is picked up and that player can play any legal card to the trick; or
 - You can prohibit the correct player from leading of a spade for as long as he retains the lead. The FOLOOT is picked up and any legal card is played; or
 - You can say lead anything in which case the FOLOOT remains a penalty card and must be played at the first legal opportunity.

4

Law 55 Declarer's Lead Out of Turn

- A. **Either** defender may **accept the lead** or **require its retraction**.
If the defenders choose differently then the option expressed by the player next in turn to the irregular lead shall prevail
- B. If declarer has led from his or dummy's hand and has been required to retract it, then declarer restores the card to hand and no further rectification applies.
- C. If declarer adopts a line of play that could have been based on information obtained through his infraction, Law 16 (unauthorized information) applies.

5

Law 56 Defender's Lead Out of Turn

When a lead out of turn is faced, declarer may:

- A. Accept the irregular lead as provided in law 53; or
- B. Require the defender to retract his faced opening lead out of turn. The withdrawn card becomes a major penalty card and Law 50D applies.

Time for another spiel.

1. *Accept the lead and play continues normally; or*
2. *Refuse the lead in which case the LOOT has become a major penalty card.*
3. *Declarer can then:*
 1. *Require the correct defender to lead a card of the LOOT suit
Major penalty card is then restored to hand and play continues*
 2. *Prohibit the correct defender from leading a card of the LOOT suit
Major penalty card is restored to hand and play continues.
This prohibits continues until the player loses the lead.*
 3. *Require the correct defender to lead anything, in which case the major penalty card remains on the table.*

6