

Most Common Law Infractions

FACED OPENING LEAD OUT OF TURN

Law 54

Declarer has five options: -

Accept the lead

1. Dummy goes down, Declarer plays next with the lead going round to dummy
2. Declarer can become dummy by exposing their hand and partner plays the contract

Reject the lead,

which then reverts to your left-hand opponent and you may :-

3. Require them to lead that suit – exposed card is picked up*
 4. Forbid the lead of the suit for as long as they holds the lead – exposed card is picked up*
 5. Let them lead whatever they wish – exposed card remains as a major penalty card.
- Knowledge of the card is permitted to Declarer but not to Defender. E.g. the Ten of Diamonds was led out of turn, Declarer demands Diamond lead, the Ten is returned to hand. The Defender holds QJ93, they must lead the Queen because this is the normal card, they cannot lead small because they don't 'know' partner has the Ten.

THE REVOKE LAW: 64 – PENALTIES

Three questions to ask

1. Has the offending side played a card to the next trick?
If NO, then revoke is not established – see next page

If YES:

2. Did **offender** win the revoke trick?
3. Did the offending **side** win a subsequent trick?

Penalty is a trick transferred for each yes answer.

However, there is a fourth question to ask the non-offending side.

Do you think you would have made more tricks if the revoke had not happened?

If so, you restore equity by transferring the required number of tricks.

Example: a revoke cuts declarer off from Dummy which has 4 winners. Declarer gets a two trick transfer, but that doesn't make up for the four tricks they lost. The TD should transfer another two tricks to restore equity. (**Law 64C**)

Note **Law 64B** provides a list of cases when there is no automatic trick adjustment. E.g Dummy revokes, no tricks are transferred.

THE UNESTABLISHED REVOKE

A player revokes but it is noticed before their side plays to the next trick (see **Law 63A**)

(a) By a Defender

- The card played in error becomes a major penalty card
- The offender follows suit with any card

(b) By Declarer or Dummy

- Card played in error is returned to hand without penalty
- Offender follows suit with any card

In other words Declarer's side cannot have a penalty card.

If the non-offending side had played a subsequent card, that can be withdrawn without penalty. If the offender's partner has also played a subsequent card and they withdraw it, it becomes a major penalty card.

INSUFFICIENT BID – Law 27

Was this a **MECHANICAL ERROR**?

If they pulled wrong card by accident, correct it under Law 25A if their partner has not bid.

First option is LHO can accept the bid, the auction continues as normal.

If not, the insufficient bid may be made sufficient at the lowest level or replaced by a comparable* call without penalty (27B1a&b).

Any other call **silences partner for the rest of the auction** (27B2); offender is not allowed to replace the insufficient bid with a double or a redouble unless it is a comparable call (27B3).

Comparable*, e.g. 1H - (2C) - 1S (Law 23A)

If double promises 4 spades, then they can substitute double with 4 spades or bid 2S with 5.

MAJOR AND MINOR PENALTY CARDS – Law 50-52

MINOR PENALTY CARD

1. It must be a 9 or less, AND
2. It must have been exposed **accidentally** on its own. (**Law 50B**)

You just have to play it when you are following with a small card in that suit. So if it is H7, you can play heart 10, JQKA if you want, but you can't play a small heart other than the 7. There are no restrictions when partner is on lead. (**Law 50C**)

MAJOR PENALTY CARD

1. Any Honour card played accidentally
 2. Any card played deliberately in error
 3. Any of two or more accidentally exposed cards (**Law 50B**)
- Must be played at **first** opportunity
 - Lead penalties on partner every time he is on lead while the penalty card remains on the table. Declarer may: -
 - Require partner to lead that suit – exposed card is picked up
 - Forbid partner to lead that suit for as long as he holds the lead – exposed card is picked up
 - Let partner lead whatever he wishes – exposed card remains as a major penalty card and lead restrictions remain each time partner is leading. (**Law 50D**)

LAW 29 - PROCEDURE AFTER A CALL OUT OF ROTATION

First option,

Offender's LHO may elect to call, thereby forfeiting the right to penalise.

If not,

Call out of rotation is cancelled and the auction reverts to the player whose turn it was to call. Offender may make any legal call at their turn, but now Laws 30, 31 or 32 apply.

If the call is artificial (conventional) then these three Laws apply to the denomination specified. E.g. Partner opens 1NT, I bid 2H (transfer) before RHO has called, Laws apply to Spades not Hearts.

These Laws 30, 31 & 32 are not easily summarised. Flowcharts are very useful here and New Zealand has an excellent series.

<https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/user/inline/4235/Call%20Out%20of%20Rotation.pdf>