

LAW 24 – Card(s) exposed (or led) during THE AUCTION

If during the AUCTION – (*because of a players error*) – 1 (*or more cards*) in a players hand **are in a position for the FACE to be seen by partner**

Then the **TD SHALL** require ALL SUCH CARDS to be placed face up on the table until the auction ends.

Information from these exposed cards is **AUTHORISED FOR THE NON – OFFENDING SIDE but UNAUTHORISED FOR THE OFFENDING SIDE.**

If the offending card is **below Honour rank** – no further rectification.

If offending card of **Honour rank (or more than 2 cards are exposed)** offenders partner **MUST PASS WHEN IT IS HIS NEXT TURN TO CALL** (1 turn only)

After the auction

- if offender becomes either Declarer or Dummy cards are picked up and placed in hand – no further rectification.
- If offender becomes a defender each exposed card becomes a Penalty card.

An exposed **SINGLE CARD BELOW HONOUR RANK** becomes a **MINOR PENALTY CARD**

If card (s) exposed is/are either

- an Honour card or
- 2 or more cards of any rank (e.g. 5 & 7 OR Honour and non Honour)

They ALL become MAJOR PENALTY CARDS.

ADDITIONALLY **ALL CARDS OF ANY RANK** EXPOSED ILLEGALLY THROUGH DELIBERATE PLAY BECOME MAJOR PENALTY CARDS. e.g. Lead out of turn / revoke / playing 2 cards to a trick

N.B – NEITHER DECLARER NOR DUMMY CAN EVER HAVE A PENALTY CARDS – ANY ILLEGALLY EXPOSED CARDS ARE IMMEDIATELY PLACED BACK INTO THE RESPECTIVE HAND WITHOUT RECTIFICATION.

LAW 50 – DISPOSITION OF PENALTY CARDS

MINOR PENALTY CARD

A defender who has a minor penalty card MAY NOT play any other card OF THE SAME SUIT BELOW THE RANK OF AN HONOUR UNTIL THE PENALTY CARD HAS BEEN LEGALLY PLAYED – **BUT MAY LEGALLY PLAY AN HONOUR INSTEAD.**

MAJOR PENALTY CARD

When a defender has a MAJOR Penalty Card **BOTH OFFENDER AND PARTNER MAY BE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION**

- **Offender – whenever he is to play**
- **Partner – whenever he is to lead**

Law 50 D (1)(b) - The obligation to follow suit or comply with a lead or restriction takes precedence over the obligation to play a penalty card.

A MAJOR penalty card MUST BE PLAYED AT THE FIRST LEGAL OPPORTUNITY whether – leading – following suit – discarding or trumping.

If a defender has 2 or more penalty cards that can be legally played DECLARER designates which card is to be played.

When a defender has the lead whilst his partner has a Penalty Card –

HE CANNOT LEAD UNTIL DECLARER STATES WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS HE HAS SELECTED –

THE PREMATURE LEAD OF A CARD (before declarer chooses option) BY THE PARTNER BECOMES A MAJOR PENALTY CARD FOR THE PARTNER – Law 49

1. Require defender to **lead the suit** of the Penalty card – Penalty card returned to hand – **1 round only**
2. Prohibit Defender from leading the suit of the Penalty card for– Penalty card returned to hand – **prohibition lasts until he loses the lead**
3. Not require or prohibit any lead – Defender can lead any card – Penalty card remains on the table

N.B. – If defender on lead wins this trick after declarer had chosen OPTION 3 above - he is again on lead and must again wait until Declarer chooses again from the 3 options before making the next lead (may be different choice) (51(B)(2))

Information given by a Penalty card is AUTHORISED for all players only whilst it is displayed.

Information from a Penalty card which has been returned to hand is AUTHORISED for the Non Offending side but UNAUTHORISED for the Offending side.

(i.e the partner of a defender who has had a Penalty card returned to his hand **must make a positive effort** to ensure that he does not take advantage of the unauthorised knowledge that partner has a specific card in his hand e.g. by playing towards an honour or deliberately playing low as second in sequence knowing that a high card is in the 4th hand.) – (Breach may invoke rectification under Law 16)

LAW 51 – 2 OR MORE PENALTY CARDS

If it is defenders turn to play and he has 2 or more penalty cards which can be legally played – DECLARER designates which card is to be played.

When it is Offenders Partner to lead

and **2 or More Penalty Cards in 1 SUIT** are displayed then **he cannot lead until Declarer chooses from one of the following options**

1. requires defenders partner to lead that suit – **ALL** the cards of that suit are picked up and returned to hand (no longer penalty cards) – **for 1 round only**.
2. prohibits defenders partner from leading that suit – **ALL** the cards of that suit are picked up and returned to hand (no longer penalty cards) – **Prohibition lasts until the partner loses the lead**.

When it is Offenders Partner to lead

and **2 or More Penalty cards in MORE THAN 1 SUIT** are displayed then he cannot lead until Declarer chooses from one of the following options.

1. requires defenders partner to lead one of those suits – **ALL** the penalty cards **for the specified suit only** are returned to hand (no longer penalty cards) – **for 1 round only**
2. prohibits defenders partner from leading one of those suits – **ALL** the penalty cards of **the specified suit only** are picked up and returned to hand (no longer penalty cards) – **Prohibition lasts until the partner loses the lead**.

N.B. – If defender on lead wins this trick after declarer had chosen OPTION 3 above - he is again on lead and must again wait until Declarer chooses again from the 3 options before making the next lead (may be different choice) (51(B)(2))
Whilst Penalty cards remain declarer has the option of choice at offending partners lead to each following trick until there are no Penalty cards left.

FAILURE TO PLAY A PENALTY CARD

If an offender fails to play a Penalty card when he was legally obliged to do so he cannot withdraw any card he has mistakenly played without permission. If it is accepted as played by declarer no further rectification – **IF NOT ACCEPTED IT BECOMES A FURTHER PENALTY CARD**

OFFENDER MUST THEN PLAY THE ORIGINAL PENALTY CARD or IF ORIGINALLY 2 OR MORE CARDS DISPLAYED THEN WHATEVER PENALTY CARD IS DESIGNATED BY DECLARER.

