

Wasn't it my turn to play

You play a card at some point after play has commenced and then someone says "It's not your turn"

(If you want to know what happens if is the first card played then you need to look at "I thought they were Declarer") Call the Director and this is what will occur.

As always it depends upon whether you are Declarer (who seems to be able to get away with almost anything but remember they are not telling their partner anything) or in Defence.

If you are Declarer then the next person in line can choose to accept the lead or reject it. **NB By the next player in turn playing a card, then they have ACCEPTED the lead** Remember it is their choice NOT their partner's. So if you are Declarer as East and play from hand when Dummy won the last trick then it is South who chooses. If they accept the lead then play continues as normal.

NB If North says anything they will be effectively telling South something about their hand and that is Unauthorised Information UI) and a whole new problem.

If they reject the lead, you as Declarer can put the card back into the appropriate hand ie yours or Dummy's and lead from the other hand.

Not so straight forward if you are in defence. Declarer can accept it and play continues as normal but if not then the card you played stays face up on the table as a Major Penalty card. A Major Penalty card has to be played at the first legal opportunity. *(You have to follow suit but if you need to discard then that Major Penalty card has to be played)*

Declarer has the right to prohibit or insist on, the suit of your Major Penalty card being played when your partner is next on lead. This is known as a lead restriction and the reason Declarer has this option is that you have given UI to your partner and your side should not benefit from it.

Declarer can either insist that your partner has to lead the suit of your Major Penalty or NOT. Say you had tried to play a Diamond then Declarer can insist that your partner when next on lead does NOT play a Diamond until they lose the lead. So if your partner leads the Ace of Hearts and wins the trick thus retaining the lead, they CANNOT now lead a Diamond.

(If Declarer decides to exercise his option of restricting the lead that your partner makes, when next on lead, then your penalty card goes back into your hand, to be played at your discretion.)

In the unlikely case that you played in your partner's turn. Say Declarer as North led from their hand and you as West played next then the card you played becomes a Major Penalty card but it gets worse than that as Declarer can now insist that you play either the lowest in that suit or the highest in that suit, *his choice*, when it comes to your actual turn. He will make that choice after your partner has played. Not so good but of course you have given your partner UI and effectively helped them in their decision as to which card to play.

Imagine Declarer led the Queen of Diamonds from Dummy and before you partner plays, you put down the Ace out of turn, now your partner knows that they do not have to worry about covering the Queen with their King as you have the Ace not Declarer. To redress the balance, if your partner now plays low, Declarer will insist you play your lowest Diamond and if your partner now plays the King, Declarer will insist you play your highest Diamond, the Ace crashing on top of your partner's King.