

Opening Lead Out of Turn Mantra

Declarer has 5 options. The first 2 involve accepting the lead, and the other 3 involve not accepting it. Whatever option you chose, you must do so without consulting partner, and you should listen to all 5 options before choosing.

Option 1; Accept the lead as it stands, but **your** hand goes down as dummy, and it will be played by your partner.

Option 2, you again accept the lead, and the dummy hand goes down next as normal and so you get to see it **before** playing your first card.

If you don't accept the lead out of turn, the lead reverts to the correct defender, and :

Options 3: Declarer can demand a same suit lead, or,

Option 4: Declarer can forbid a same suit lead and said suit ban will remain for as long as defenders hold that lead. If options 3 or 4 are exercised, the penalty card is returned to hand.

Option 5: The mis-led card remains exposed as a major penalty card, and as such must be played at the first legal opportunity. Play reverts to correct defender.

Law 50D. Lead restrictions apply for the whole time there is a major penalty card exposed, as with option 5, and /or because tonight the other defender also exposed a card. If the offender's partner wins the lead, declarer can forbid or insist on the same suit being led (again, if either of these options are chosen, the penalty card is picked up). If declarer does not restrict the lead, the penalty card remains exposed and declarer may still impose lead restrictions on the offender's partner.

Not forgetting (and I forgot this last night). Information gleaned from an exposed penalty card is authorised to all players, but if the card is picked up by the offending defender, information regarding said card (including the circumstances surrounding its exposure) is unauthorised to his partner, but still authorised to declarer.