

Dummy leads wrong card

This one doesn't normally get to the Director because at least one player notices it immediately and it is corrected; but just in case:

The lead is in dummy; "Eight of Spades" says Declarer. Dummy plays the ACE of Spades and

- a. The next player plays low to the Ace;
- b. Declarer, who hasn't looked plays the King;
- c. The next player very surprised but not realising the error plays low
- d. The trick is quitted
- e. Declarer, thinking he's won the trick, leads low towards the non-existent ace.
- f. A defender says "no the lead is in dummy". DIRECTOR!

Possibly surprisingly, even at this stage, the error has to be corrected. The law book takes the stance that the Ace of Spades has never been played – as Declarer called for the Eight.

The sequence of events will now be:

- a. Face the cards of the quitted trick;
- b. Replace the ace of spades by the eight;
- c. Offer the next defender the option to change their card;
- d. If that defender does change their card; allow declarer to change theirs
- e. Allow the other defender to change their card;
- f. Quit the trick
- g. Declarer's lead to the next trick is now correct and play continues

Notes

If there is any dispute over what card declarer called for then the Director will need to make a decision over what declarer actually said, giving the benefit of any doubt to the defenders (as they didn't cause the problem) and advising the players of their right to appeal.

If the mistake had been the other way round (ie 8 instead of Ace) then a defender might possibly 'win' the trick and lead to the next before the correction. This card can be withdrawn as well.

All cards withdrawn by defenders will be subject to the laws of unauthorised information and the Director may adjust the score if he thinks declarer has gained an advantage through the knowledge gained from seeing defenders withdrawn cards.