

Director's Quick Reference Guide

Lead Out of Turn (Laws 53–56)

Lead out of turn OCCURS. (A lead out of turn on the 13th trick can never be accepted and the lead reverts to the proper player)

Is it from Declarer or a Defender? NB: only applies if card is faced

Declarer

Defender

Does either defender accept the lead?
(if different the choice of the player to the left of the lead prevails)

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No

Yes

The lead goes back to the correct player.
The incorrect card is returned to the hand.

Play continues with the lead out of turn being treated as the correct lead

Is it the opening lead?

No

Yes

Does Declarer accept the lead?

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No

No

Yes

Card becomes Major Penalty Card*

Does declarer wish to remain Declarer or become Dummy?

Remain Declarer

Become Dummy

Dummy puts their cards face-up, and then declarer plays to the card led

Declarer lays down cards as if they were dummy and partner plays the hand

*Any time a Defender is on lead and their partner has a **Major Penalty Card** Declarer has 3 options:

1. No suit restrictions; Partners penalty card/s stays
2. Require the lead of the suit of the penalty card for one round. The penalty card is picked up. UI applies
3. Deny the lead of the suit of the penalty card until that player loses the lead. The penalty card is picked up. UI applies