South Australian Bridge Federation Inc

Director's Quick Reference Guide

Lead Out of Turn (Laws 53–56)

Lead out of turn occurs. Is it from Declarer's or Dummy's hand OR from a Defender?
NB: only applies if card is faced

Declarer

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

No → The lead goes back to the correct player. The incorrect card is returned to the hand.

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

Defender

Is it the opening lead?

No → Does Declarer accept the lead?

Yes → Does Declarer accept the lead?

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

No → Card becomes Major Penalty Card*

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*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.
3. Deny the lead of the suit of the penalty card until that player looses the lead. The penalty card is picked up.

Yes → Does declarer wish to remain Declarer or become Dummy?

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

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