

1997 original texts	2007 final Laws 49 - 50
<p>[Deletions highlighted in yellow]</p> <p>Law 49 - Except in the normal course of play or application of law, when a defender's card is in a position in which his partner could possibly see its face, or when a defender names a card as being in his hand, (penalty) each such card becomes a penalty card (Law 50); but see the footnote to Law 68 when a defender has made a statement concerning an uncompleted trick currently in progress.</p> <p>Law 50 - A card prematurely exposed (but not led, see Law 57) by a defender is a penalty card unless the Director designates otherwise. The Director shall award an adjusted score, in lieu of the rectifications below, when he deems that Law 72B1 applies.</p> <p>Law 50A - A penalty card must be left face up on the table immediately before the player to whom it belongs, until an alternate penalty has been selected.</p> <p>Law 50B - A single card below the rank of an honour and exposed inadvertently (as in playing two cards to a trick, or in dropping a card accidentally) becomes a minor penalty card. Any card of honour rank, or any card exposed through deliberate play (as in leading out of turn, or in revoking and then correcting), becomes a major penalty card; when one defender has two or more penalty cards, all such cards become major penalty cards.</p>	<p>[Additions and changes highlighted in yellow]</p> <p>LAW 49 - EXPOSURE OF A DEFENDER'S CARDS</p> <p>Except in the normal course of play or application of law (see for example Law 47E), when a defender's card is in a position in which his partner could possibly see its face, or when a defender names a card as being in his hand, each such card becomes a penalty card (Law 50); but see the footnote to Law 68 when a defender has made a statement concerning an uncompleted trick currently in progress, and see Law 68B2 when partner objects to a defender's concession.</p> <p>LAW 50 - DISPOSITION OF PENALTY CARD</p> <p>A card prematurely exposed (but not led, see Law 57) by a defender is a penalty card unless the Director designates otherwise (see Law 49 and Law 23 may apply).</p> <p>A. Penalty Card Remains Exposed</p> <p>A penalty card must be left face up on the table immediately before the player to whom it belongs, until a rectification has been selected.</p> <p>B. Major or Minor Penalty Card?</p> <p>A single card below the rank of an honour exposed unintentionally (as in playing two cards to a trick, or in dropping a card accidentally) becomes a minor penalty card. Any card of honour rank, or any card exposed through deliberate play (for example in leading out of turn, or in revoking and then correcting), becomes a major penalty card; when one defender has two or more penalty cards, all such cards become major penalty cards.</p>

Law 50C - When a defender has a minor penalty card, he may not play any other card of the same suit below the rank of an honour until he has first played the penalty card (however, he is entitled to play an honour card instead). Offender's partner is not subject to lead **penalty**, but information gained through seeing the penalty card is **extraneous**, unauthorised (see Law 16A).

Law 50D - When a defender has a major penalty card, both the offender and his partner may be subject to restriction, the offender whenever he is to play, the partner when he is to lead.

Law 50D1 - A major penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity, whether in leading, following suit, discarding or trumping

Law 50D1 - If a defender has two or more penalty cards that can legally be played, declarer designates which is to be played.

Law 50D1 - The obligation to follow suit, or to comply with a lead or play **penalty**, takes precedence over the obligation to play a major penalty card, but the penalty card must still be left face up on the table and played at the next legal opportunity.

Law 50D2 - When a defender has the lead while his partner has a major penalty card, he may not lead until declarer has stated which of the options below is selected (if the defender leads prematurely, he is subject to **penalty** under Law 49). Declarer may choose:

Law 50D2(a) - to require* the defender to lead the suit of the penalty card, or to prohibit* him from leading that suit for as long as he retains the lead (for two or more penalty cards, see Law 51); if declarer exercises this option, the card is no longer a penalty card and is

C. Disposition of Minor Penalty Card

When a defender has a minor penalty card, he may not play any other card of the same suit below the rank of an honour until he has first played the penalty card, **but** he is entitled to play an honour card instead. Offender's partner is not subject to lead **restriction**, but information gained through seeing the penalty card is unauthorized (**see E following**).

D. Disposition of Major Penalty Card

When a defender has a major penalty card, both the offender and his partner may be subject to restriction, the offender whenever he is to play, the partner **whenever** he is to lead.

1. (a) A major penalty card must be played at the first legal opportunity, whether in leading, following suit, discarding or trumping. If a defender has two or more penalty cards that can legally be played, declarer designates which is to be played.

(b) The obligation to follow suit, or to comply with a lead or play **restriction**, takes precedence over the obligation to play a major penalty card, but the penalty card must still be left face up on the table and played at the next legal opportunity.

2. When a defender has the lead while his partner has a major penalty card, he may not lead until declarer has stated which of the options below is selected (if the defender leads prematurely, he is subject to **rectification** under Law 49). Declarer may choose:

(a) to require* the defender to lead the suit of the penalty card, or to prohibit* him from leading that suit for as long as he retains the lead (for two or more penalty cards, see Law 51); if declarer exercises **either of these options**, the card is no longer a penalty card

picked up.

Law 50D2(b) - not to require or prohibit a lead, in which case the defender may lead any card; the penalty card remains a penalty card.

Law 50D1 - the requirement that offender must play the card is authorised information for his partner

Law 50D1 - however, other information arising from facing of the penalty card is unauthorised for partner

Law 50C - information gained through seeing the penalty card is **extraneous**, unauthorised (see Law 16A).

Law 50 footnote - If the player is unable to lead as required, see Law 59.

and is picked up.

(b) not to require or prohibit a lead, in which case the defender may lead any card; the penalty card remains a penalty card**. If this option is selected Law 50D continues to apply for as long as the penalty card remains.

E. Information from a Penalty Card

1. Knowledge of the requirements for playing a penalty card is authorized information for all players.

2. Other information derived from sight of a penalty card is unauthorized for the partner of the player who has the penalty card (but authorized for declarer).

3. If the Director judges that the exposed card conveyed such information as to damage the non-offending side he shall award an adjusted score.

* If the player is unable to lead as required see Law 59.

**If the partner of the defender with the penalty card retains the lead, and the penalty card has not yet been played, then all the requirements and options of Law 50D2 apply again at the following trick.