

The Five Options for a Faced Opening Lead Out of Turn (*Law 54*):

1. You may accept the lead from the wrong hand and see dummy before playing in proper sequence from your own hand.
2. You may accept the lead and become the dummy. (If declarer exposes one or more cards, he must spread his hand, becoming dummy).
3. You may require the lead – one time only from the proper opening leader – of the suit that was improperly led, and the penalty card is returned to the offender's hand.
4. You may prohibit the lead – from the proper leader for as long as he holds the lead – of the suit that was improperly led, and the penalty card is returned to the offender's hand.
5. You may leave the improperly led card on the table to remain a penalty card. The opening leader can lead as he chooses. If the correct opening leader retains or regains the lead, however, and his partner still has the penalty card, you will, each time before the defender leads, have the choice of exercising option 3, option 4 or option 5.

Declarer's Lead Out of Turn (*Law 55*):

The Laws state that either opponent may accept or require retraction of a lead out of turn by declarer.

Occasionally someone will point out declarer's lead from the wrong hand. That is merely calling attention to the irregularity. Both defenders still have all their rights. Either of defenders may accept or reject the lead. They are not allowed to consult and the first to speak will speak for the partnership.

If a defender rejects the lead, declarer must lead from the correct hand but is not required to lead the same suit. The card incorrectly led will be restored to its proper hand with no further penalty, and declarer will make any legal play from the correct hand.

Disposition of a Major Penalty Card (*Law 50*):

When a player has a major penalty card, his partner may not lead to a new trick until declarer states which, if any, of his three options he is selecting.

1. He may require the lead of the suit of the penalty card, just once and all penalty cards in the suit are returned to the player's hand.
2. He may prohibit the lead of the suit of the penalty card for as long as the partner retains the lead, and all penalty cards in the suit are returned to the player's hand.
3. Declarer may choose to allow the offender's partner to lead any suit, in which case the penalty card will be played at his partner's first legal opportunity, including the current trick if the suit of the penalty card is led. If the partner again has the lead, even at the very next trick, while the same penalty card is on the table, declarer may still exercise option a, b or c.