

Law 57

PREMATURE LEAD OR PLAY

A. **Premature Play or Lead to Next Trick**

When a defender leads to the next trick before his partner has played to the current trick, or plays out of turn before his partner has played, the card so led or played becomes a major penalty card, and declarer selects one of the following options. He may:

1. require offender's partner to play the highest card he holds of the suit led, or
2. require offender's partner to play the lowest card he holds of the suit led, or
3. forbid offender's partner to play a card of another suit specified by declarer.

B. **Offender's Partner Cannot Comply with Rectification**

When offender's partner is unable to comply with the rectification selected by declarer he may play any card, as provided in [Law 59](#).

C. **Declarer or Dummy Has Played**

1. A defender is not subject to rectification for playing before his partner if declarer has played from both hands, nor if dummy has played a card or has illegally suggested that it be played. A singleton in dummy, or one of cards adjacent in rank of the same suit, is not considered to be played until declarer has instructed (or indicated*) the play.
2. A premature play (not a lead) by declarer from either hand is a played card and may not be withdrawn.

* as by a gesture or nod