

Director's Quick Reference Guide

Penalty Cards (Laws 50 - 52)

These Laws only apply to cards exposed by the defending side. The declaring side does not have penalty cards.

Was the card deliberately exposed e.g. leading or playing

Yes

No

e.g. it was dropped or two cards played together.
Is it an honour card (A, K, Q, J, 10)?

Yes

No

Card goes on table as a minor penalty
card**

Is there more than one penalty card?

Yes

All such cards

No

Major penalty card.* Must be played at the first legal
opportunity.

Card remains minor penalty
card until played or offender
has a second penalty card

*MAJOR PENALTY CARD/S ON TABLE

If offender's partner gets the lead, declarer can demand or forbid a lead of any one penalty card suit, in which case all penalty cards in that suit are picked up. If no restriction is made, penalty card/s remains on table.

If there are 2 or more penalty cards

Declarer chooses which one is played - this does not override the obligation to follow suit

**MINOR PENALTY CARD ON TABLE

Offender does **not** have to play the card at the first opportunity. In playing that suit they may play an honour, but not another non-honour. If the offender is on lead, the minor penalty card does not have to be played. There are no lead restrictions on partner if they come on lead.