

Lesson

1. Defender has a penalty card
2. Defender's partner is on lead

Substance

Picture the following situation ...



Lead to next trick

The Declarer may exercise his right to:

1. Forbid the lead of the suit of the penalty card for as long as South retains the lead; once South does not win a trick, the lead restriction is lifted.
2. Require the lead of suit of the penalty card for one trick; after that first trick, South can lead whatever he wants from then on
3. Offer neither of the above, permitting South to lead whatever he wants

Further caveats:

- If the declarer exercises options 1 or 2, the penalty card is picked up.
- If the declarer exercises option 3, the penalty card remains on the table

Take-away ...

All you have to remember is the following ...

As declarer, if a defender has one or more penalty cards on the table AND his partner is on lead, call the Director.

In the situation in the diagram, if the defender on lead faces a card BEFORE the Director is called, the declarer still has the right to call the Director and the faced card led may itself become a penalty card.

Why bother?

You ever finished a board and someone at the table says “We gave them 2 tricks.” That’s a gift. If one pays attention to the advice mentioned herein, it is possible that by forbidding or requiring the lead of a suit, you may not be giving a trick or more to your opponents.