

Law 43 – Dummy’s Limitations

Law 43A3 says that a defender may not show dummy his hand, while Law 43A2(c) prohibits dummy from looking at a card in either defender’s hand. If dummy does violate Law 43A, then the rectifications specified in Law 43B2(b) and Law 43B3 apply:

Law 43B2(b)

Dummy violates one of the limitations described in A2 and then enquires about declarer’s failure to follow suit. The revoke must be corrected, and there is a transfer of one or two tricks to the defenders, but only tricks won from the point forward of when dummy asked the illegal question are eligible to be transferred.

Law 43B3

Both sides commit an irregularity. Dummy violates one of the limitations described in A2 and a defender violates proper procedure, for example by leading out of turn or by playing a card before his partner has played one. If dummy draws attention to the defender’s irregularity, play continues without recourse to the normal remedial actions, (e.g. any lead out-of-turn is now accepted by default, and any other card exposed as a result of the infraction may be returned to hand without attendant restrictions). A non-established revoke must still be corrected, but information arising from any withdrawn action is now authorised for both sides.

If this results in a better outcome for the defending side, then the TD adjusts only the defender’s score. The table result for the declaring side is not altered, so this produces a (non-balancing) split score. Conversely, if dummy draws attention to an irregularity by a defender without first violating any of the limitations listed in A, the TD should just apply the relevant law or laws, (but he might still award a procedural penalty against the declaring side – see Law 90).