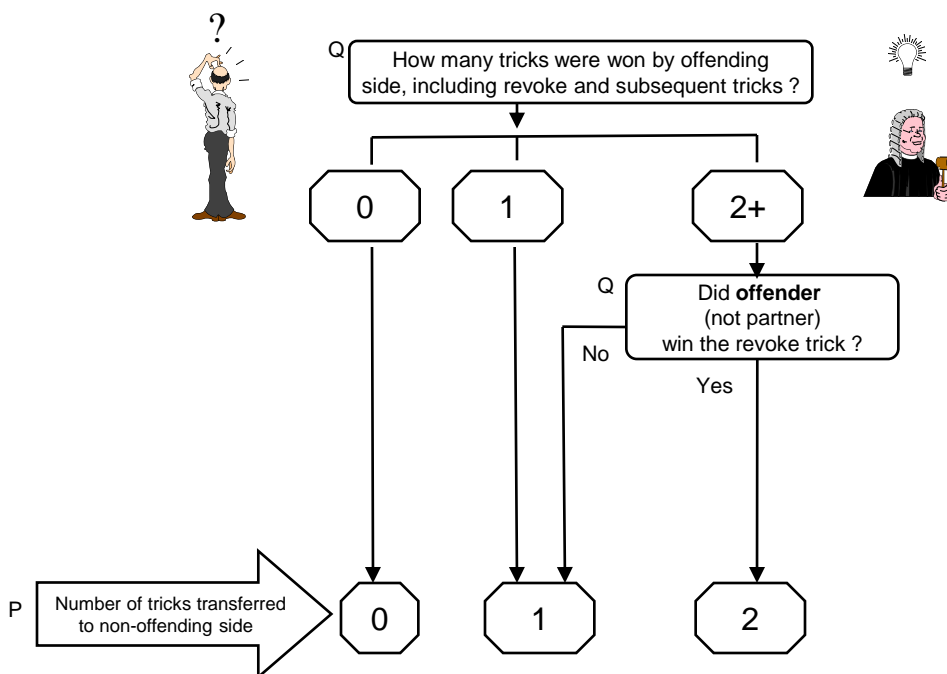


Laws of Duplicate Bridge Made Easier

Text of The Laws of the Contract Bridge
2008 revised and authorized ACBL edition

With flow charts illustrating chapters IV, V and VI



Laval Du Breuil
Retired ACBL Tournament Director
lavaldubreuil@xplornet.com

Published by the author at Quebec City, Canada
© 2008 complete revision of charts in 2011

These bridge flow charts are part of a book presenting the full text of duplicate bridge Laws on even pages and them just in front (sample on next two pages). ACBL granted us permission to use the texts, but it is not an official document for the interpretation of duplicate bridge Laws.

Book sold by Vince Oddy Bridge Supplies, www.vinceoddy.com bridge@vinceoddy.com

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Law 15: Play of a Wrong Board

A. Players Have Not Previously Played Board

If players play a board not designated for them to play in the current round, (but see C below):

1. The Director normally allows the score to stand if none of the four players has previously played the board.
2. The Director may require both pairs to play the correct board against one another later.

B. One or More Players Have Previously Played Board

If any player plays a board he has previously played, with the correct opponents or otherwise, his second score on the board is canceled both for his side and his opponents, and the Director shall award an artificial adjusted score to the contestants deprived of the opportunity to earn a valid score.

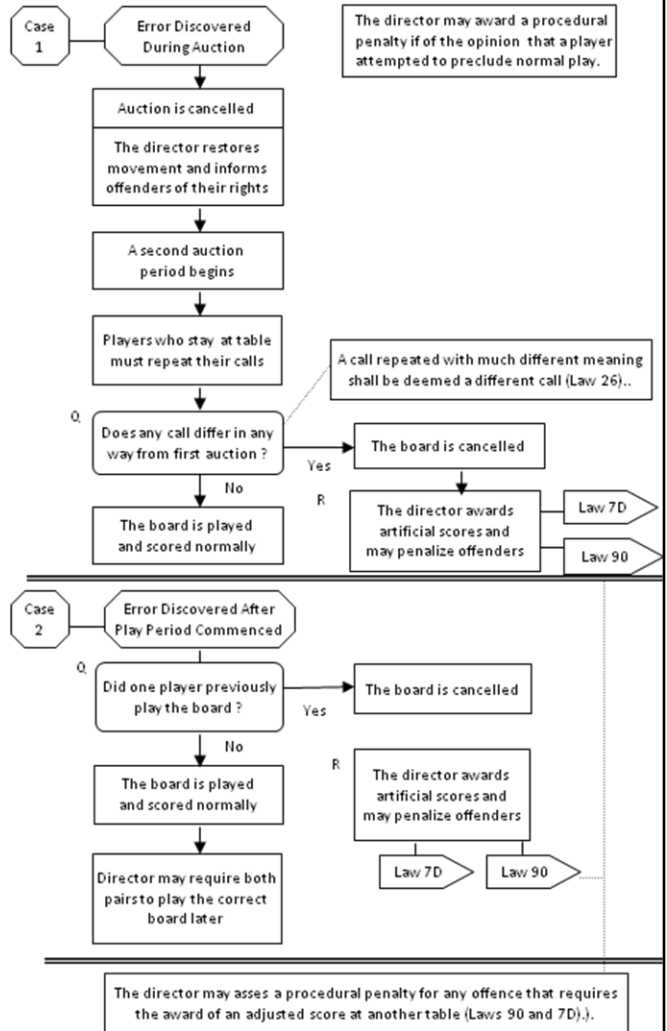
C. Discovered during Auction Period

If during the auction period the Director discovers that a contestant is playing a board not designated for him to play in the current round, he shall cancel the auction, ensure that the correct contestants are seated and that all players involved are informed of their lawful obligations and rights both now and at future rounds. A second auction begins. Players who participated in the first auction must repeat the calls they made previously. If any call differs in any way from the corresponding call in the first auction, the Director shall cancel the board. Otherwise the auction and play continue normally. The Director may award a procedural penalty (and an adjusted score) if of the opinion that there has been a purposeful attempt by either side to preclude normal play of the board.

Law 7D: Control of Board: Responsibilities for Procedures
Any contestant remaining at a table throughout a session is primarily responsible for maintaining proper conditions of play at the table.

Law 90: Procedural Penalties (extract)
The Director may assess penalties for any offence that violates correct procedure or requires the award of an adjusted score at another table.

Law 15: Play of the Wrong Board



Law 31: Bid out of Rotation

When a player has bid out of rotation, has passed artificially or has passed partner's artificial call (see Law 30C) and the call is canceled, the option in Law 29A not having been exercised, the following provisions apply:

A. RHO's Turn

When the offender has called at his RHO's turn to call, then:

1. if that opponent passes, offender must repeat the call out of rotation. When that call is legal there is no rectification.
2. if that opponent makes a legal⁽¹⁾ bid, double or redouble, offender may make any legal call. When this call
 - (a) repeats the denomination of his bid out of rotation, offender's partner must pass when next it is his turn to call (see Law 23).
 - (b) does not repeat the denomination of his bid out of rotation, or if the call out of rotation was an artificial pass or a pass of partner's artificial call, the lead restrictions in Law 26 may apply, and offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call (see Law 23).

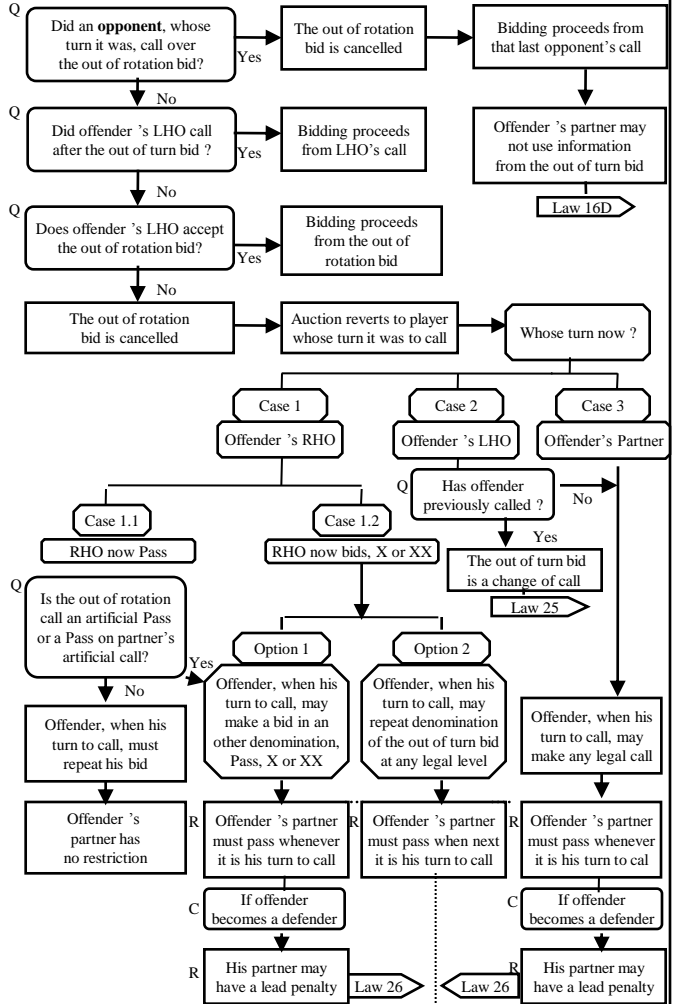
B. Partner's or LHO's Turn

When the offender has bid at his partner's turn to call or at his LHO's turn to call, if the offender has not previously called,⁽²⁾ offender's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call (see Law 23 when the pass damages the non-offending side). The lead restrictions of Law 26 may apply.

Law 23: Awareness of Potential Damage

Whenever, in the opinion of the Director, an offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that this could well damage the non-offending side, the Director shall require the auction and play to continue (if not completed). When the play has been completed, the Director awards an adjusted score if he considers the offending side has gained an advantage through the irregularity.

Law 31: Bid Out of Rotation



Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

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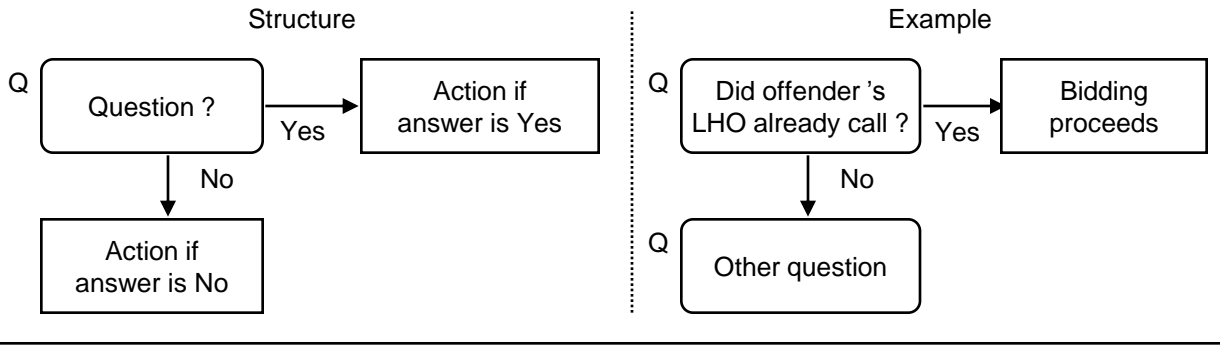
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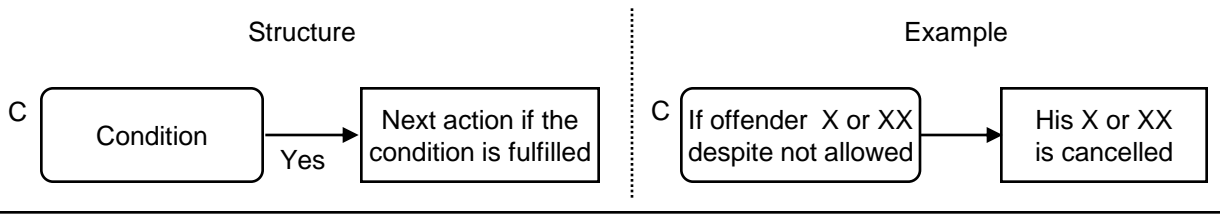
How to Read Flow Charts

Flow charts are easy to read: just follow arrows.
They contain the following blocs:

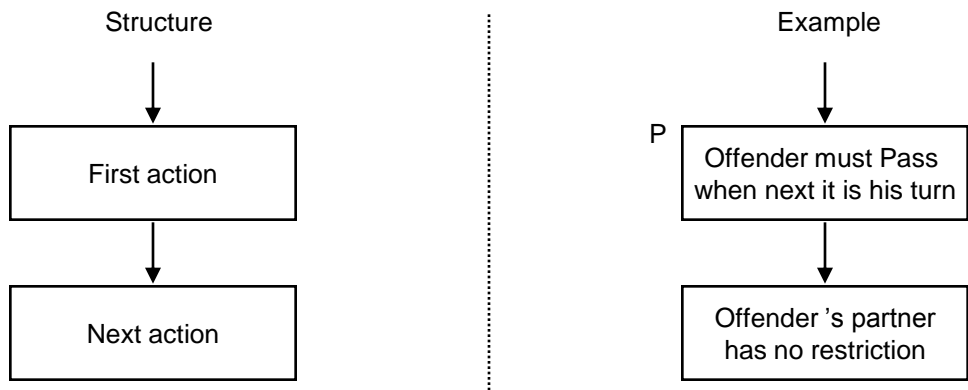
- **Question (Q):** query the Director shall ask to players in order to know facts and make his ruling. Answers to questions are normally « Yes » or « No ».



- **Condition (C):** situation required before an action occurs. If condition is false, there is no action.

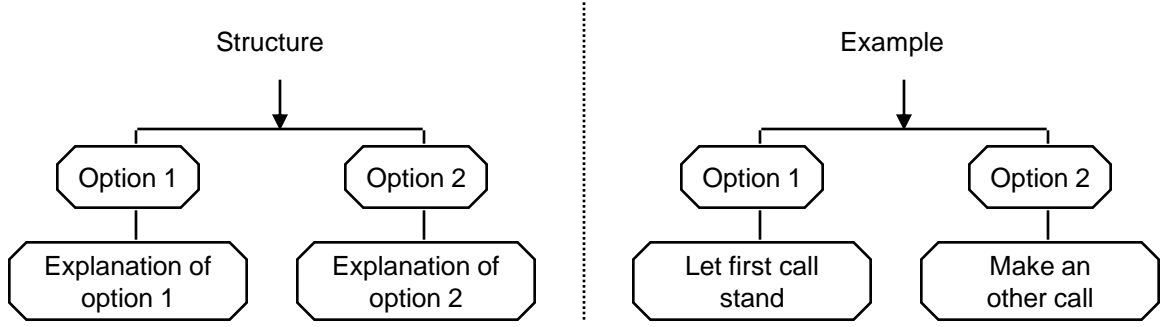


- **Action:** something a player or the Director shall do according to Laws.

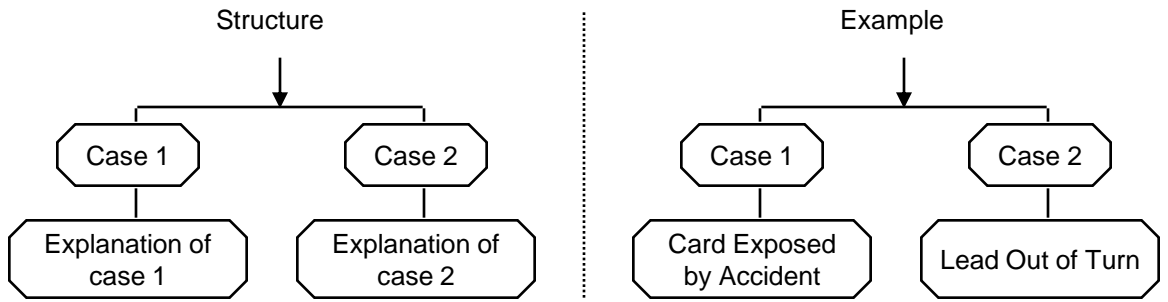


Note: R indicates a rectification (penalty) on this action.

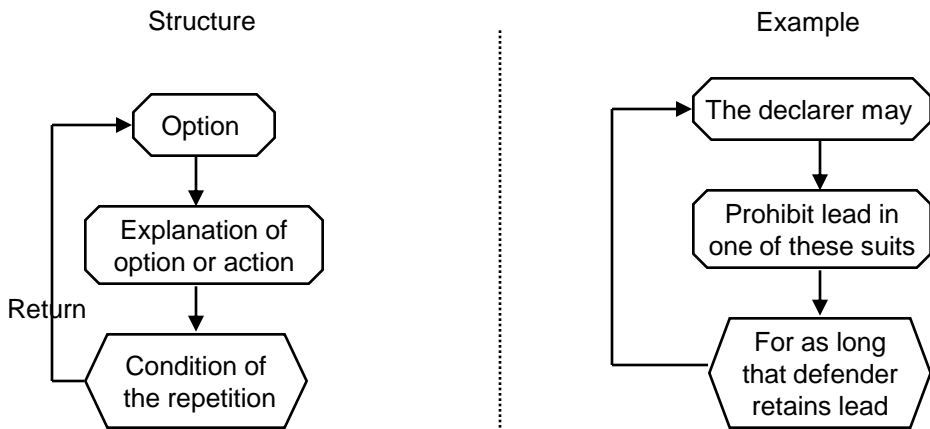
- **Options:** choices the Director shall offer to players, explaining consequences.



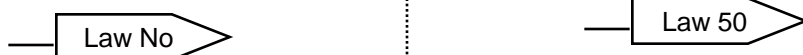
- **Case:** modalities of application of a Law, depending on facts.



- **Repetition:** application of an action or an option as long as a condition is true.

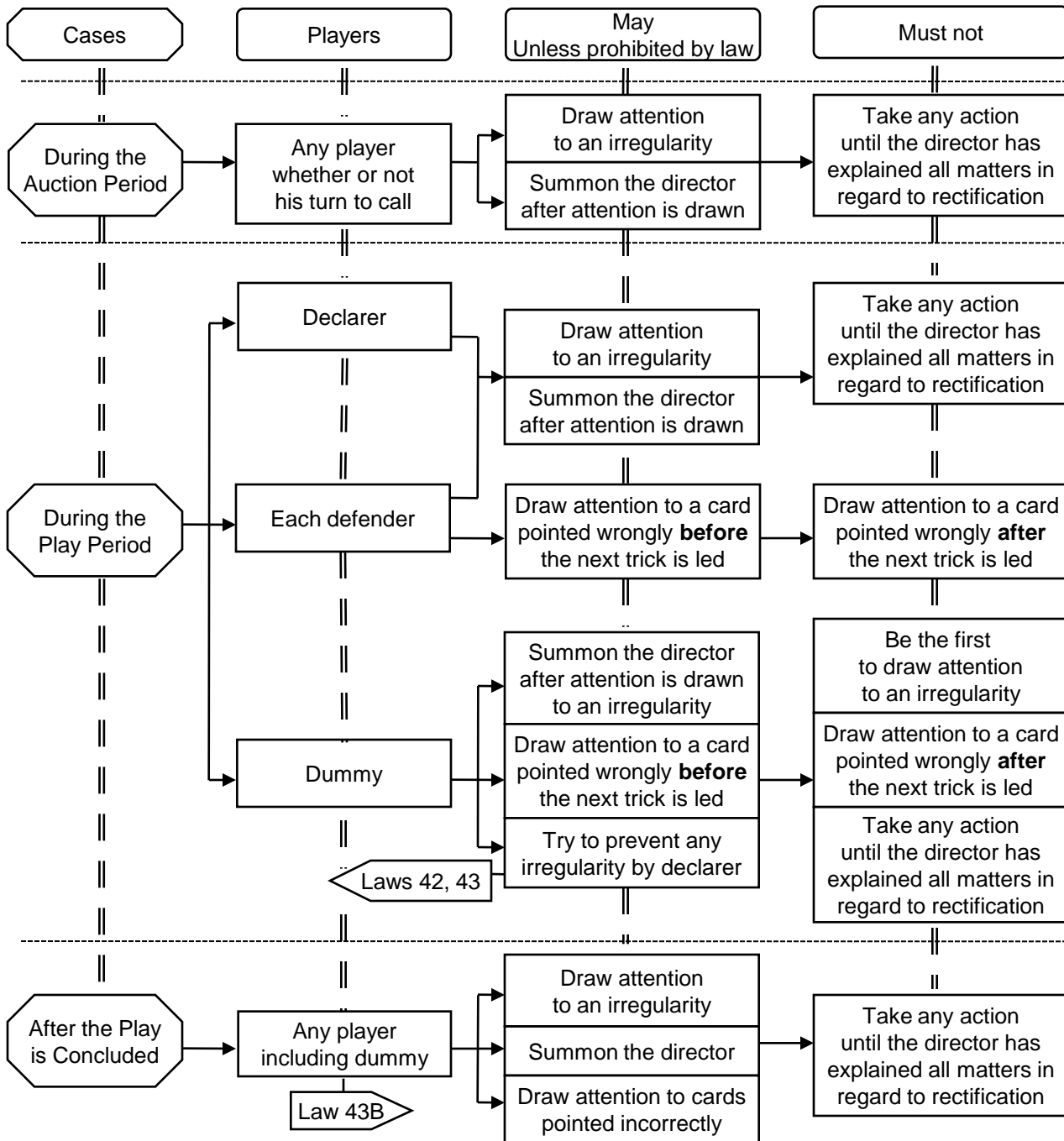


- **See:** reference to an other Law.



Law 9: Procedure Following an Irregularity

There is no obligation to draw attention to an infraction by one's own side (See Law 20F5).
 The director **should** be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity.



Summoning the director does not cause a player to forfeit any rights to which he might otherwise be entitled.
 The fact that a player draws attention to an irregularity committed by his side does not affect the rights of the opponents.

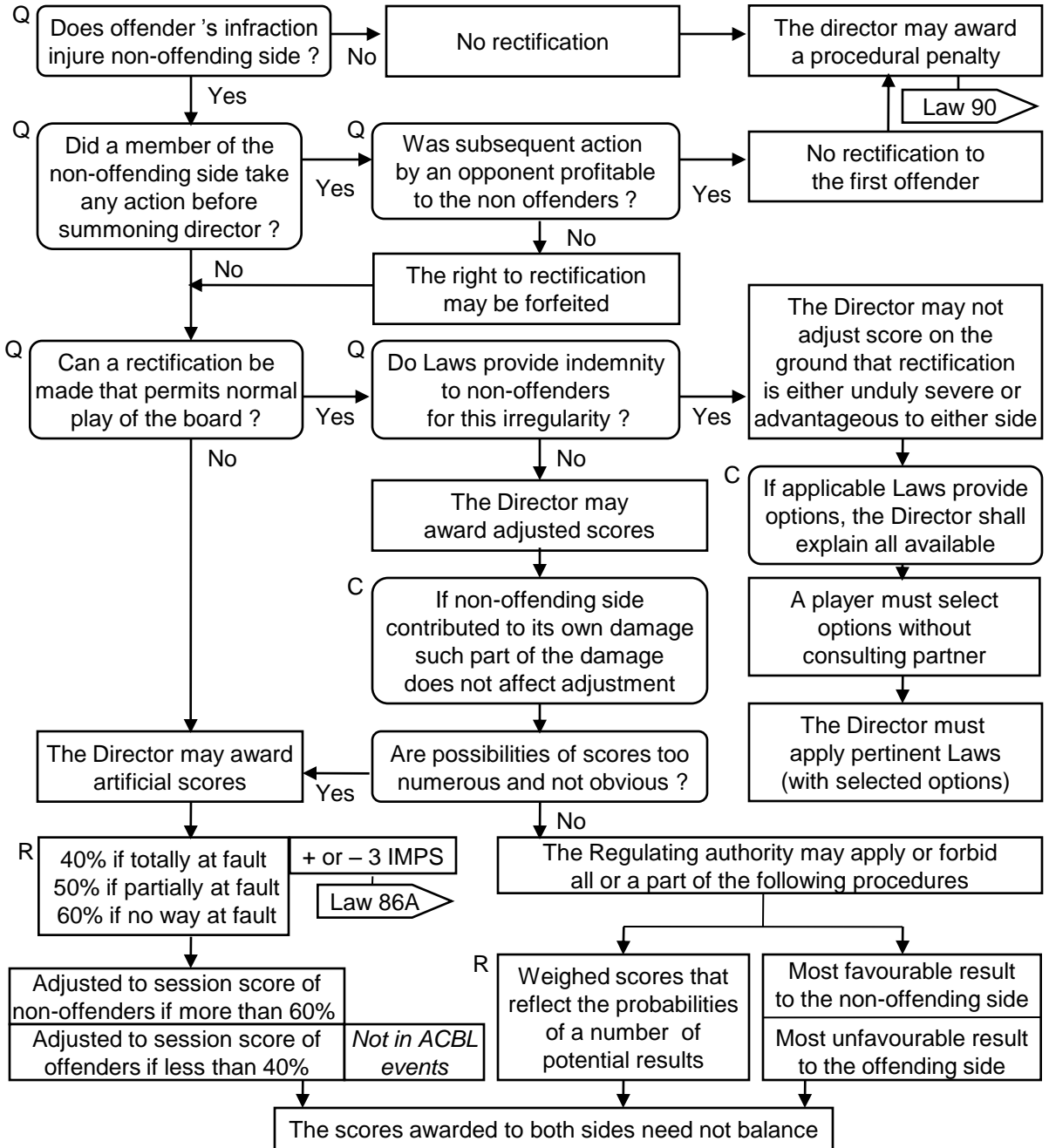
Any premature correction of an irregularity by the offender may subject him to a further rectification.

Laws 10 to 12: Assessment of a Rectification

The objective of a score adjustment is to redress damage to a non-offending side and to take away advantage gained by an offending side through its infraction.

The director alone has the right to determine rectifications. He may allow or cancel any enforcement or waiver of a rectification made by the players without his instructions.

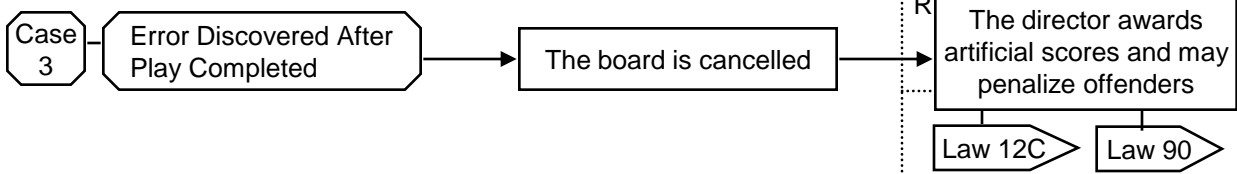
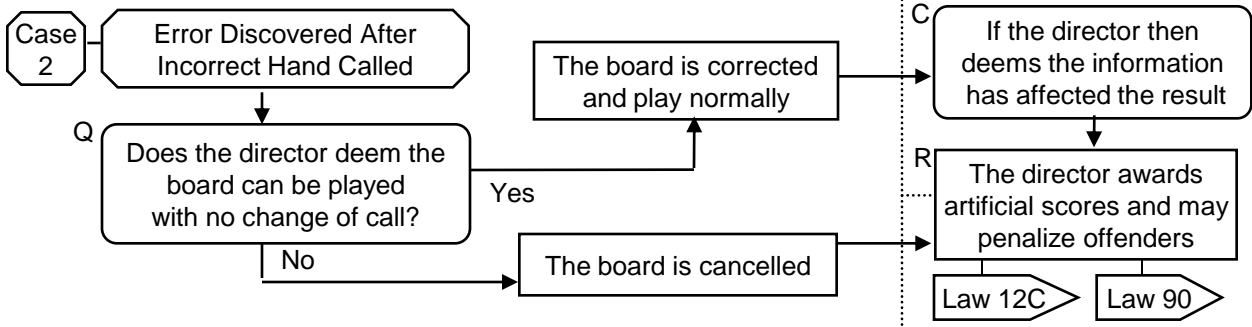
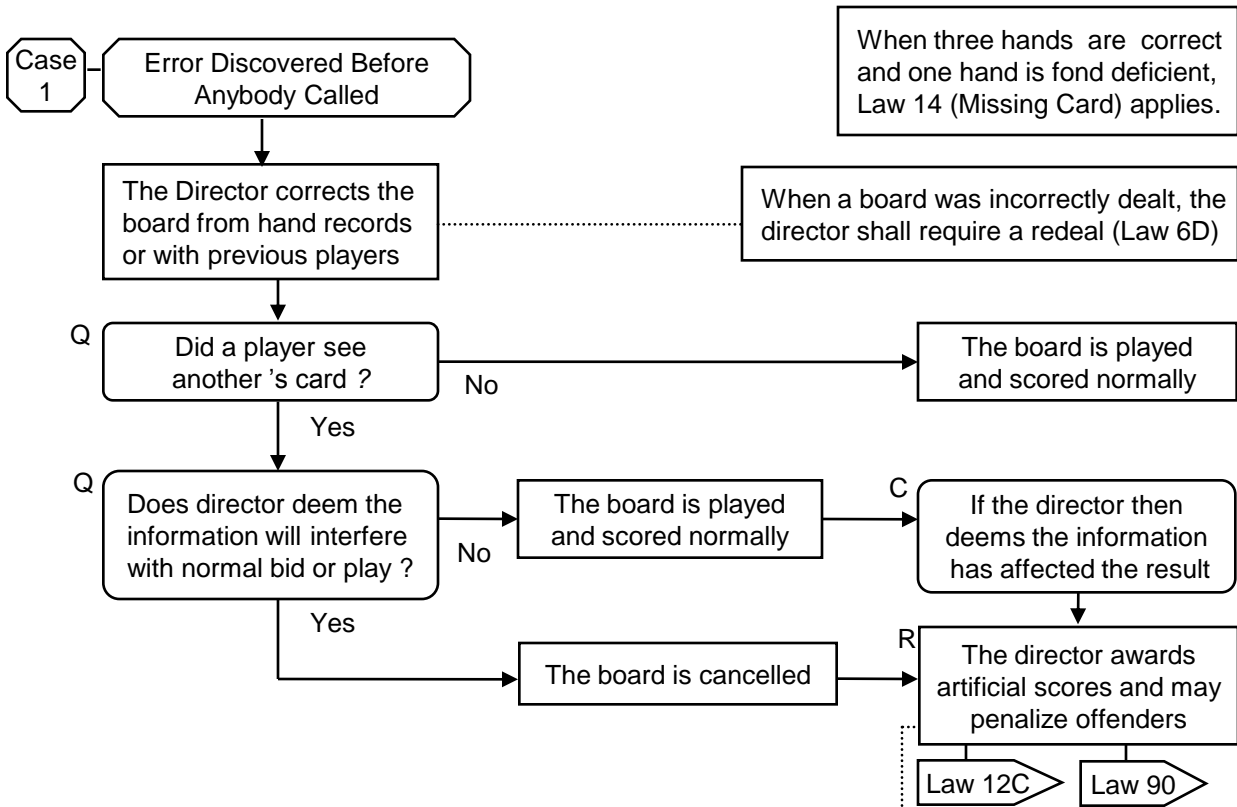
The director may award an adjusted score after an incorrect rectification of an irregularity.



For non-offenders, it is appropriate to select the most advantageous option.

After rectification, it is appropriate for the offenders to make any call and play advantageous for them (but Law 16D2).

Law 13: Incorrect Number of Cards (2 hands)



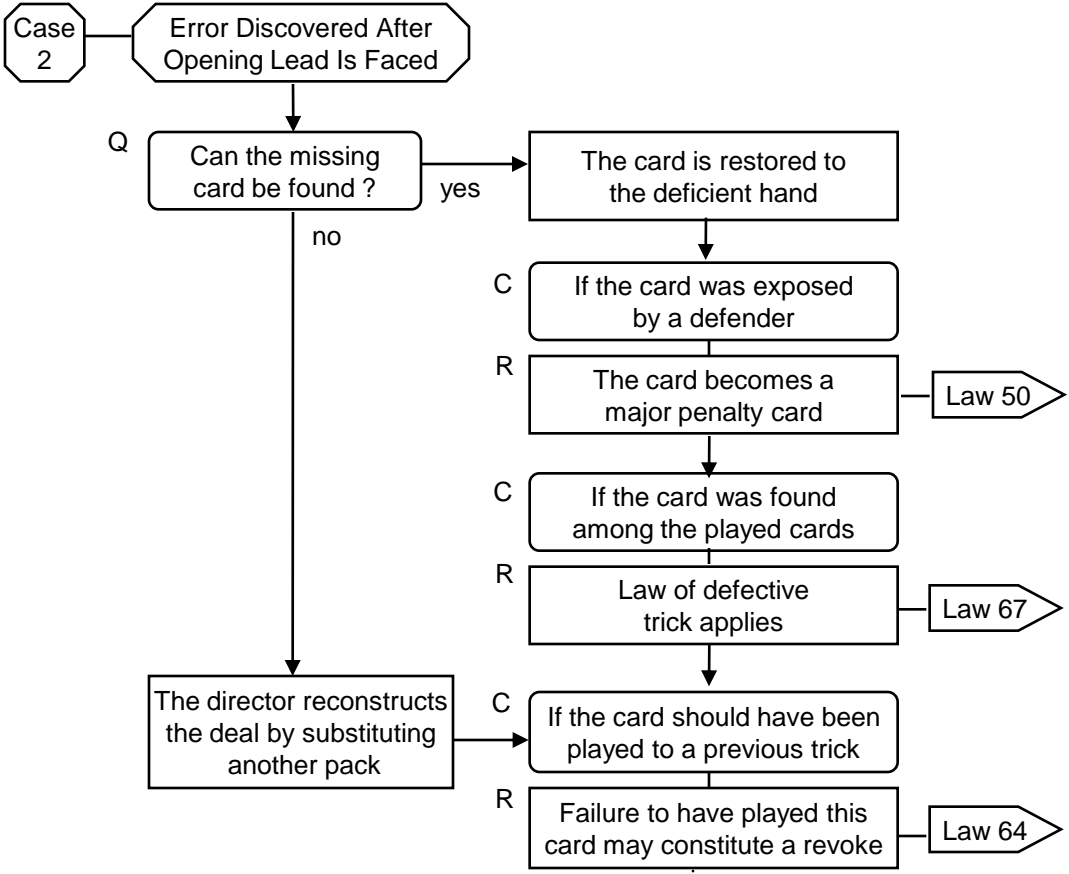
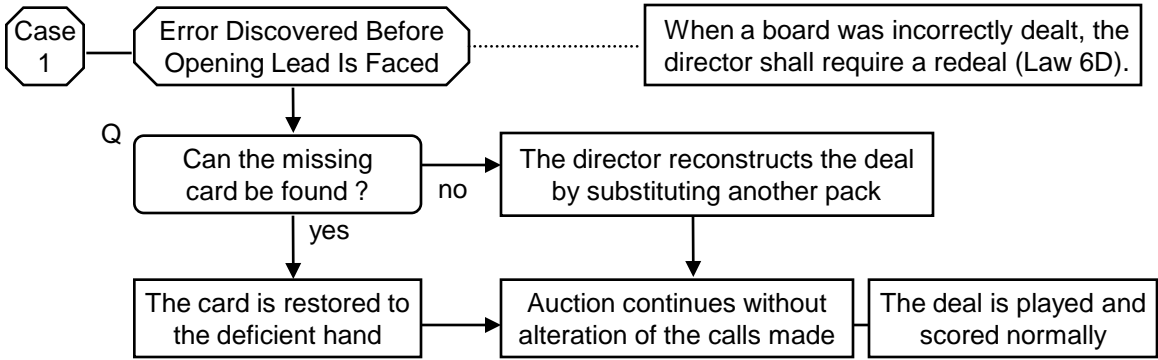
Knowledge of the placement or movement of a card is unauthorized information for the partner of a player whose hand was incorrect.

Any card not part of the deal is removed, but if such a card is found to have been played to a quitted trick, an adjusted score may be awarded.

According to Law 90, the Director may assess a penalty to a player who failed to count cards in his hand or placed them incorrectly in board.

Law 14: Missing Card (in one hand)

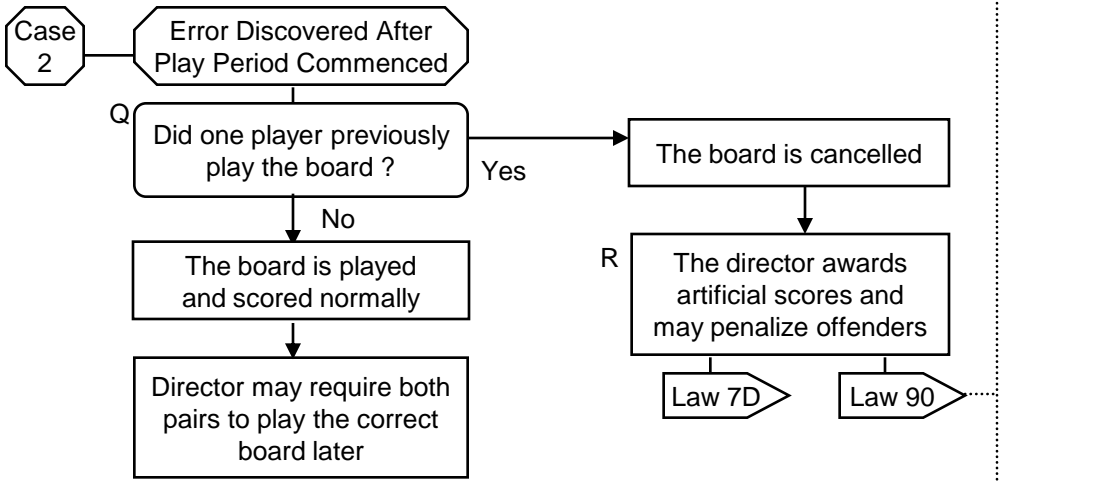
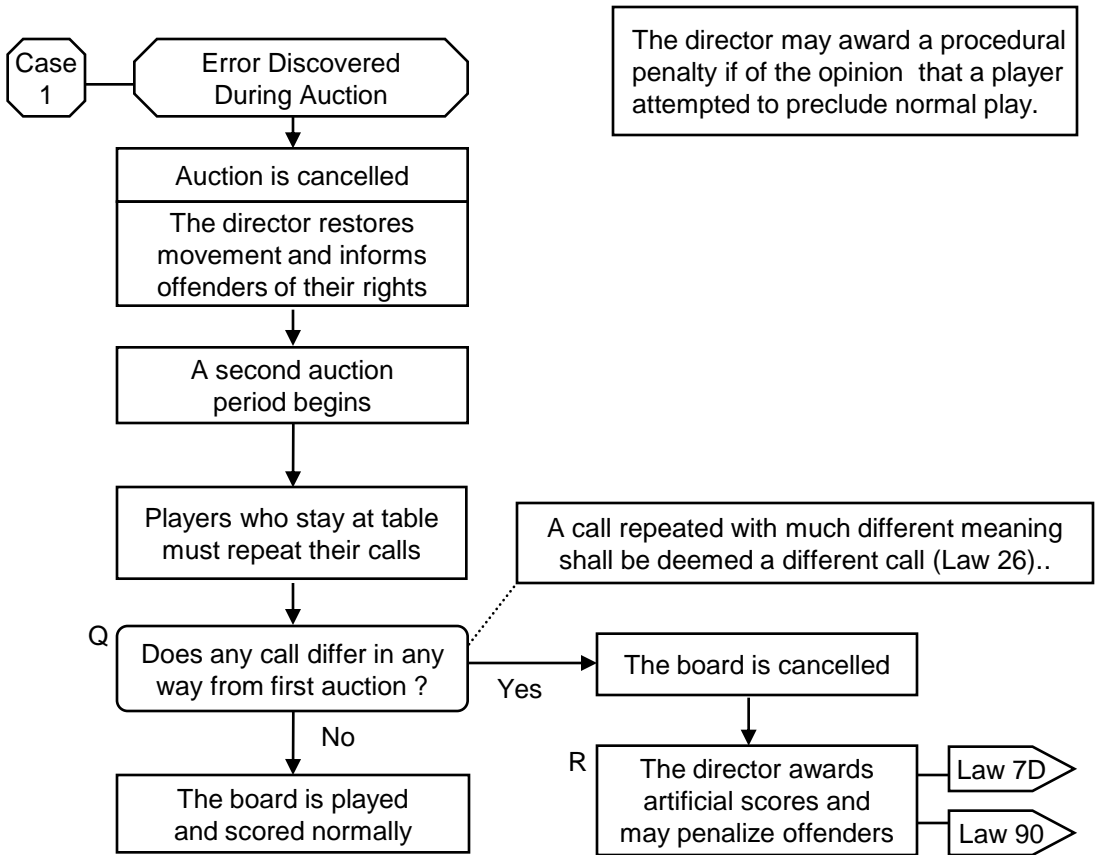
When more than one hand are deficient, Law 13 applies.



Knowledge of movement of a card is unauthorized information for the partner of a player whose hand was incorrect.

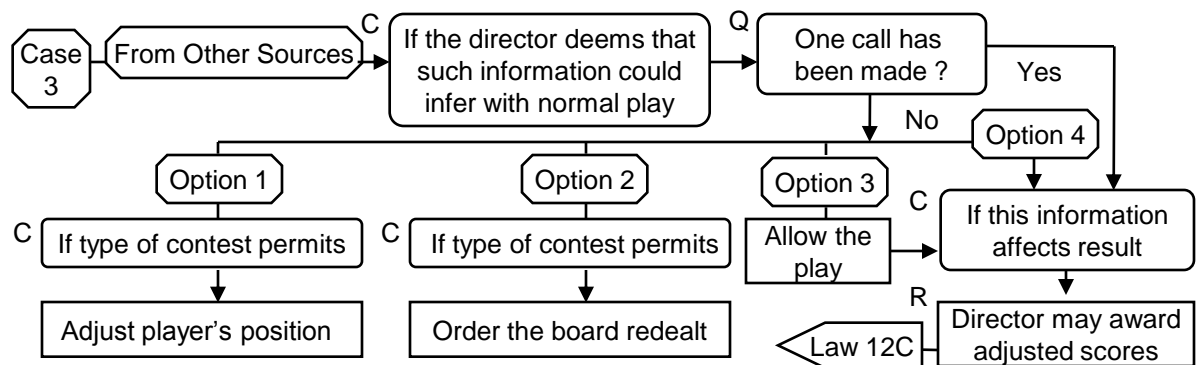
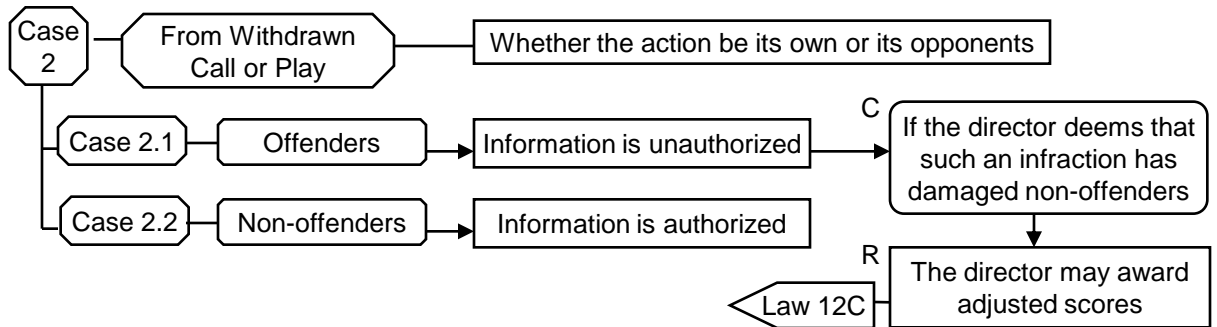
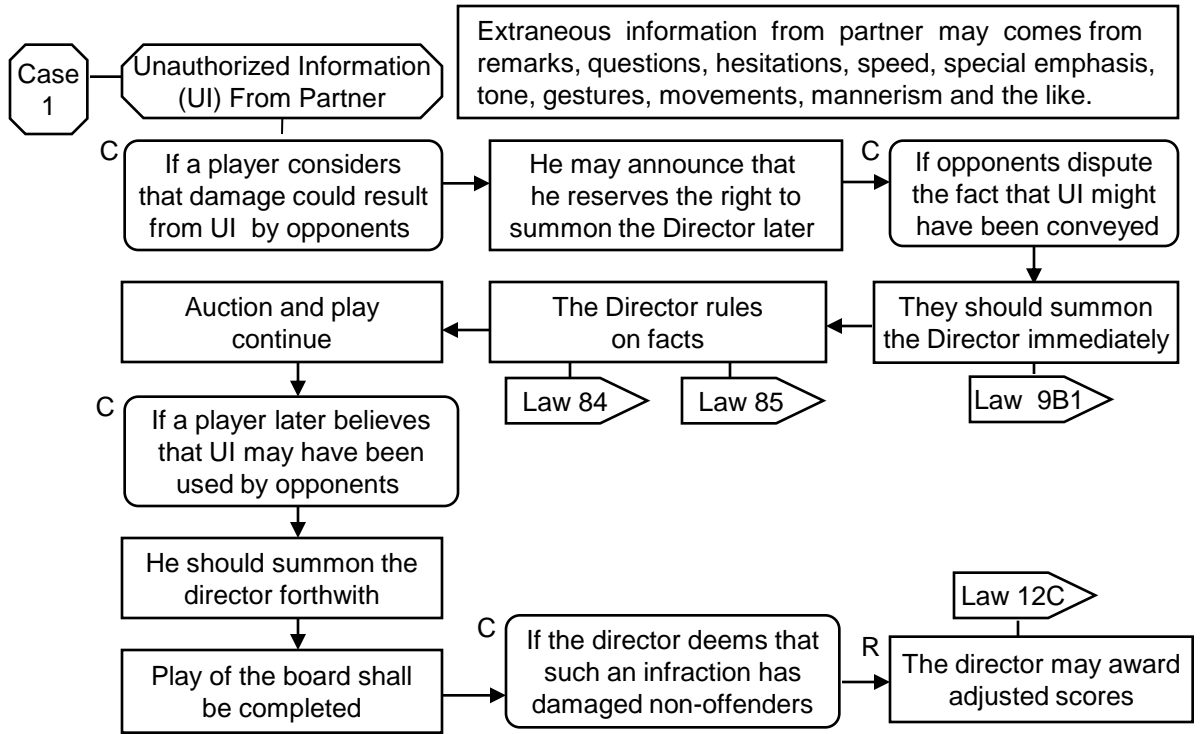
A card restored to a hand is deemed to have belonged continuously to it, both during the auction and during the play.

Law 15: Play of the Wrong Board



The director may assess a procedural penalty for any offence that requires the award of an adjusted score at another table (Laws 90 and 7D.).

Law 16: Authorized and Unauthorized Information

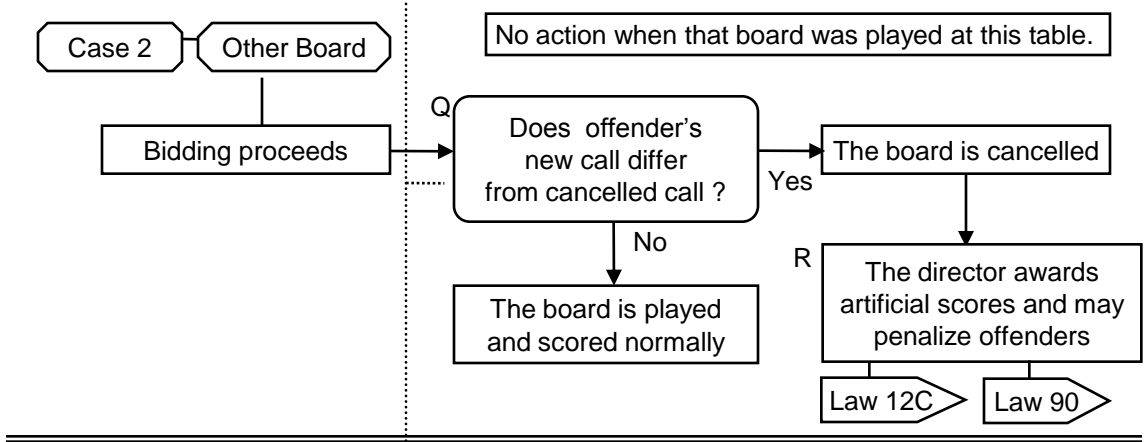
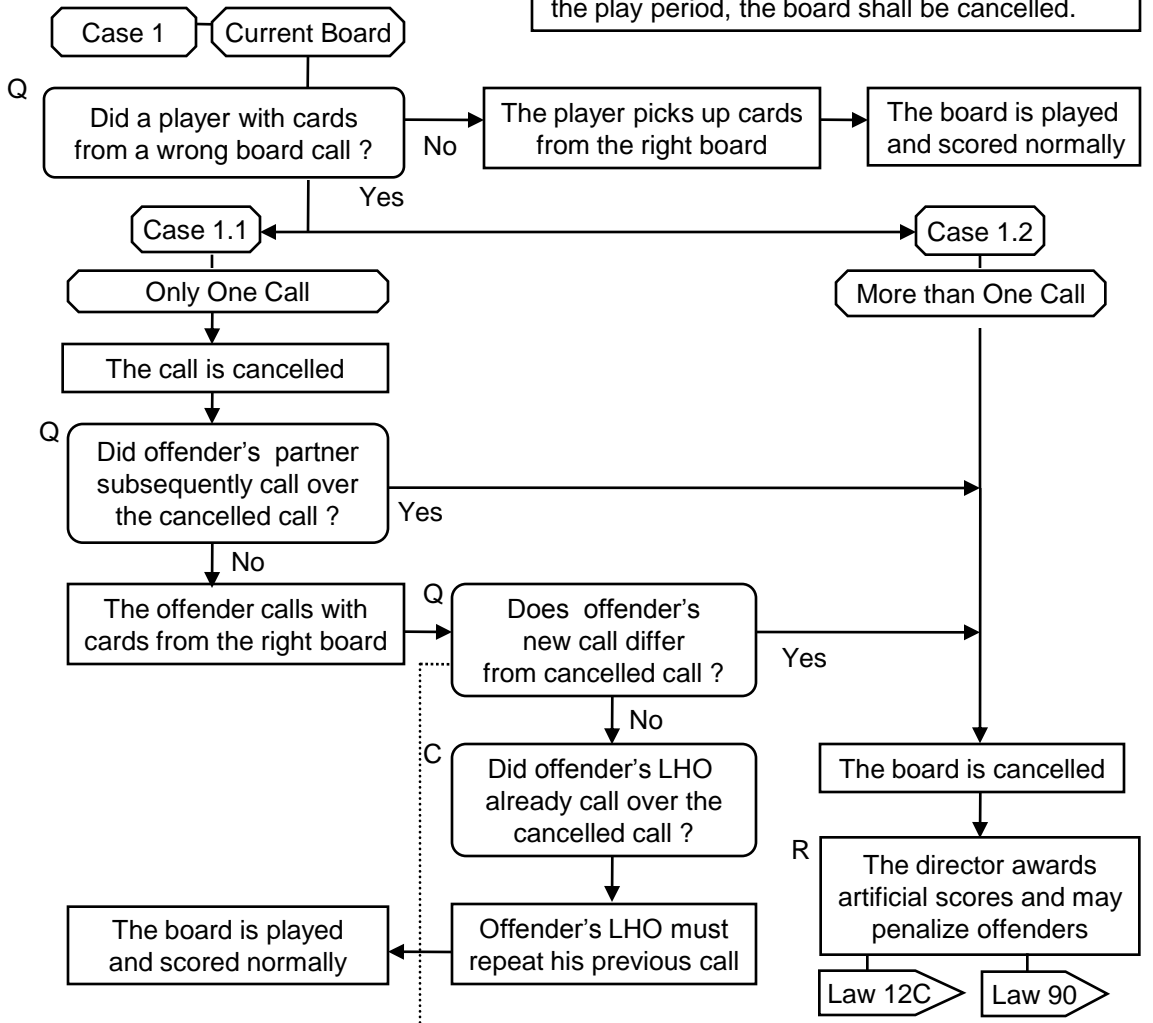


A logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question, would be given consideration by a significant proportion.

A player may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested by the extraneous information.

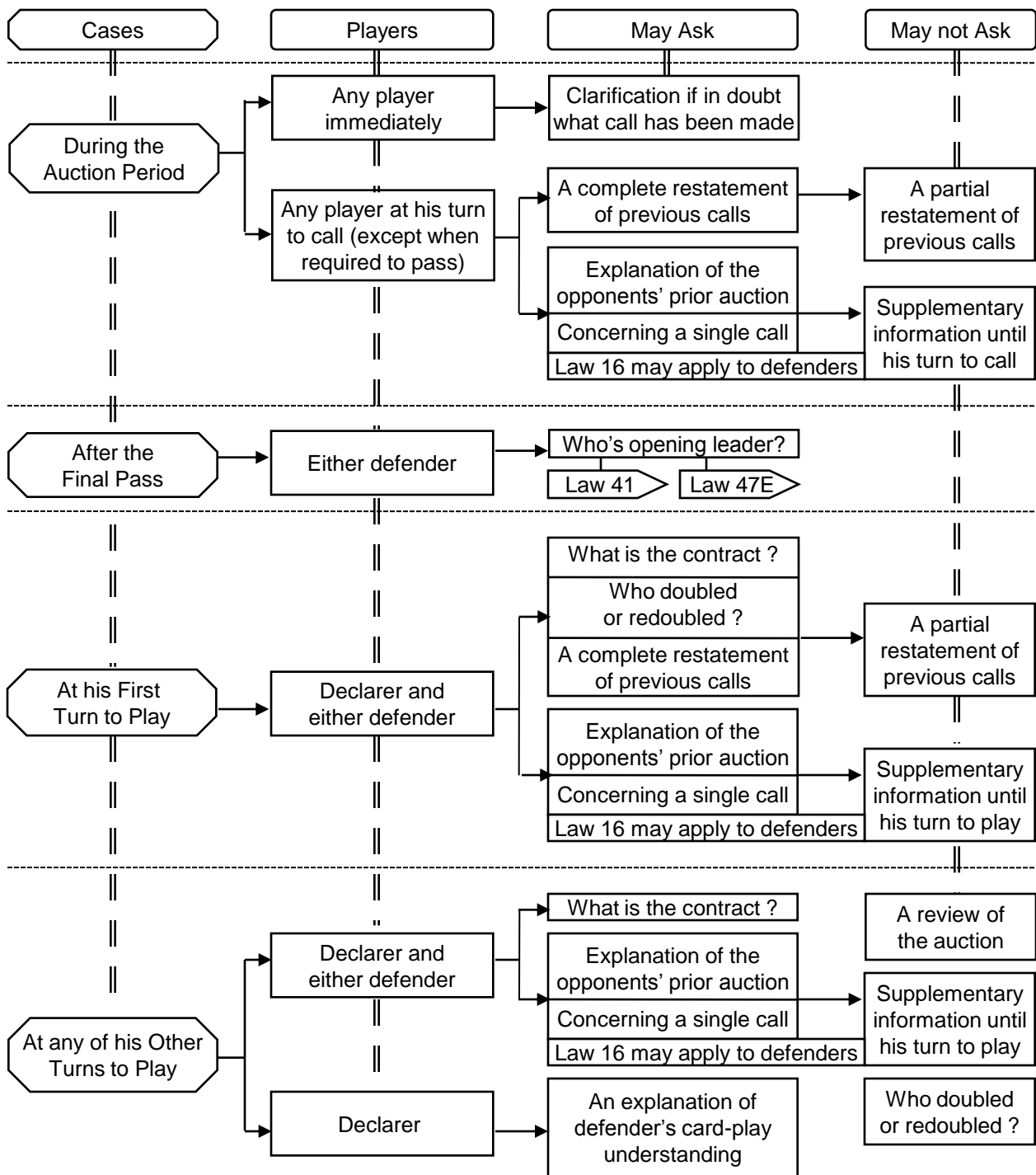
Law 17D: Cards from the Wrong Board

If attention is drawn to such an irregularity during the play period, the board shall be cancelled.



A call repeated with much different meaning shall be deemed a different call (Law 26).

Law 20: Review and Explanations of Calls



Review of the auction must restate all previous calls, including alerts.

Review of the auction must be made by an opponent but all other players must correct errors if any.

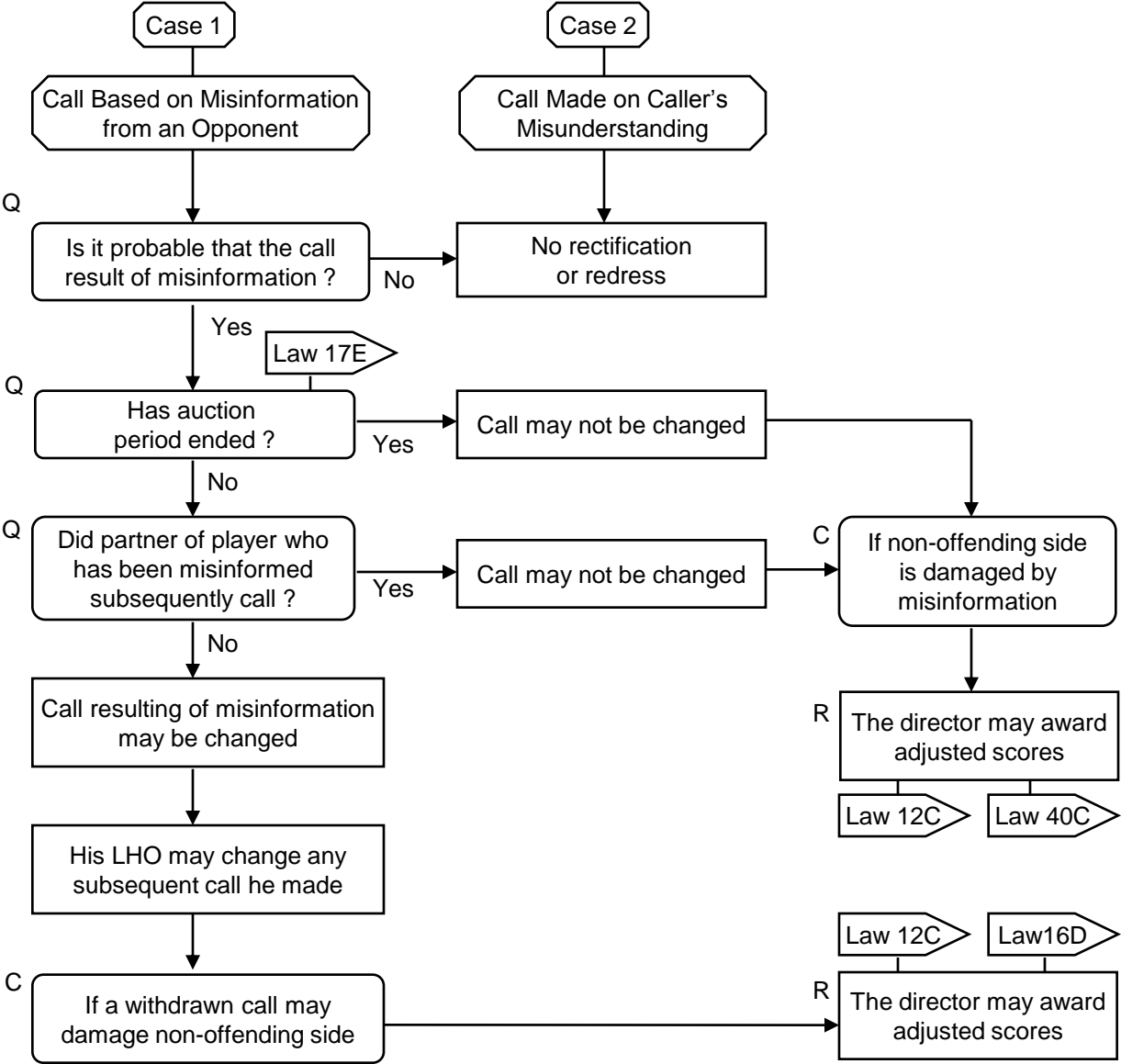
When asking for explanation, a payer is entitled to know about calls made, alternatives and inferences.

It is improper to ask a question solely for partner's benefit.

Player whose partner has given false explanation must inform opponents; declarer or dummy after the final pass, defender at the end of the play.

Law 21: Call Based on Misinformation

Failure to alert when required is deemed misinformation.

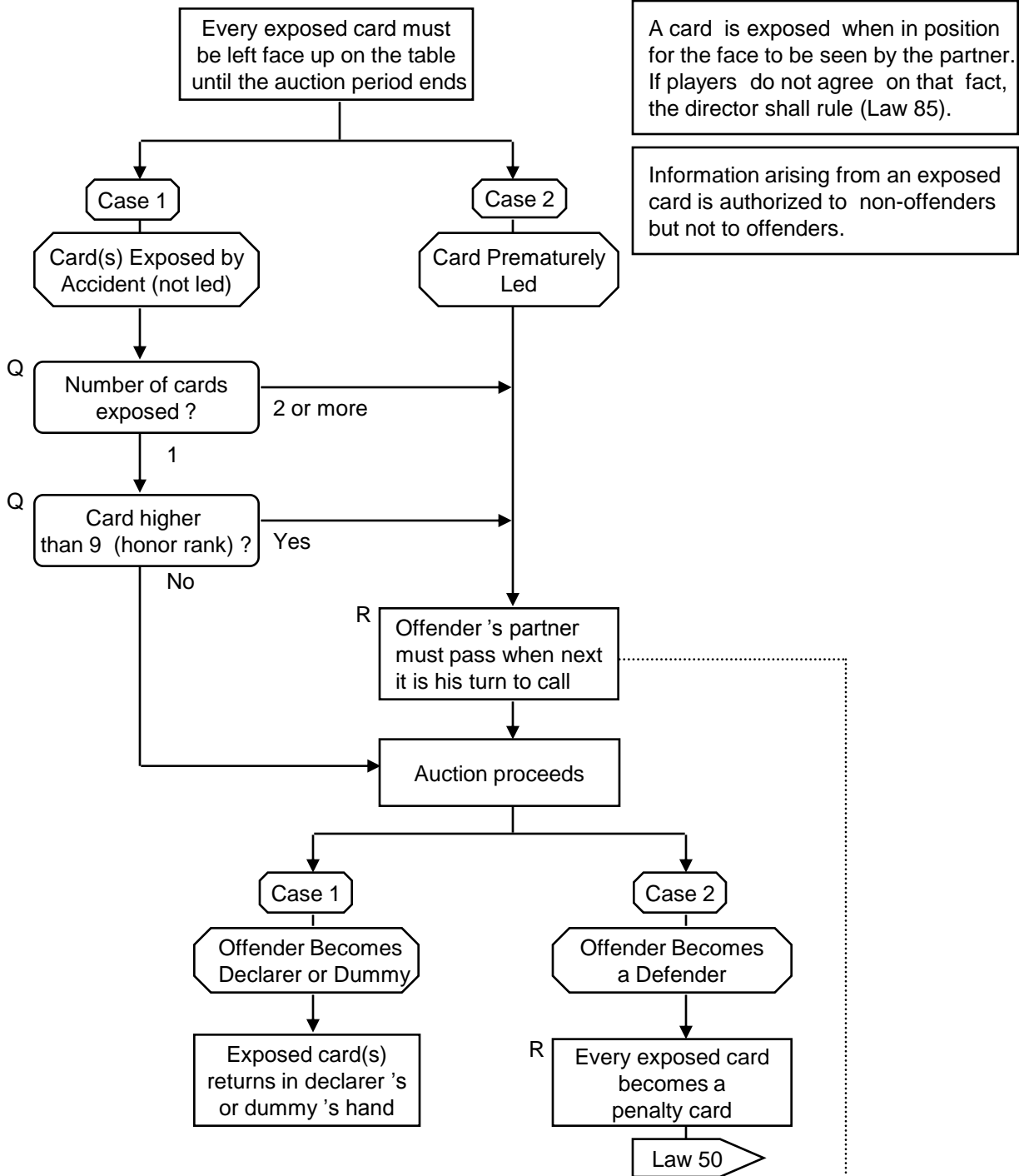


In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the director is to presume mistaken explanation rather than mistaken call.

For the non-offending side, all information arising from a withdrawn action is authorized, whether the action be its own or its opponents (Law 16D).

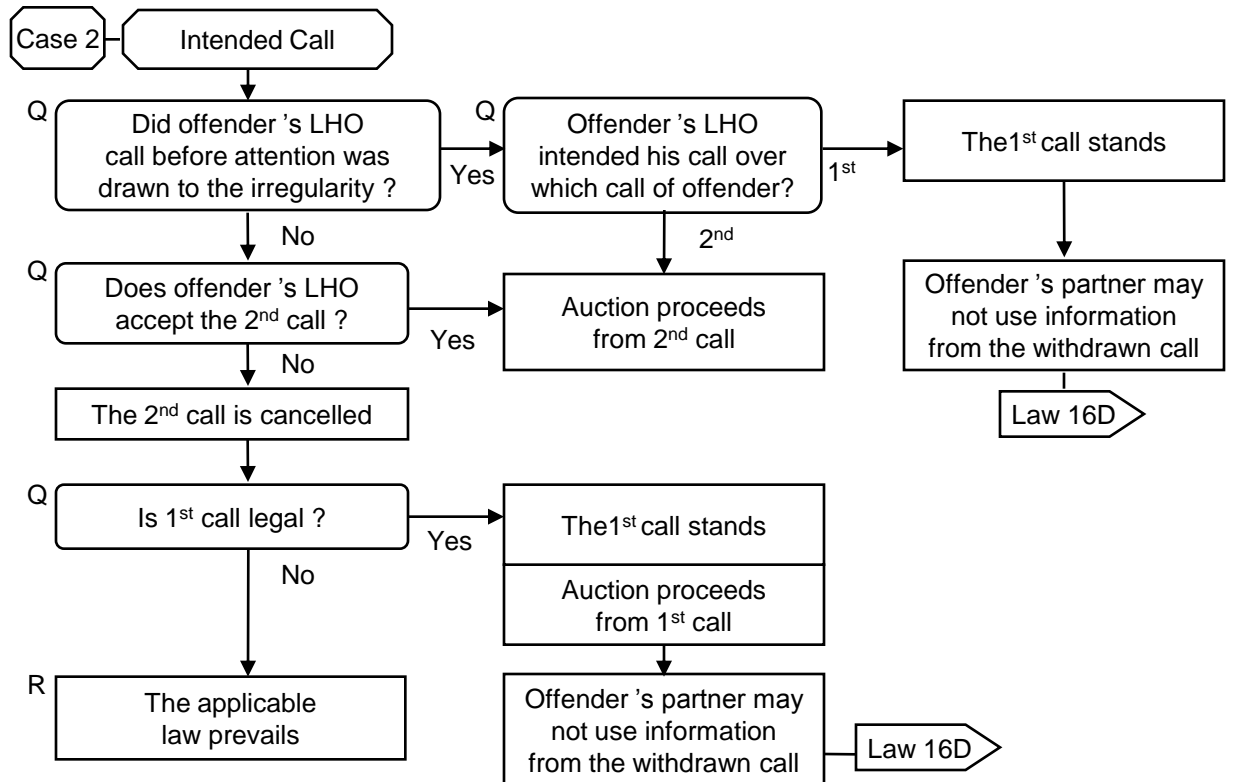
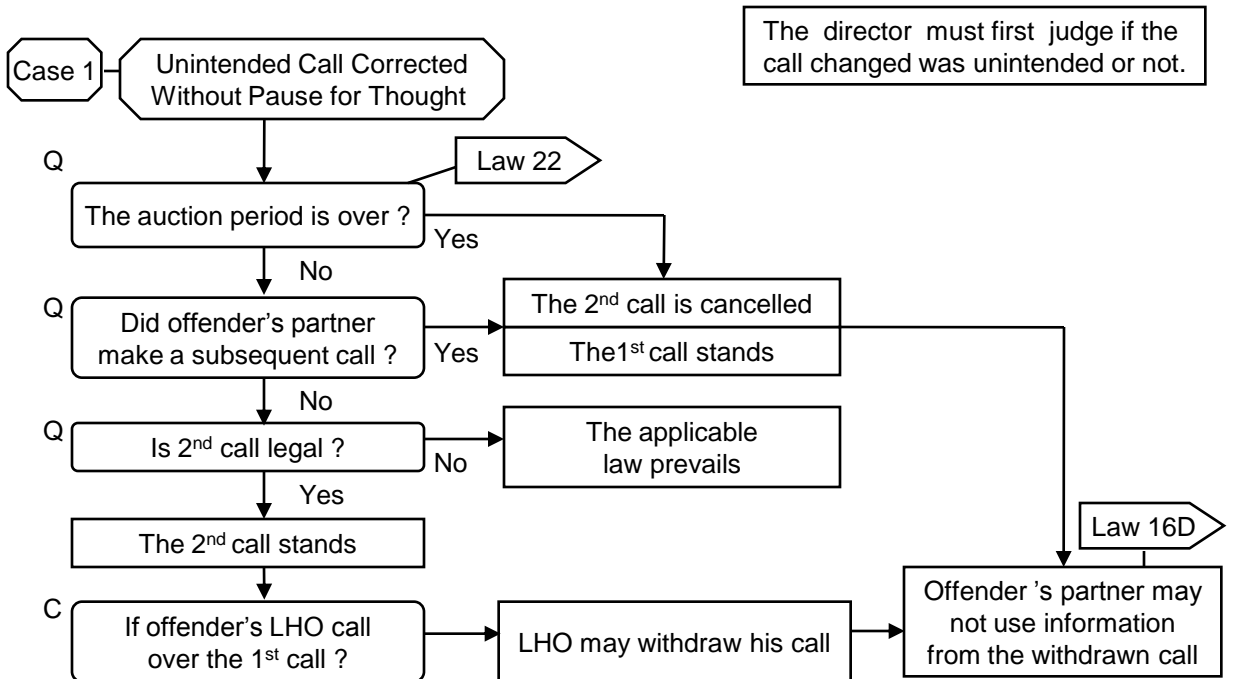
For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action and from withdrawn actions of the non-offending side is unauthorized (Law 16D).

Law 24: Card Exposed or Led Prior the Play period



Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

Law 25: Legal and Illegal Changes of Call

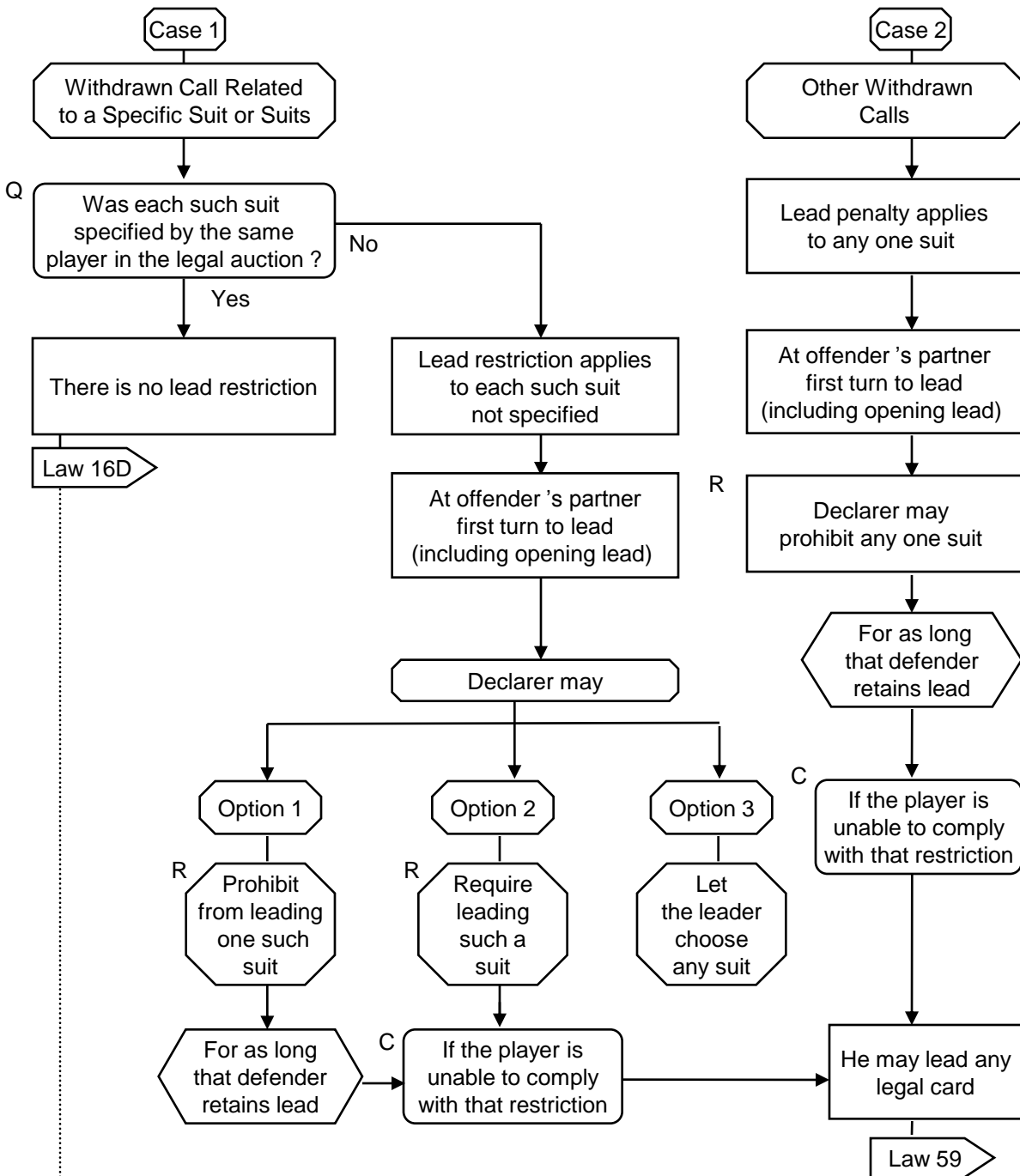


If the change of call has not yet been made, the director shall not offer such an option (25B).

Law 26: Call Withdrawn, Lead Restrictions

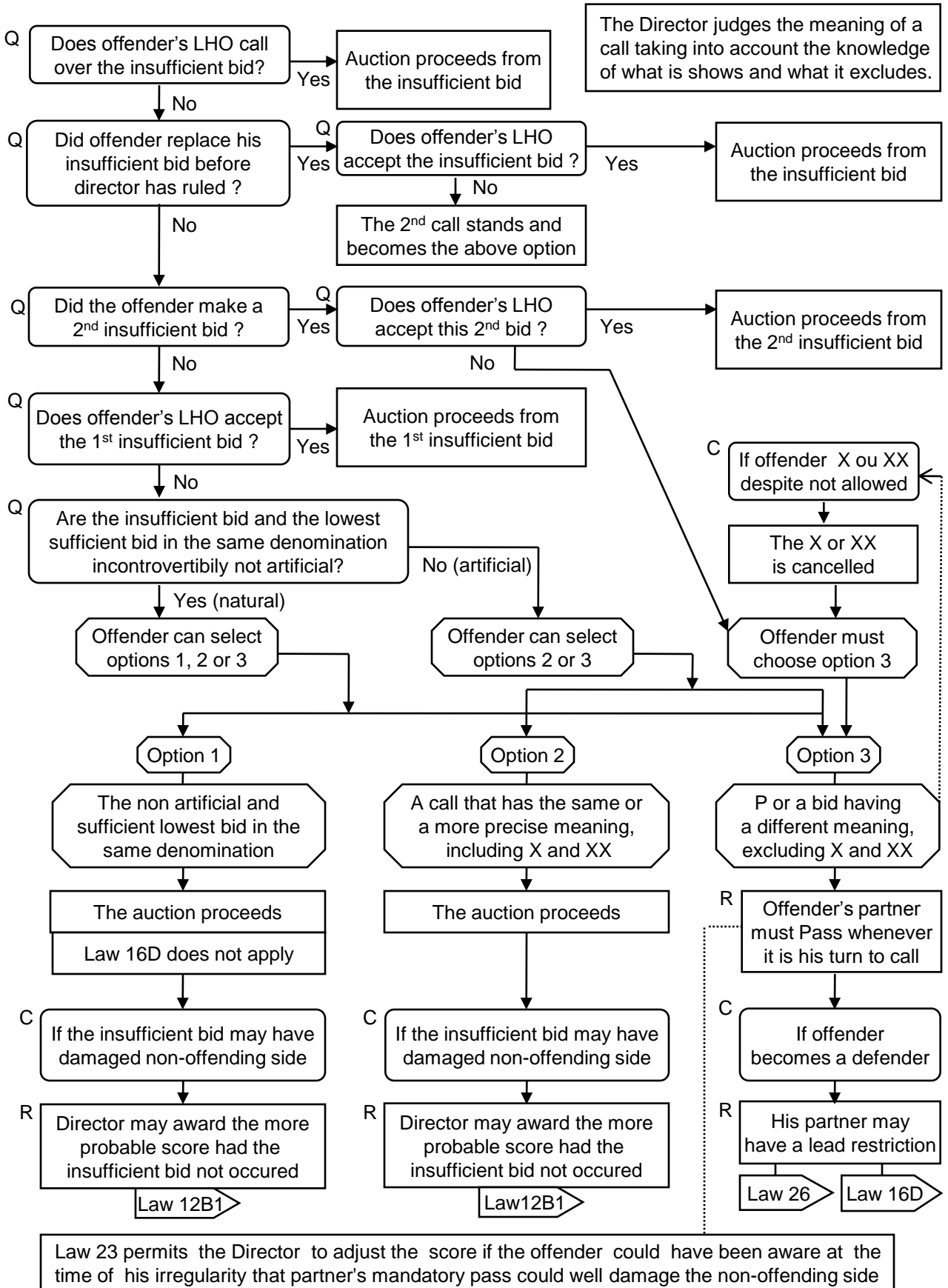
This Law applies each time an **offending** player withdraws a call, chooses a different final call for that turn and becomes defender.

A call repeated with much different meaning shall be deemed a different call.



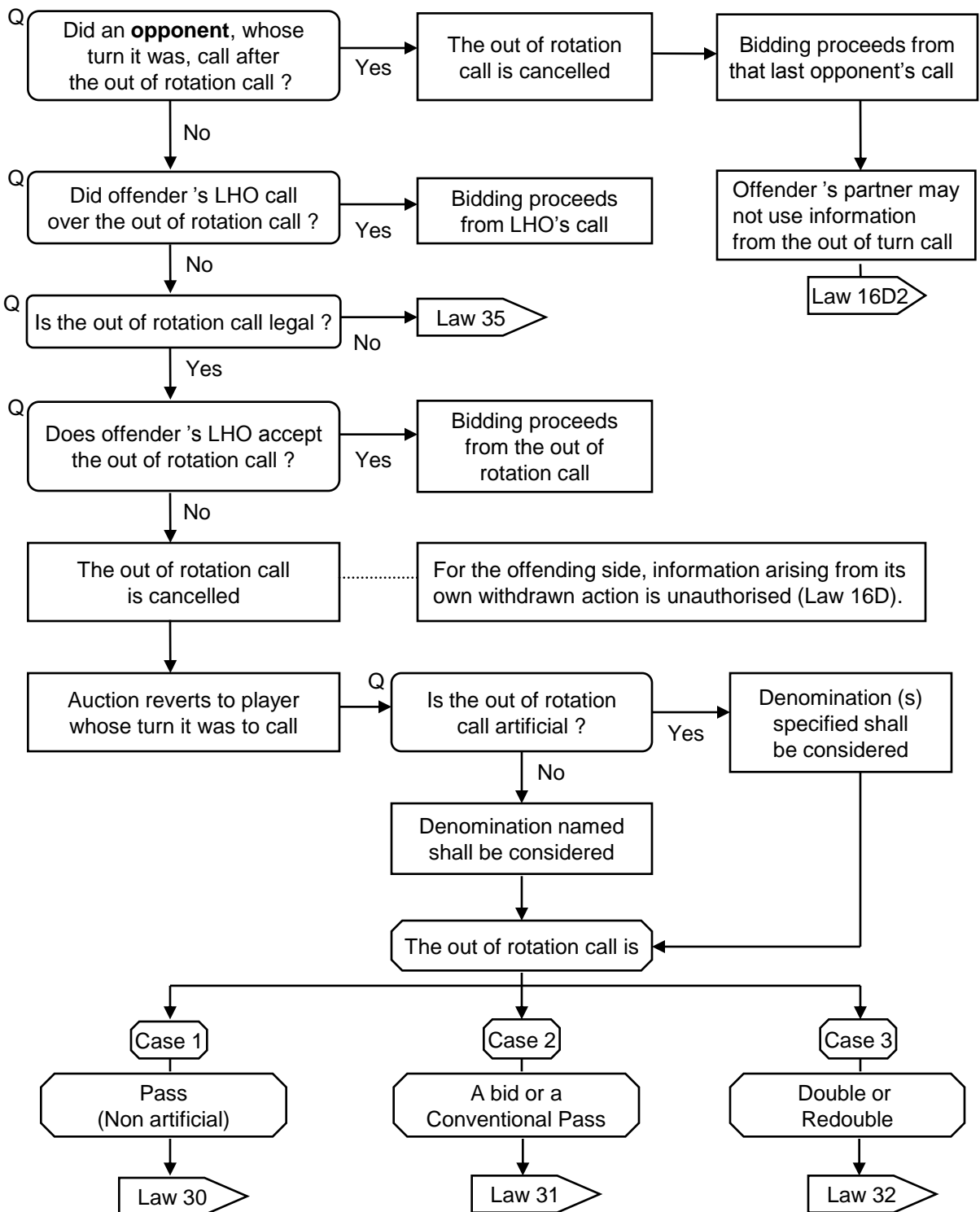
For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).

Law 27: Insufficient Bid



Laws 28-29: Procedure after a Call Out of Rotation

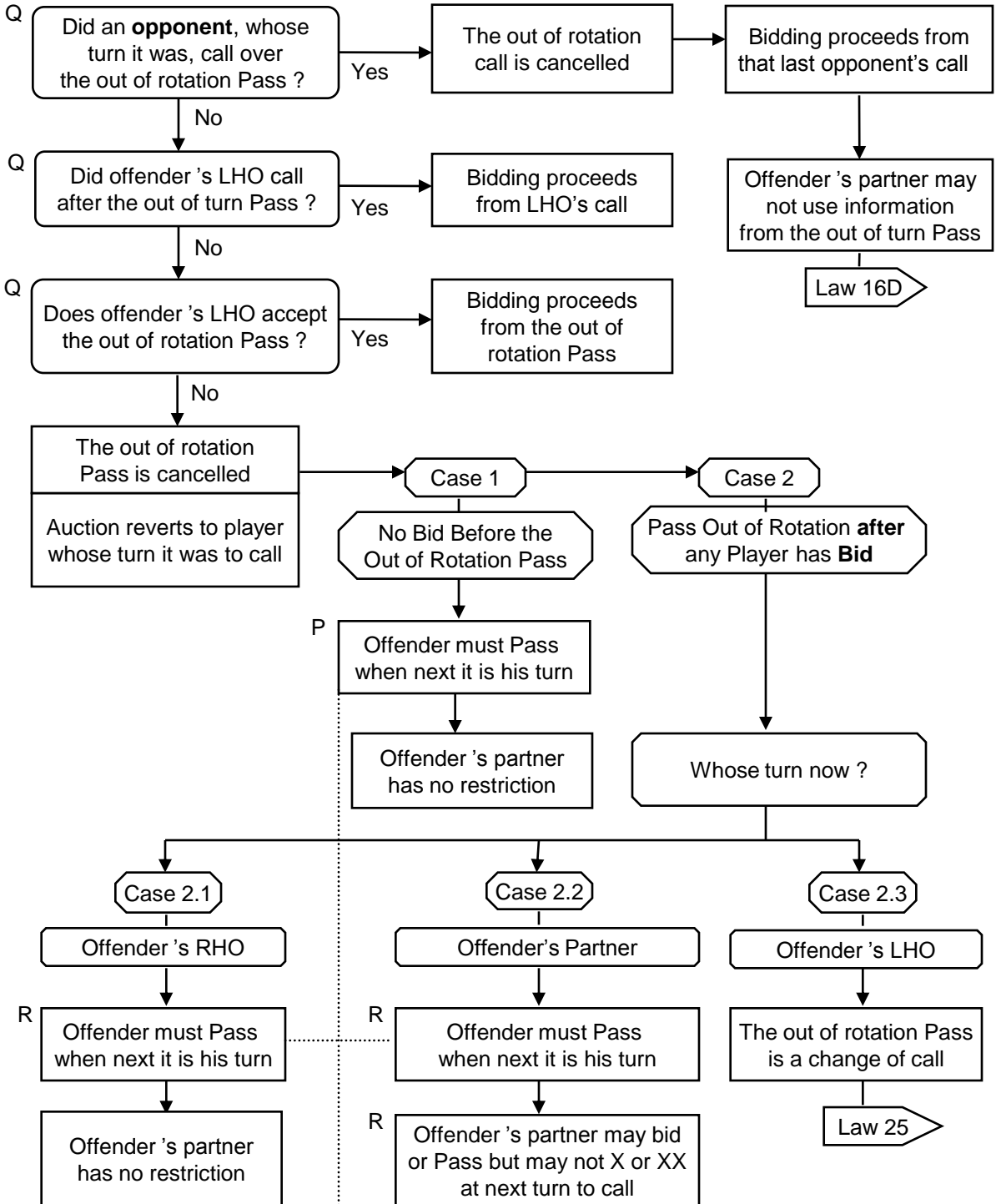
A call is considered in rotation if made at RHO's turn to call when this opponent is required by law to Pass.



Law 30: Pass Out of Rotation

When a Pass out of rotation is artificial or made after an artificial call of partner, Law 31 applies.

Pass is artificial if, by agreement, it promises more than a specific strength or it promises or denies values other than in the last suit named.

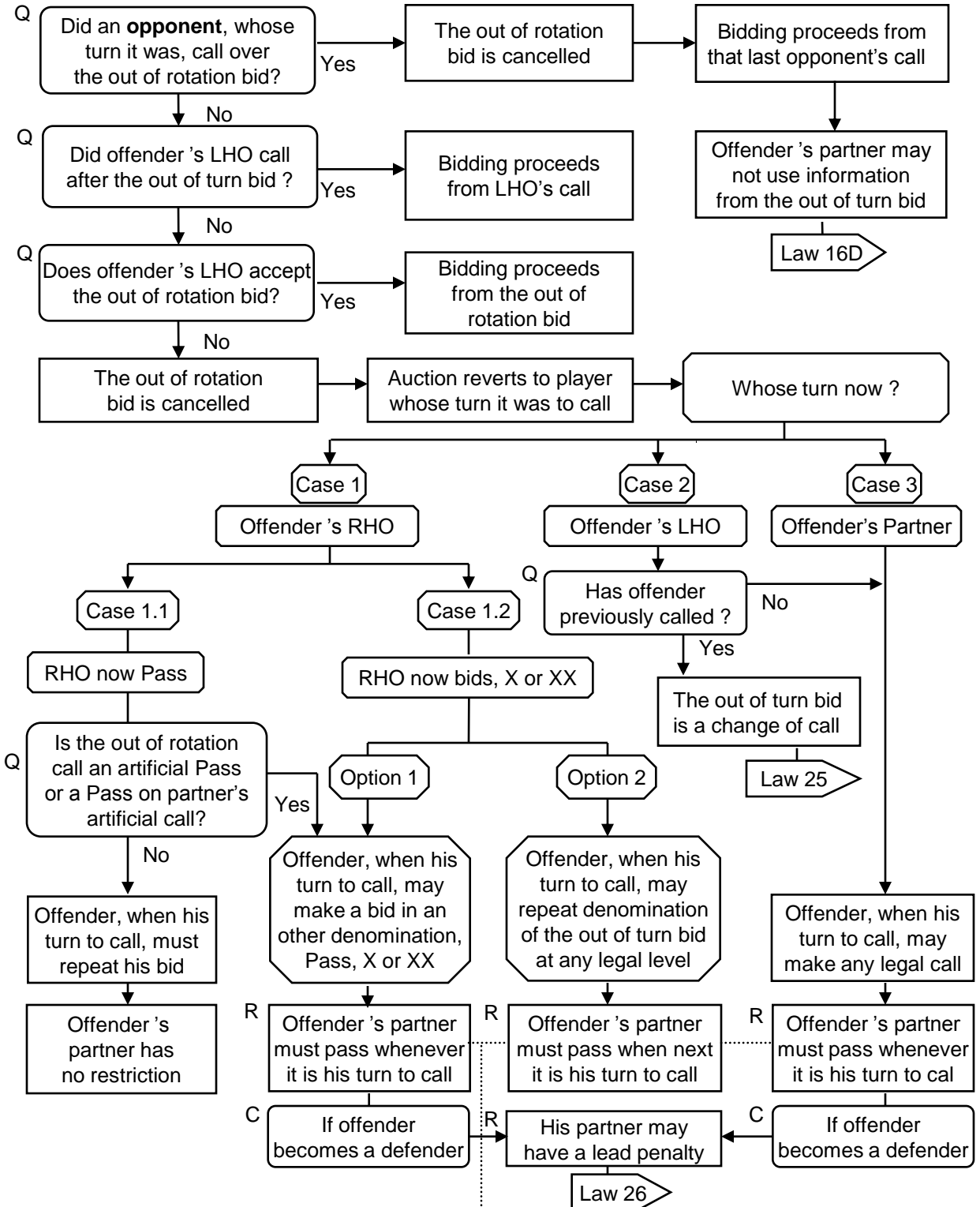


Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

Law 31: Bid Out of Rotation

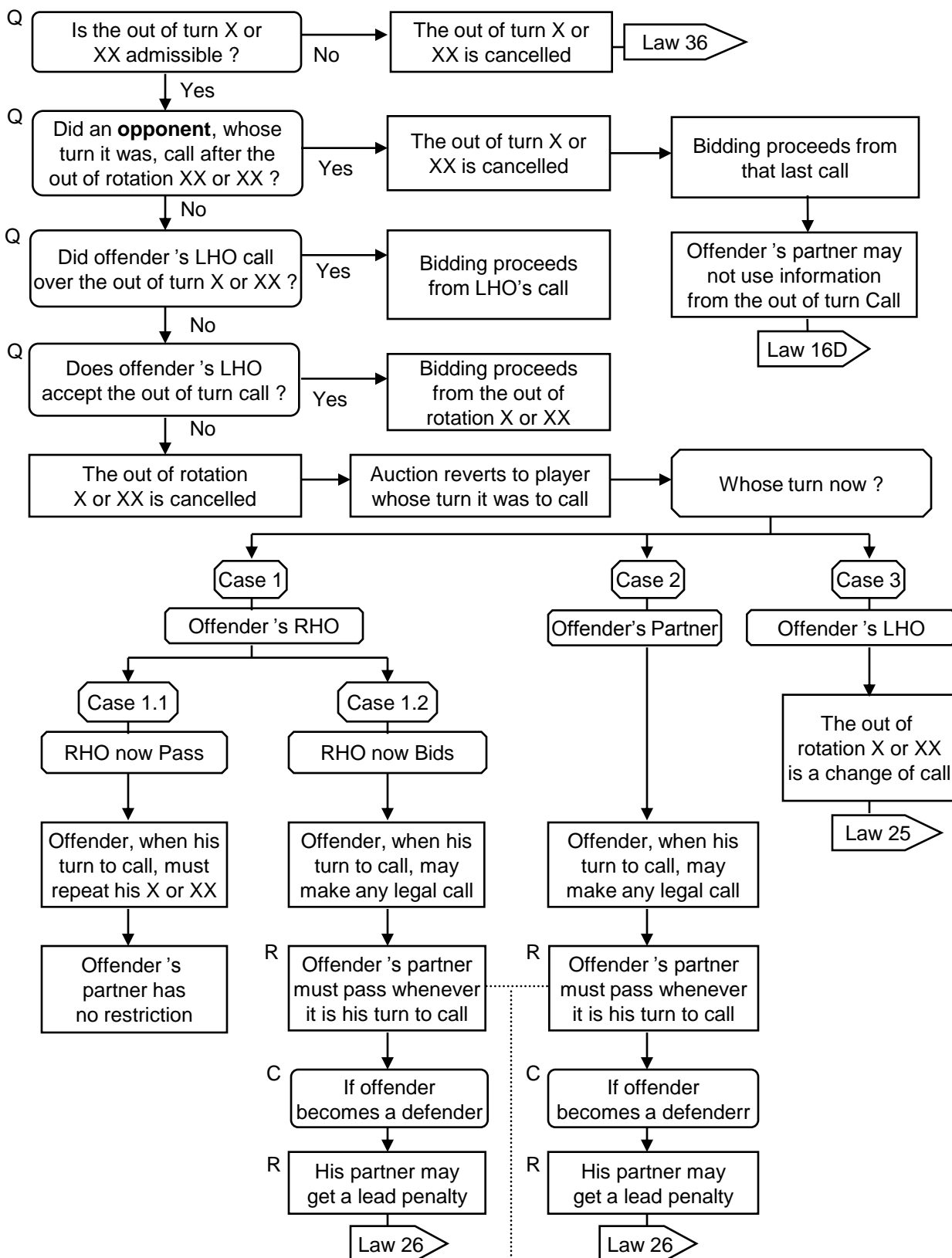
This Law also applies when a **Pass out of rotation** is artificial or is made after an artificial call of partner.

Pass is artificial if, by agreement, it promises more than a specific strength or it promises or denies values other than in the last suit named.



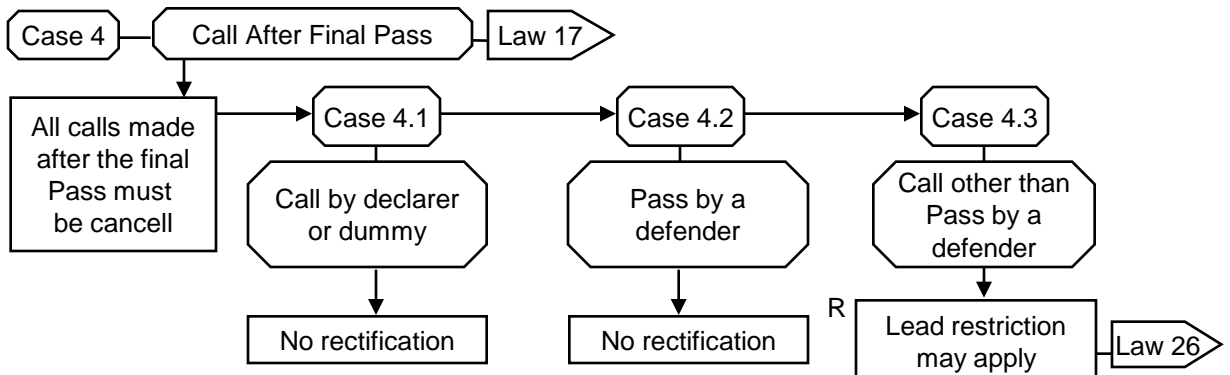
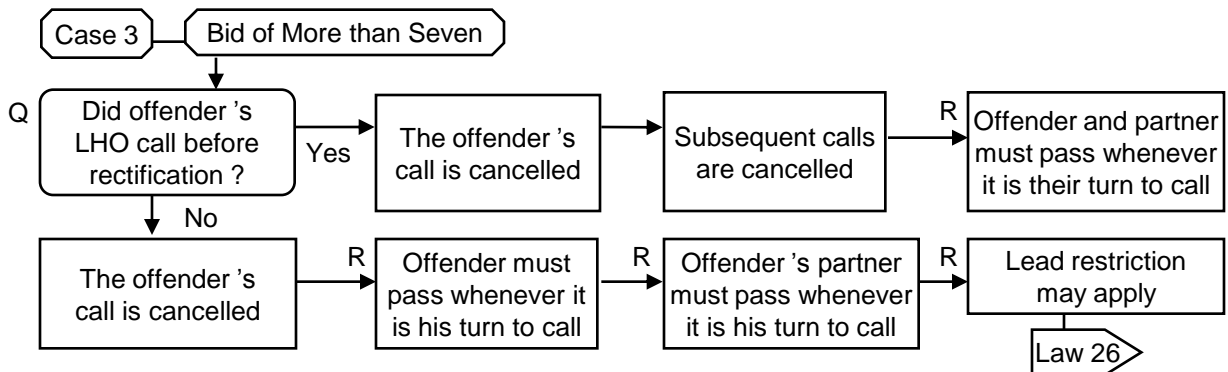
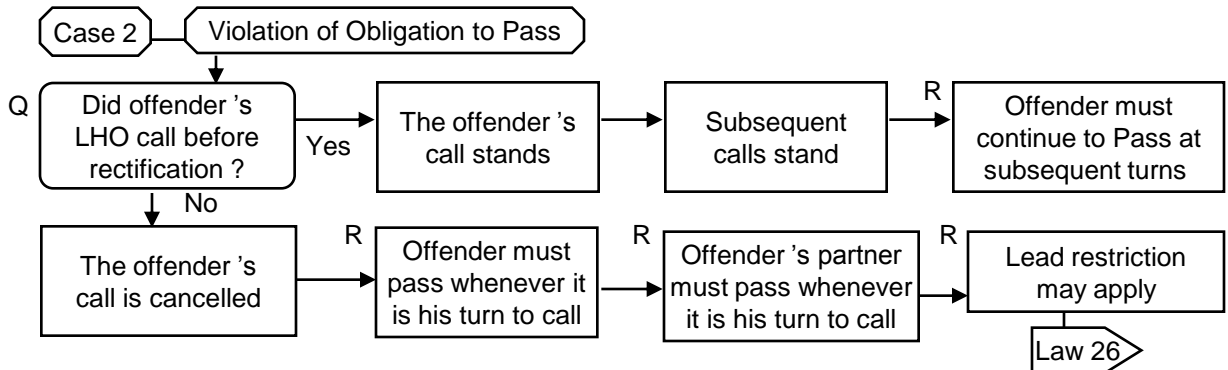
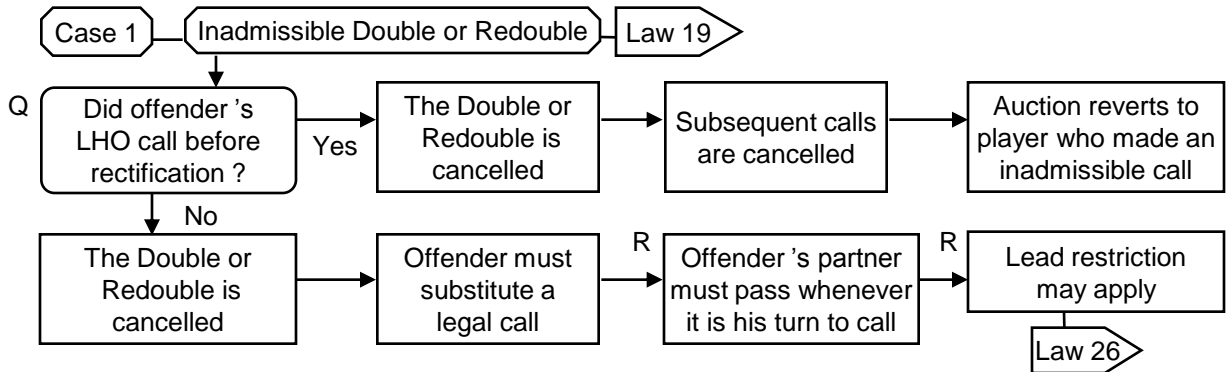
Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

Law 32: Double or Redouble Out of Rotation



Law 23 permits the director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

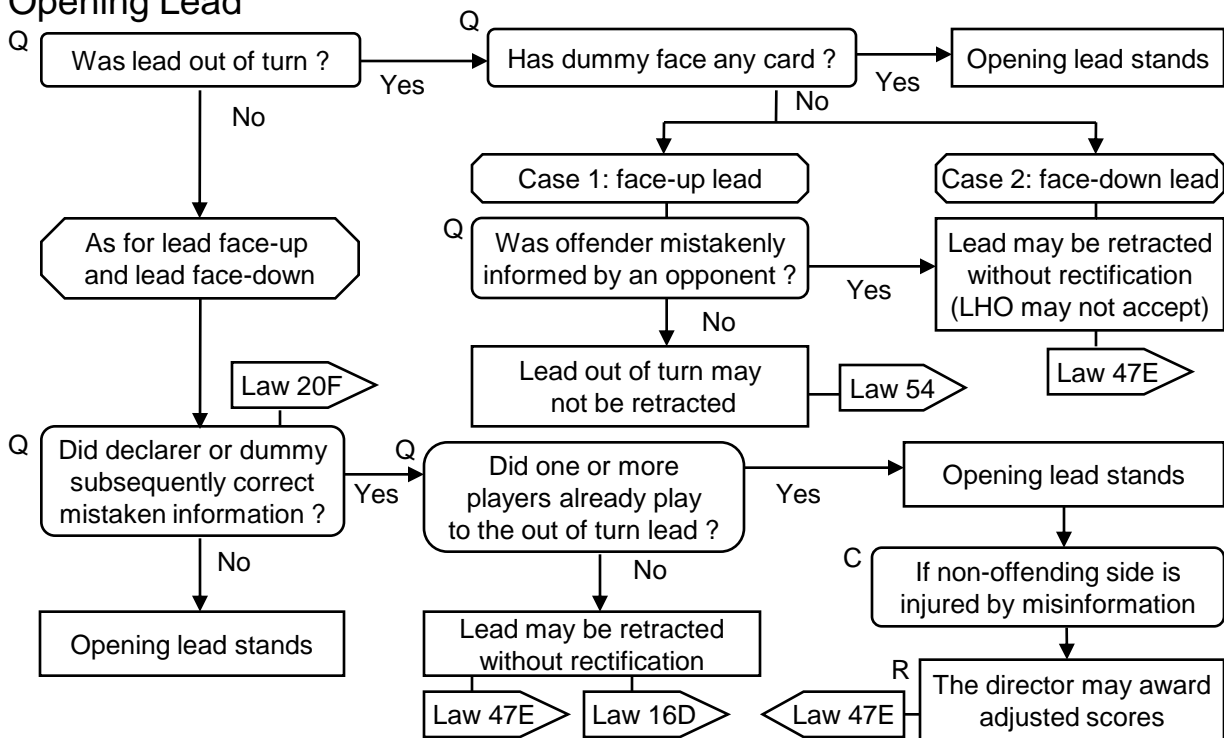
Laws 35 to 39: Inadmissible calls



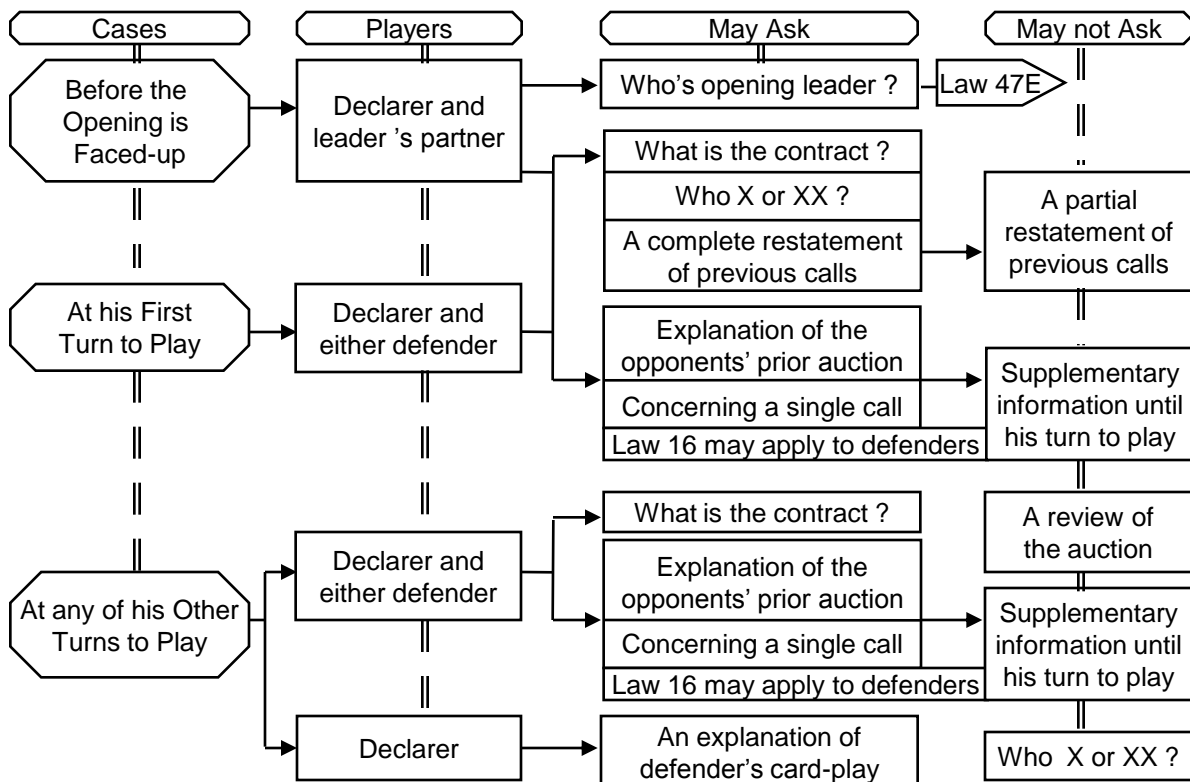
Law 23 permits the Director to adjust the score if the offender could have been aware at the time of his irregularity that partner's mandatory pass could well damage the non-offending side

Law 41: Commencement of play

Opening Lead

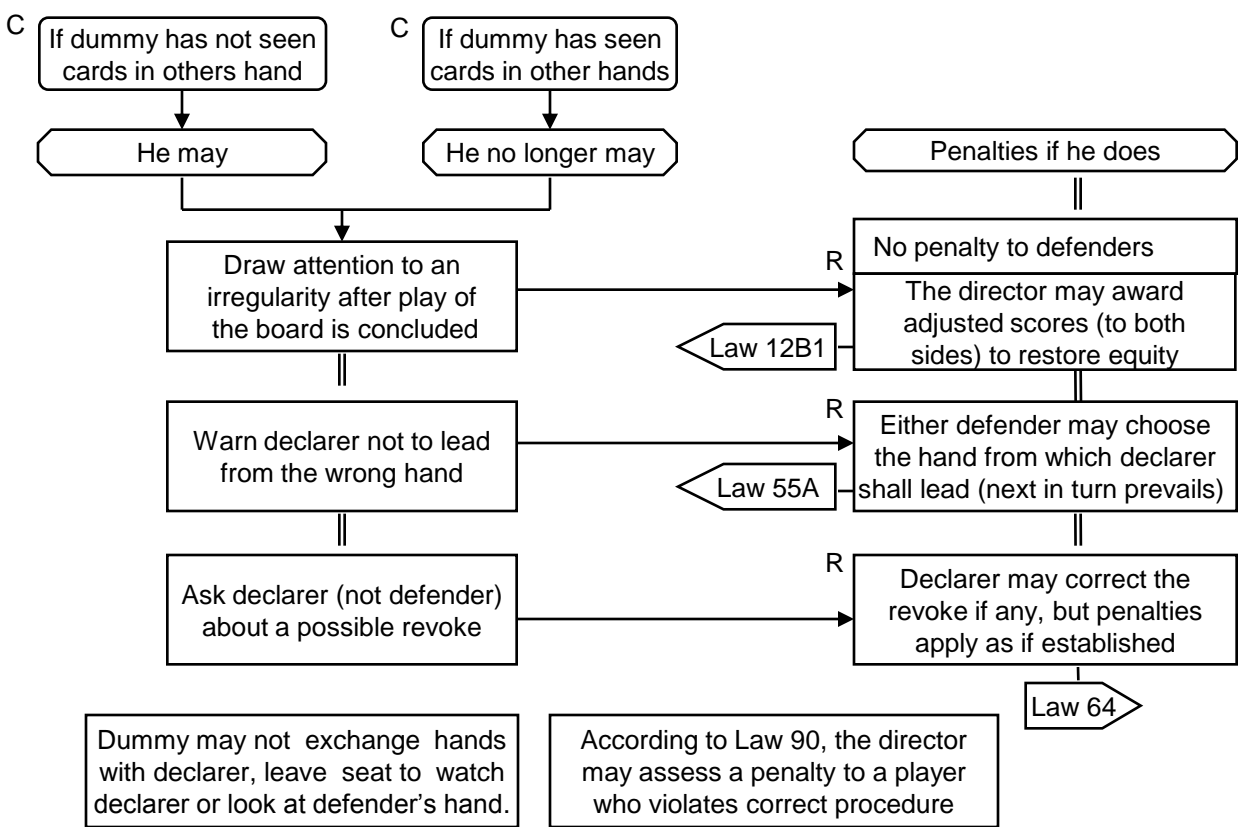
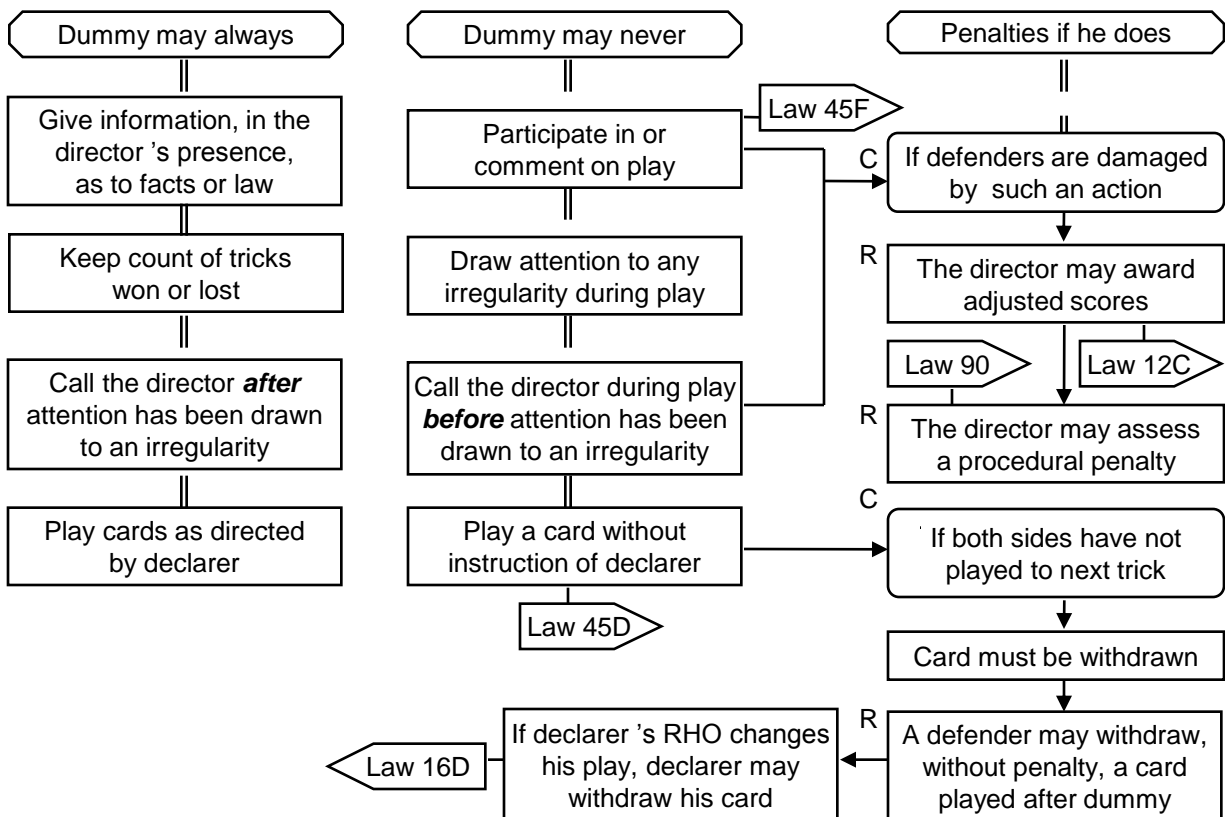


Review of Auction and Questions

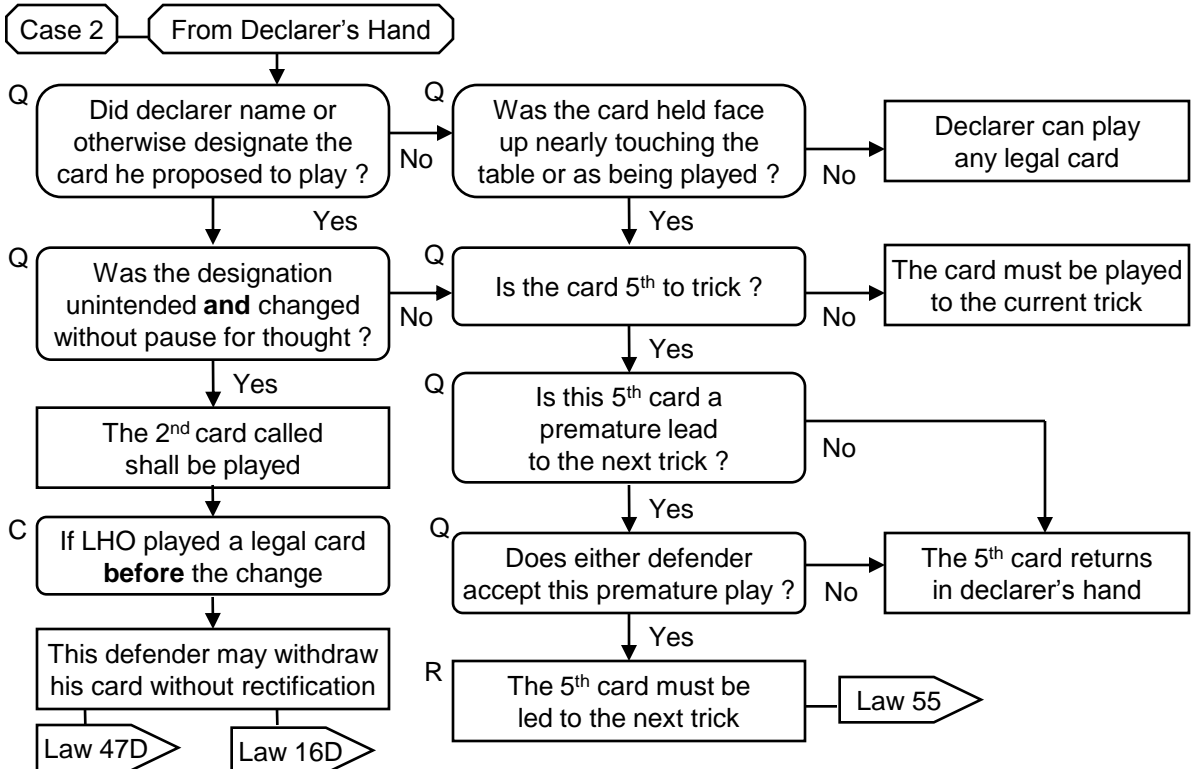
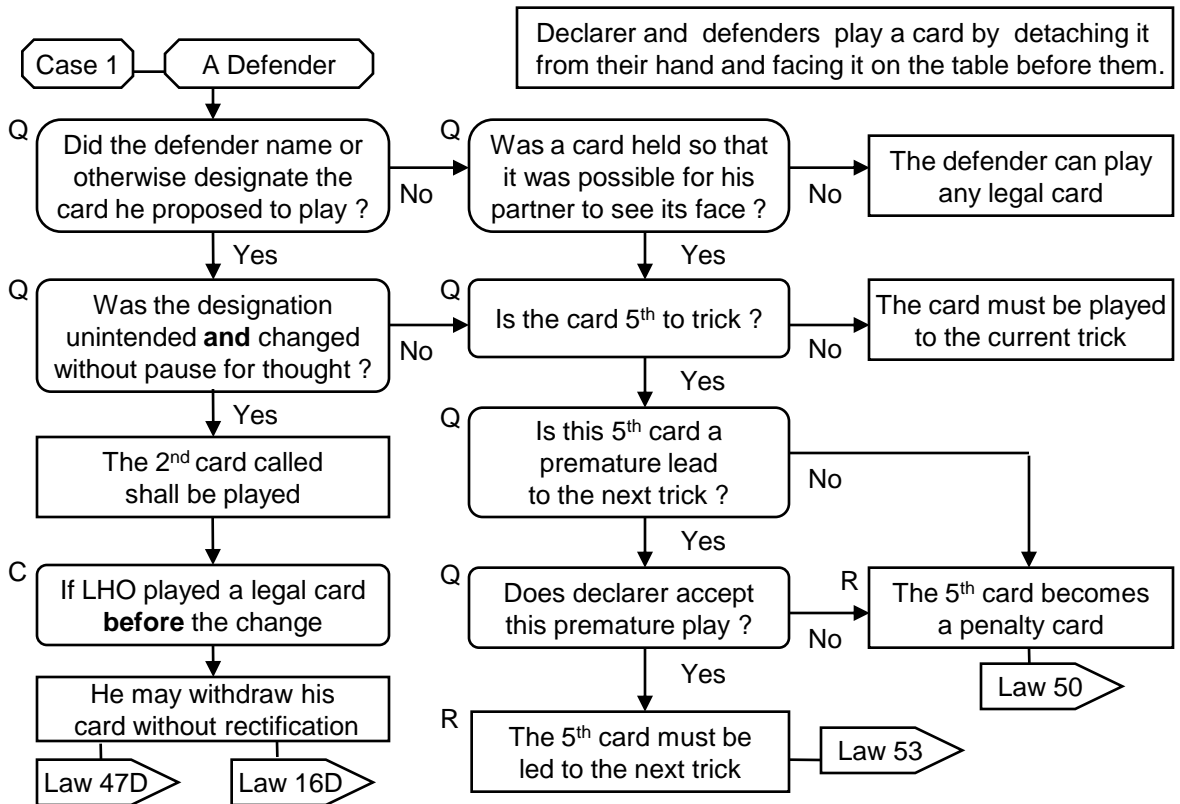


After the opening lead is faced, dummy spreads his hand sorted into suits, the cards in order of rank with lowest ranking cards towards declarer, and in columns pointing lengthwise towards declarer.

Laws 42 - 43: Dummy's Rights and Limitations

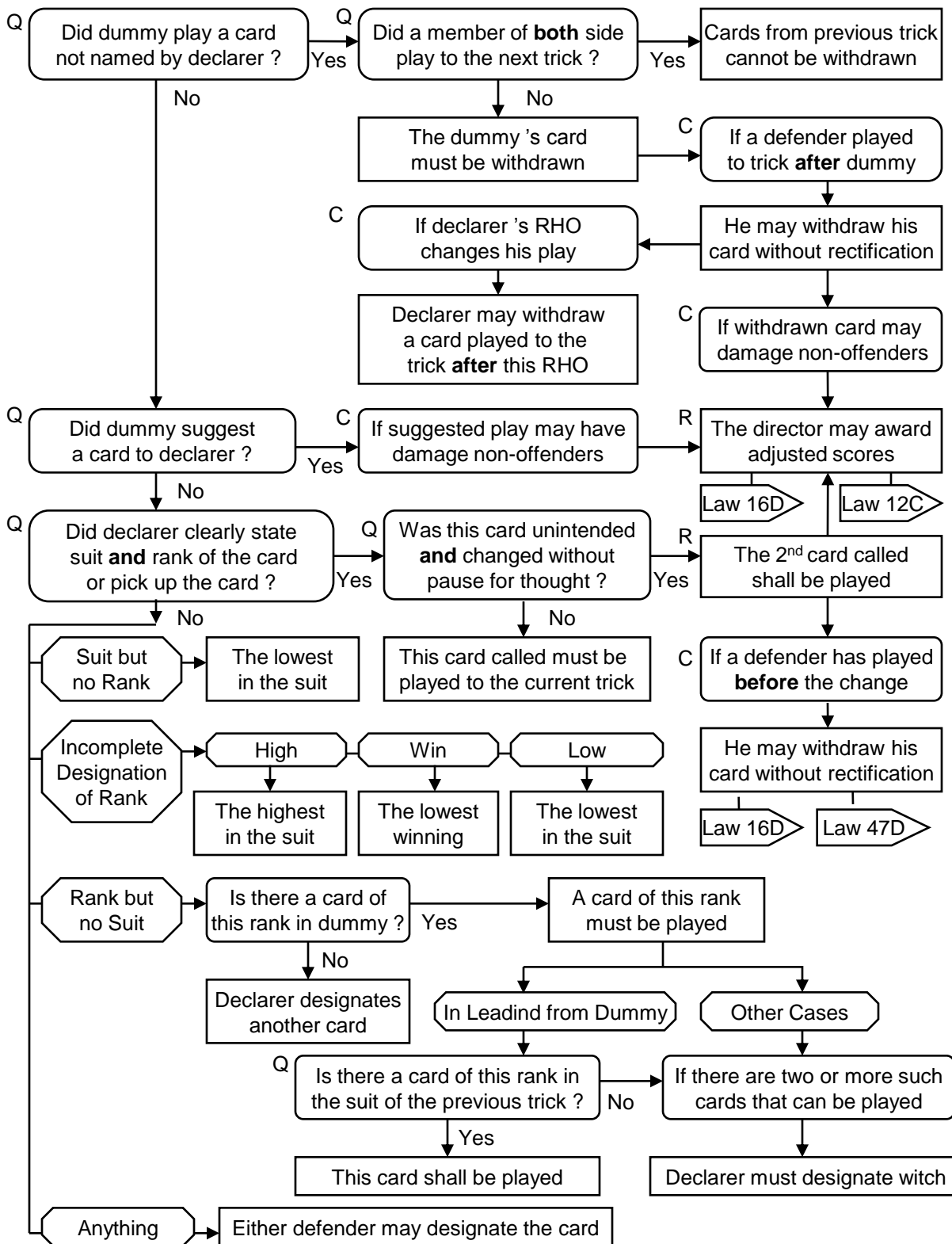


Laws 45-46: Card played by a Defender or by the Declarer



When both sides do not agree on the fact that a card is played, the director must decide (Law 85).

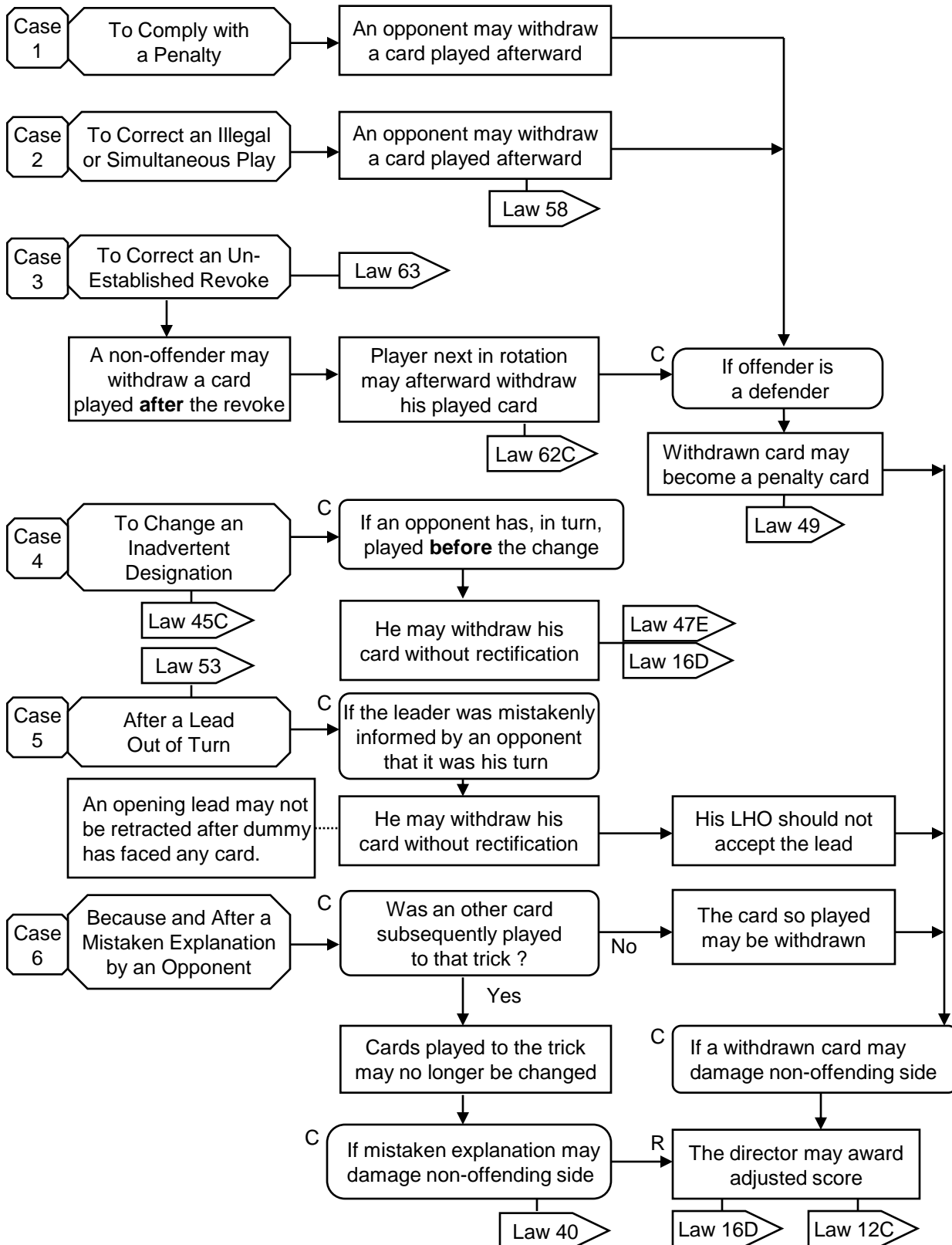
Laws 45-46: Card Played by Dummy



If declarer calls a card not in dummy, the call is void and he may designate any legal card .

Director may deem that declarer's intention is incontrovertible and ignore above restrictions.

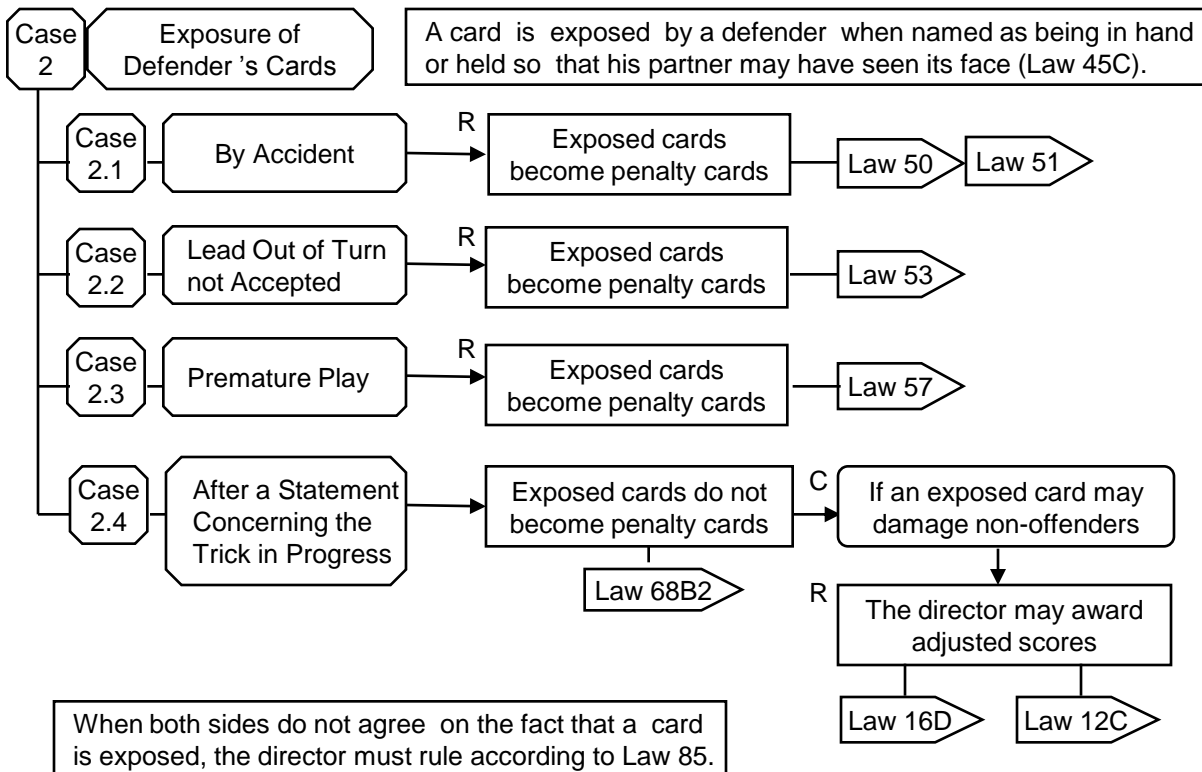
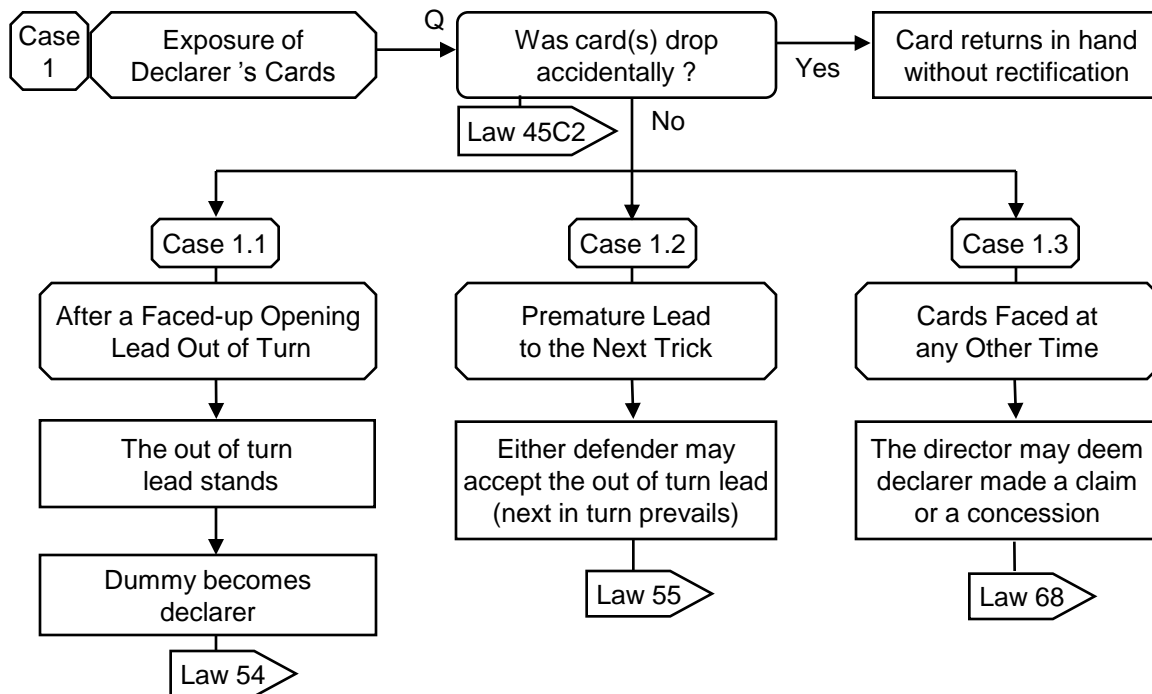
Law 47: Retractation of Card Played



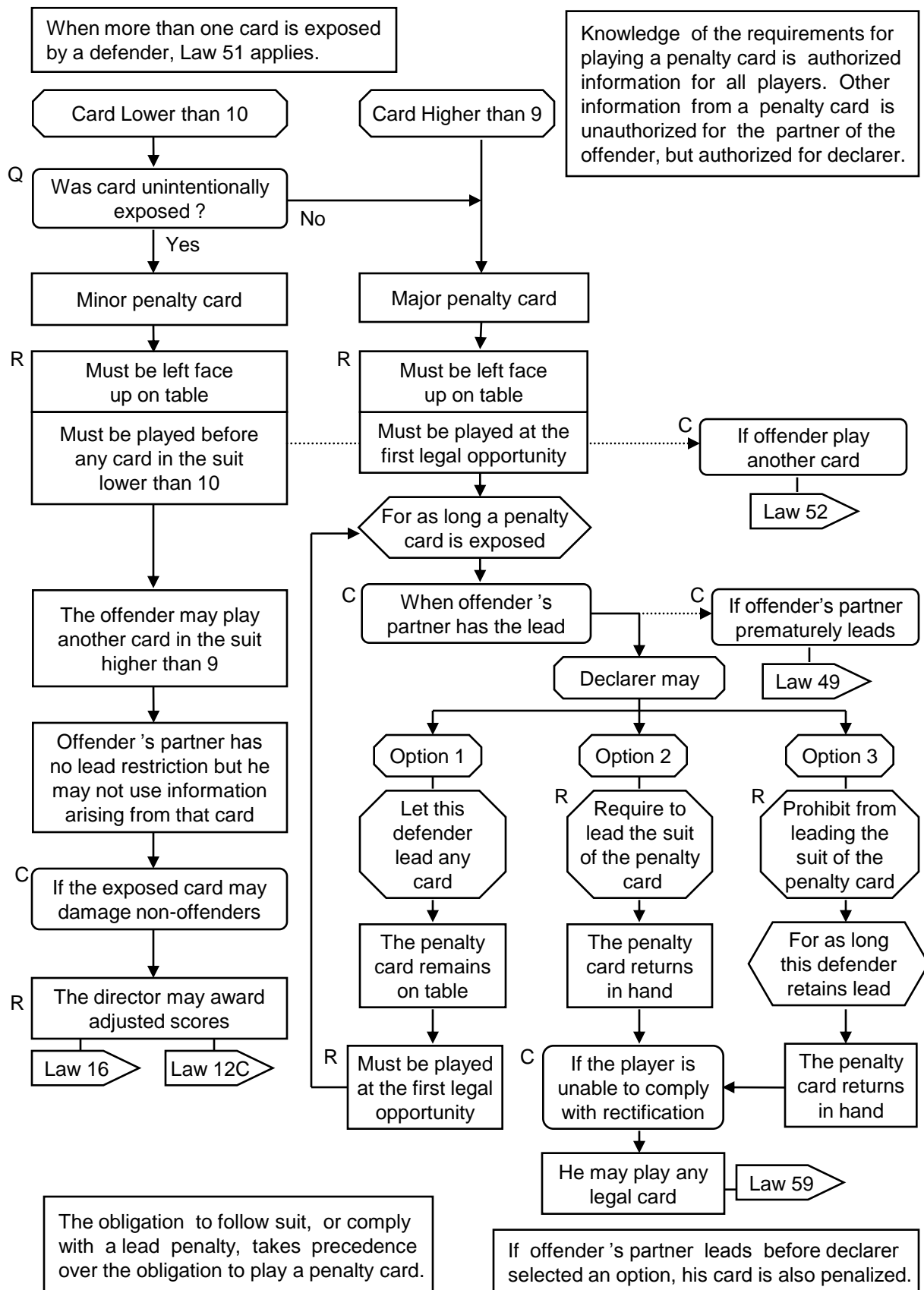
When a player it was properly the turn lead after an out of turn lead of an opponent, the proper lead stands and all cards played in error to this trick may be withdrawn (Law 53C).

Law 48-49: Exposure of Cards During Play

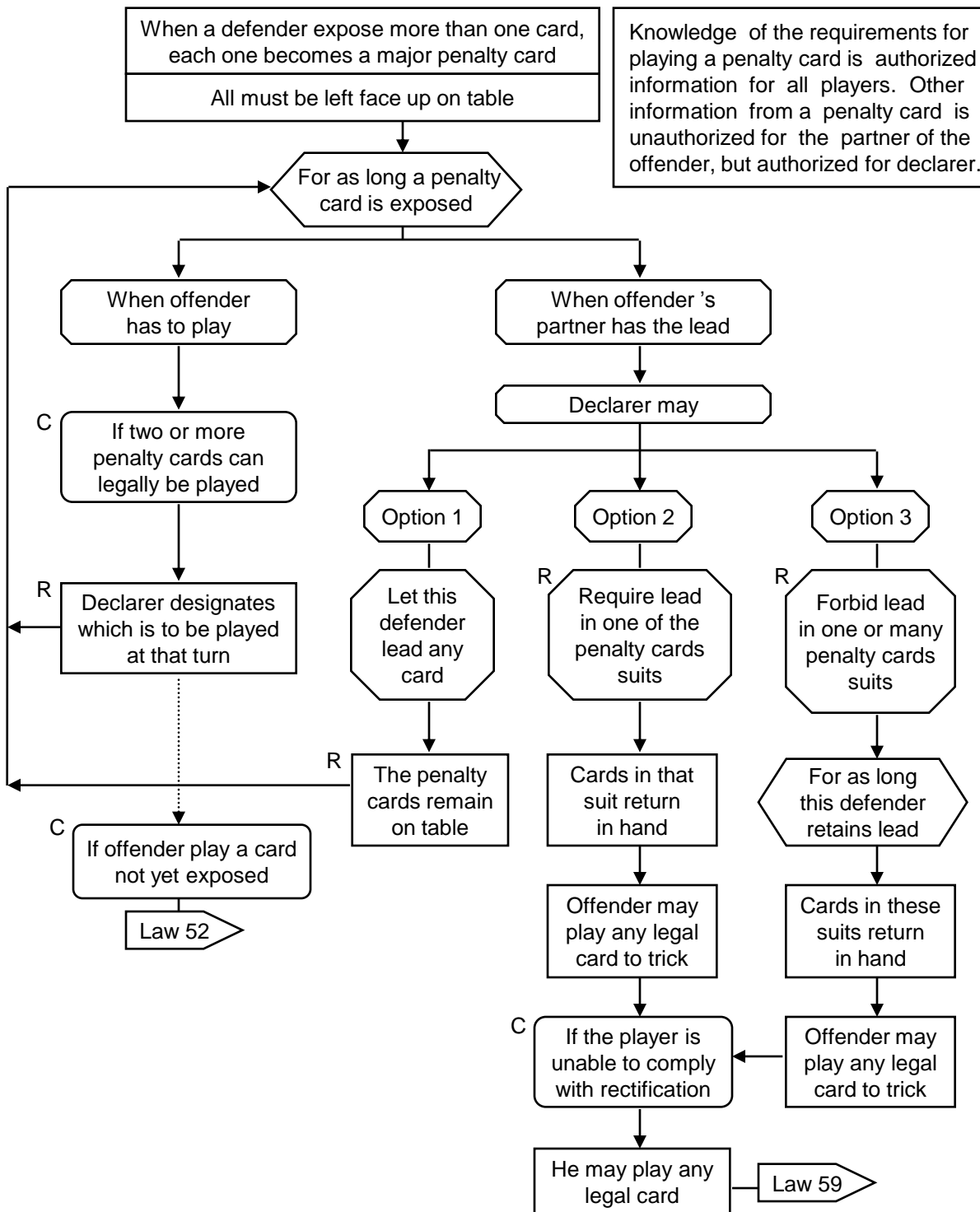
Declarer is not subject to restriction for exposing a card, except when it is played according to Law 45C2.



Law 50: Disposition of Penalty Card



Law 51: Two or More Penalty Cards

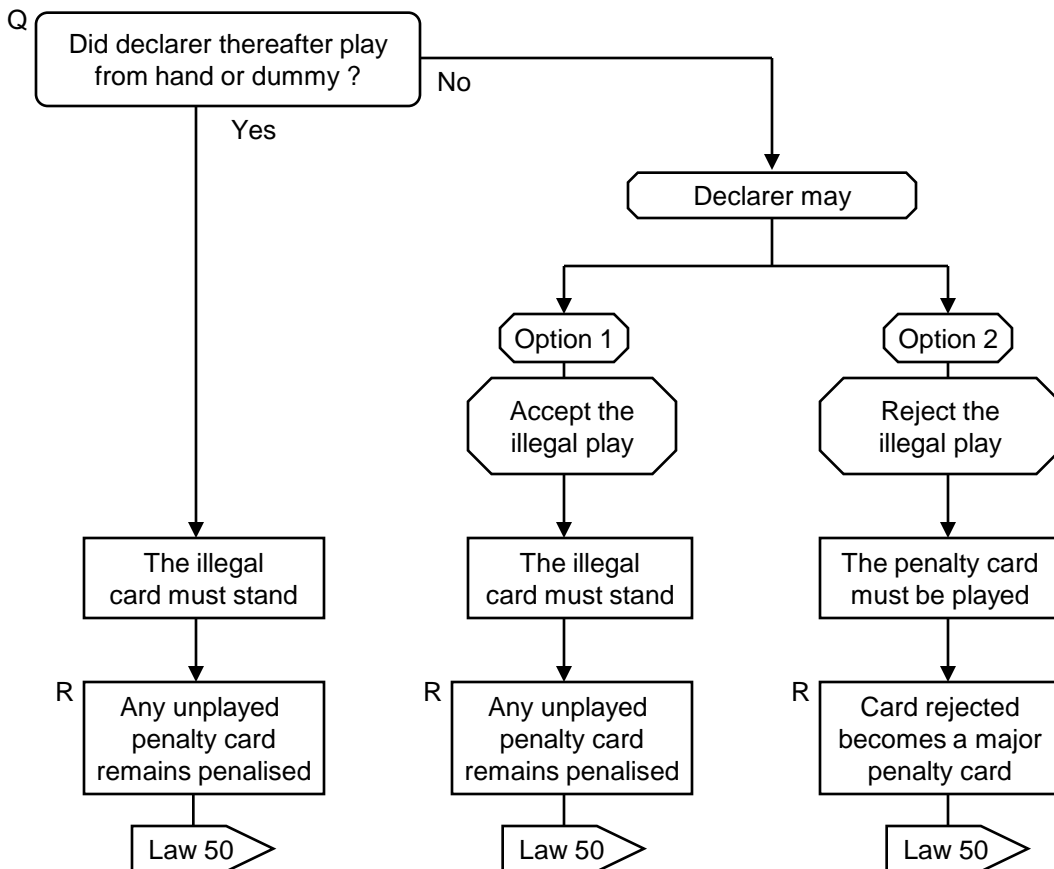


The obligation to follow suit, or comply with a lead penalty, takes precedence over the obligation to play a penalty card.

If offender's partner leads before declarer selected an option, his card is also penalized.

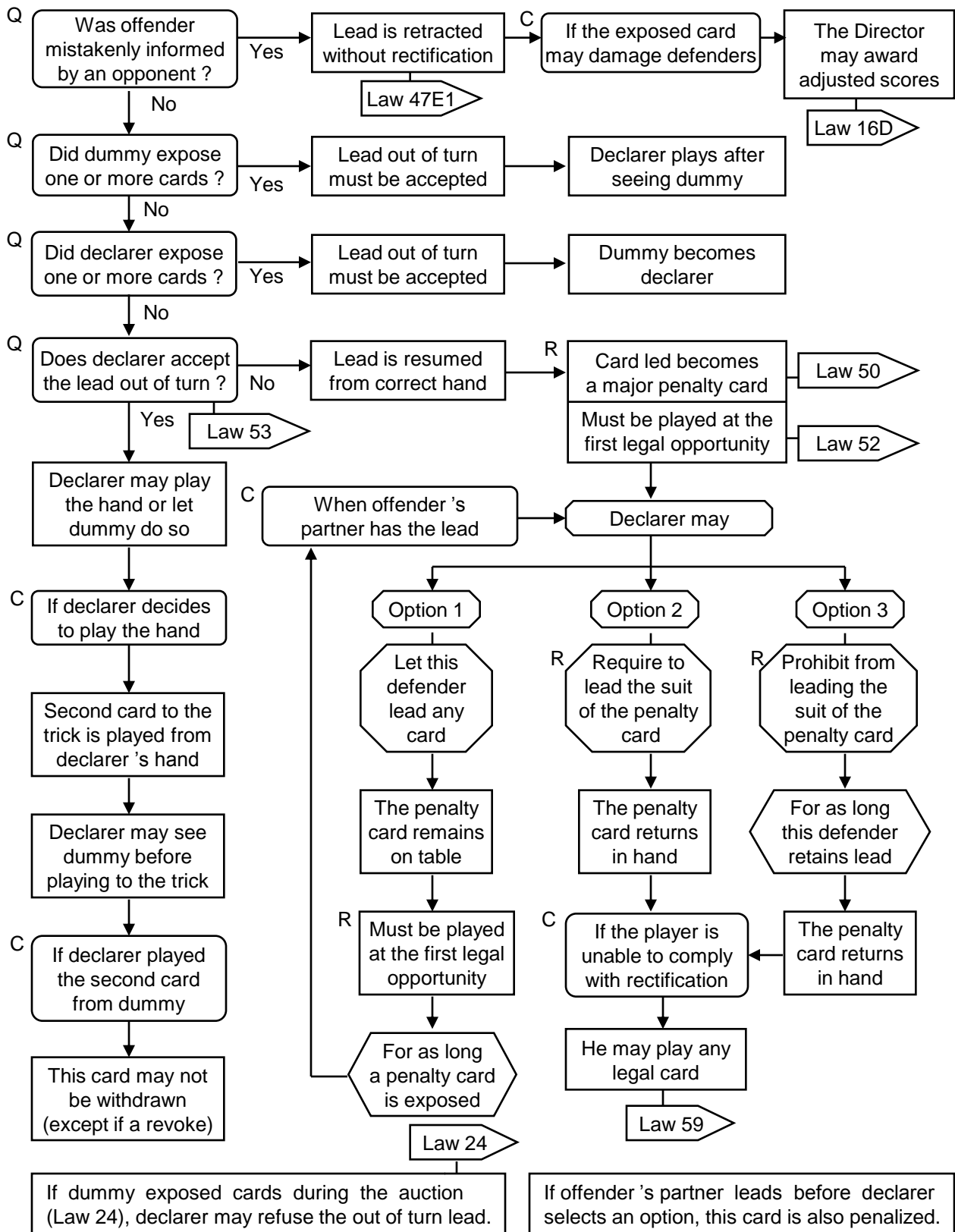
Law 52: Failure to Lead or Play a Penalty Card

When a defender fails to lead or play a penalty card as required by Laws 50 or 51, he may not, on his own initiative, withdraw any other card he has played.



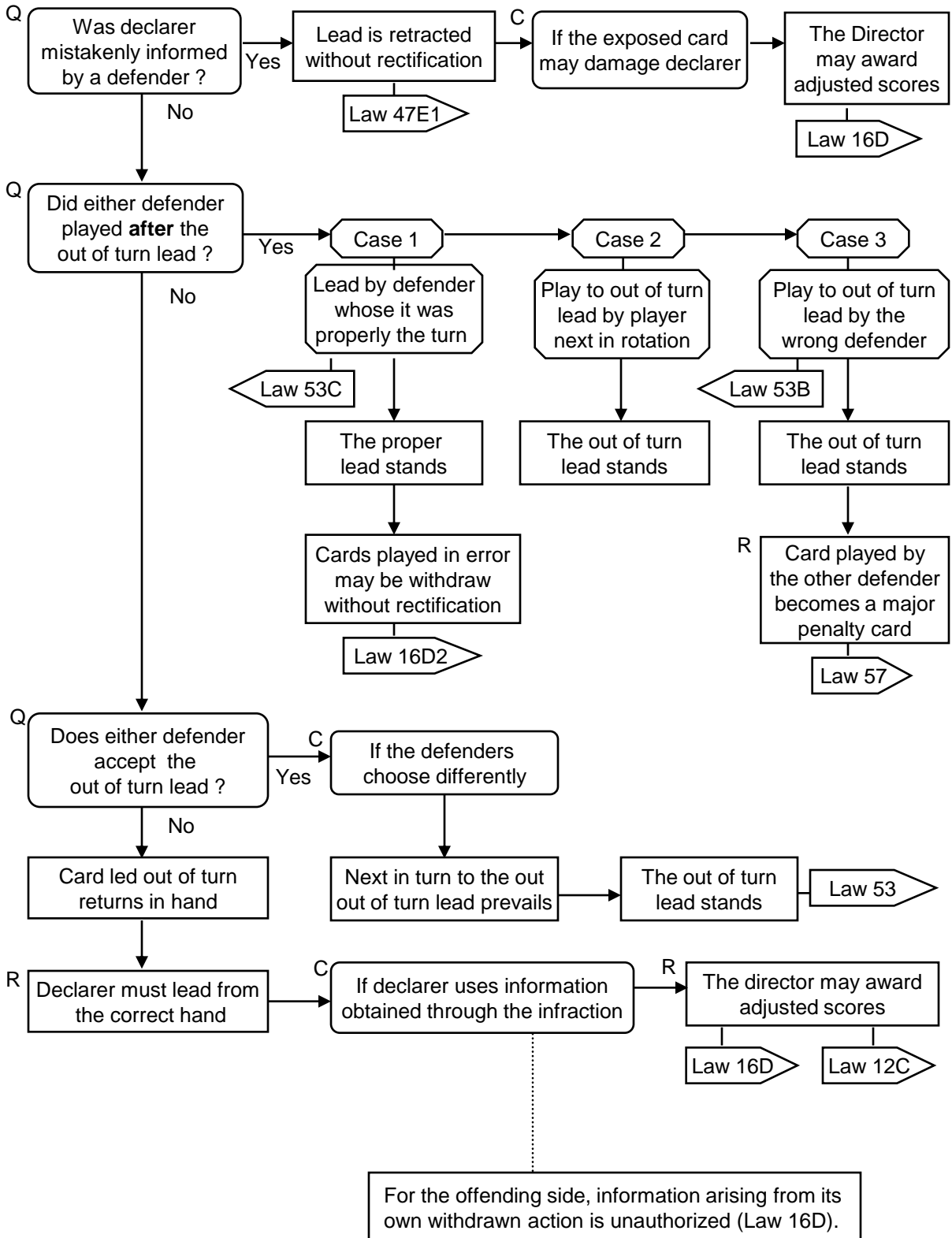
Law 54: Faced Opening Lead Out of Turn

When an opening lead is faced out of turn, and offender's partner leads face down, the director requires the faced down lead to be retracted.



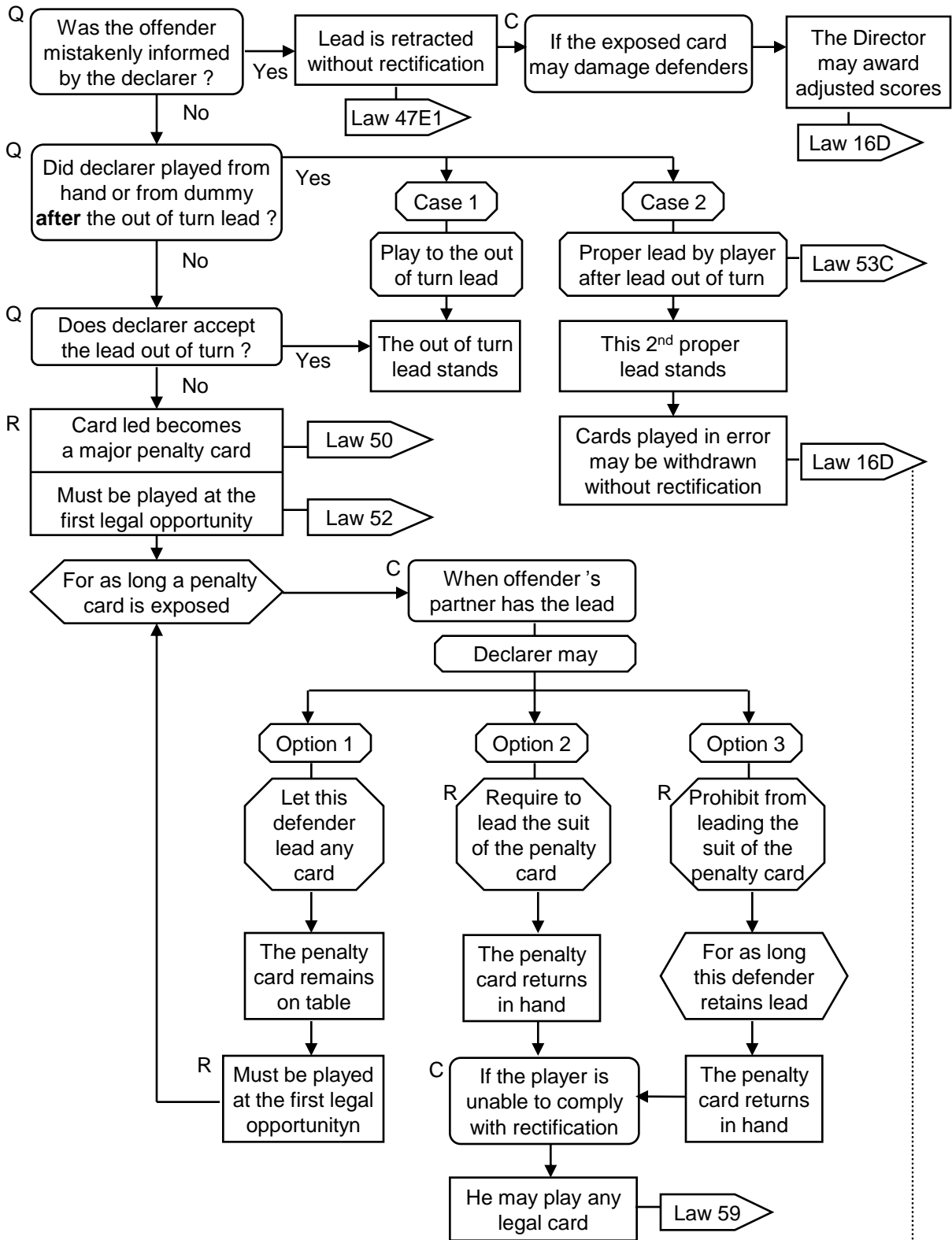
Law 55: Declarer's Lead Out of Turn

(except opening lead)



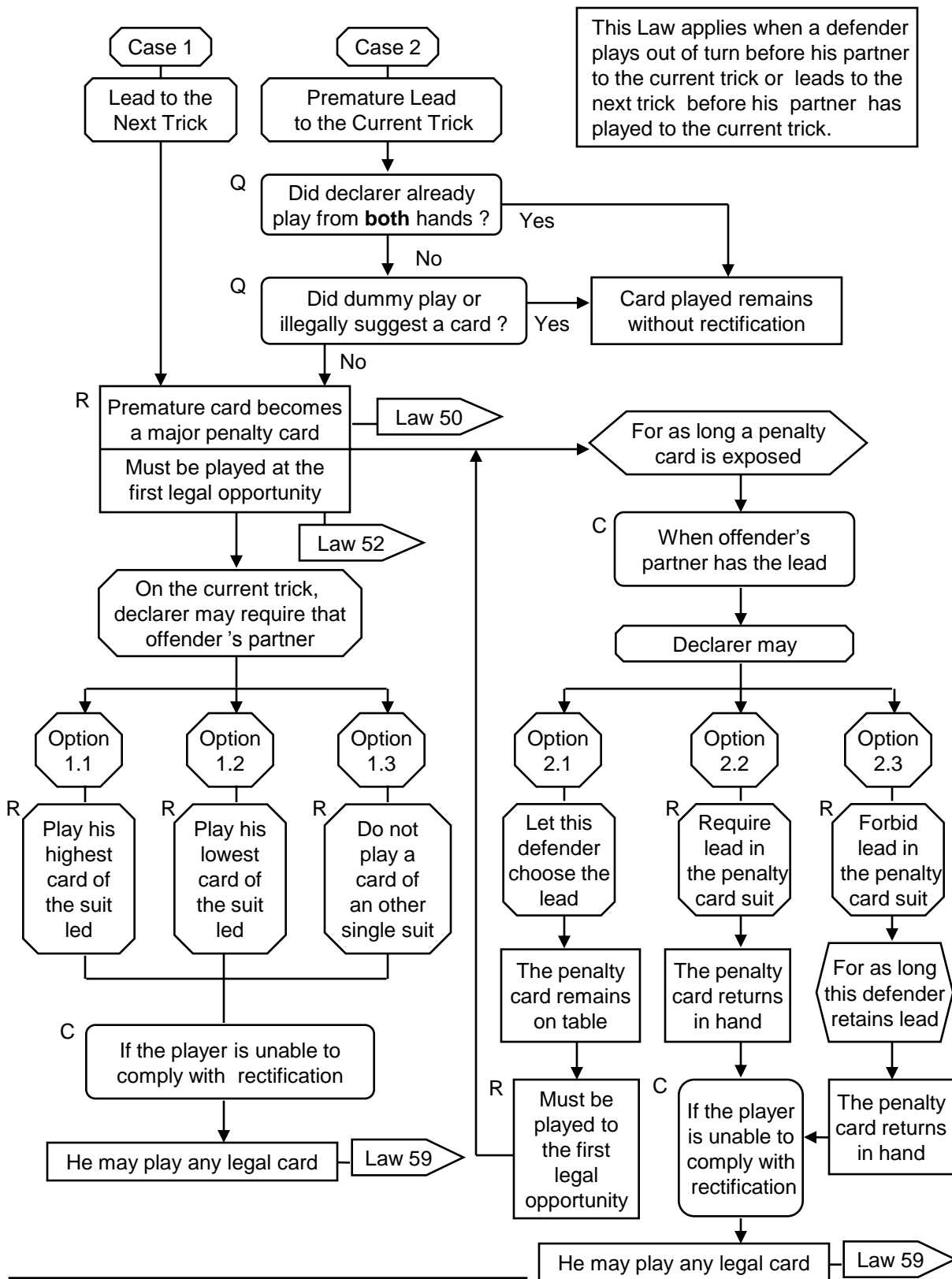
Law 56: Defender's Lead Out of Turn

(except opening lead)



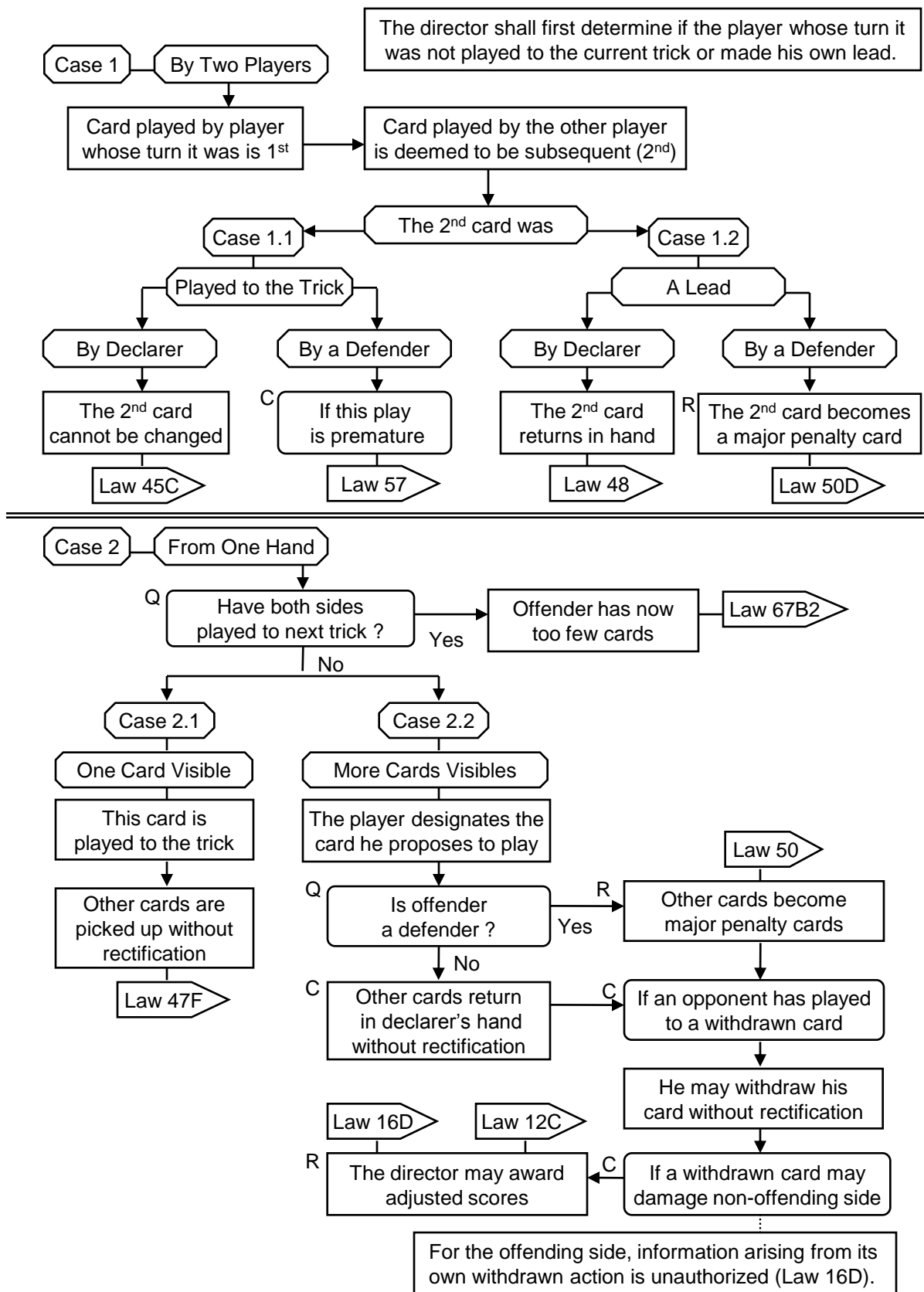
If offender's partner leads before declarer selected an option, his card is also penalized.	For the offending side, information arising from its own withdrawn action is unauthorized (Law 16D).
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Law 57: Premature Lead or Play (by a defender)

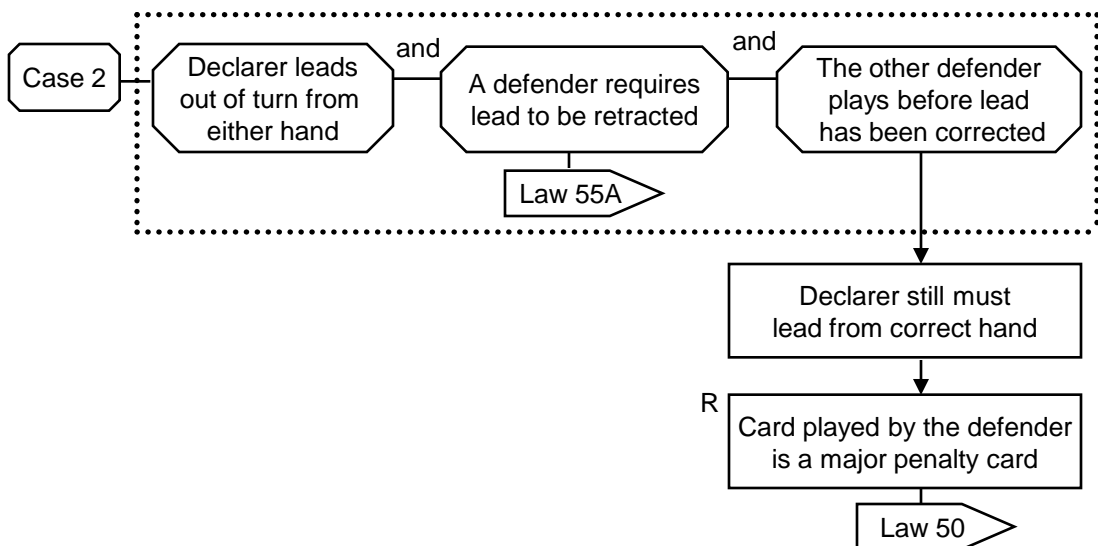
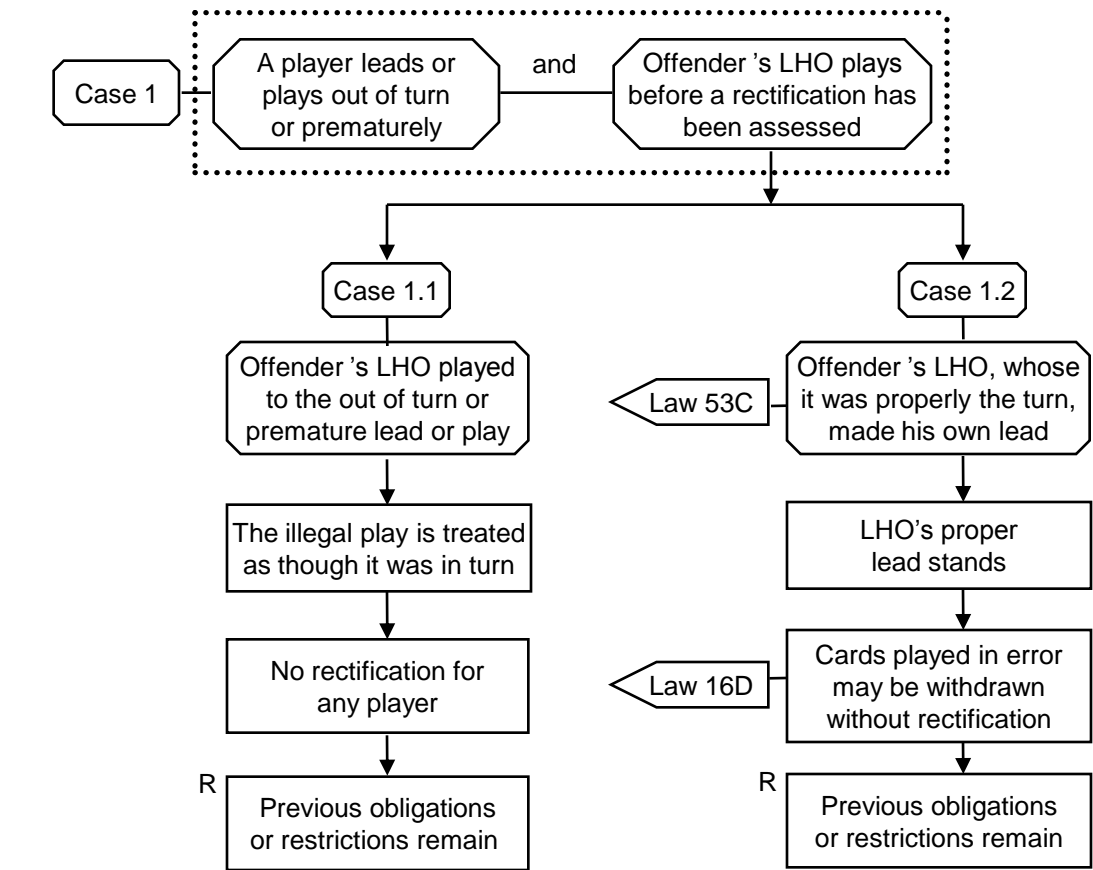


A singleton in dummy, or one of cards adjacent in rank of the same suit, is not considered to be played

Law 58: Simultaneous Leads or Plays

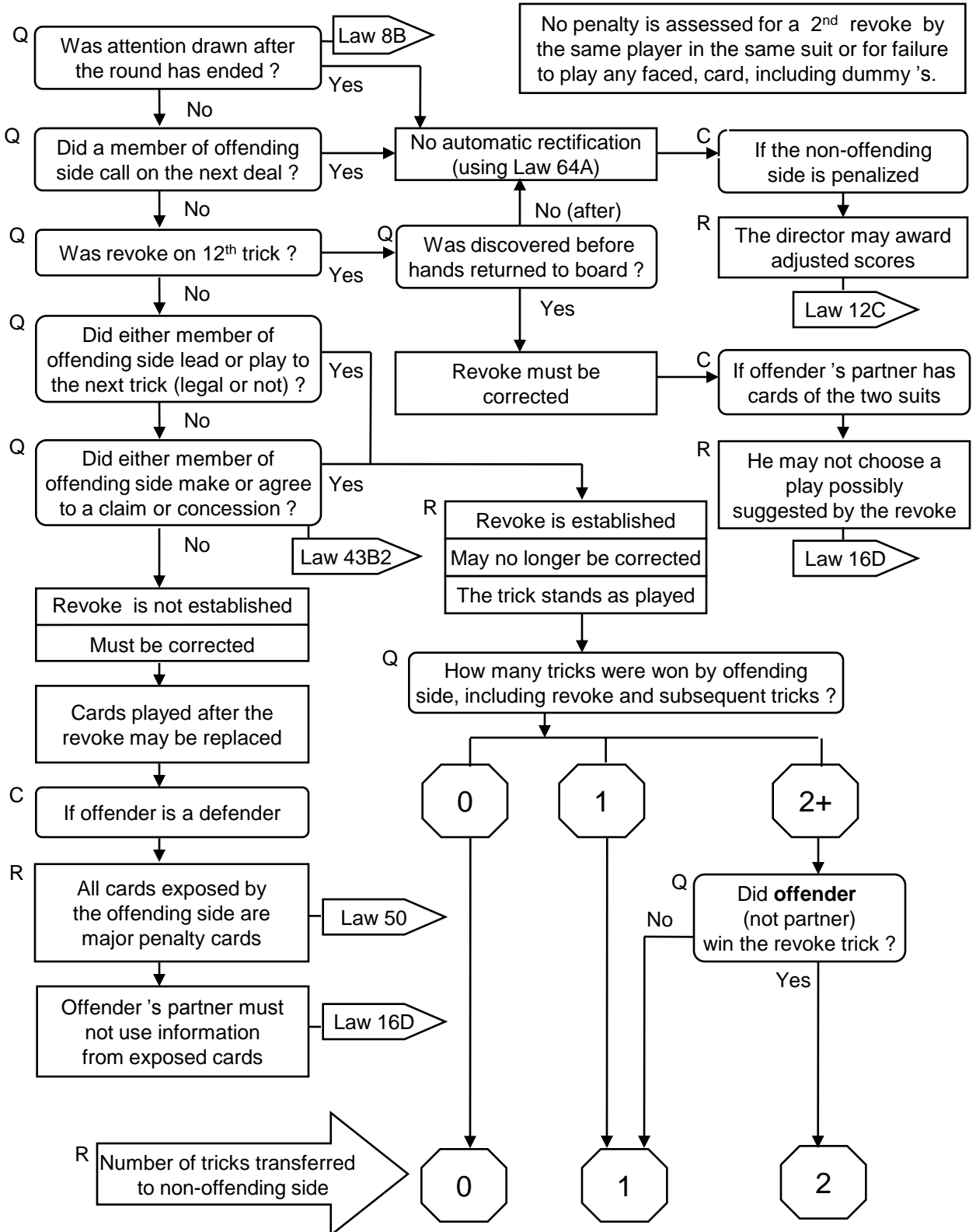


Law 60: Play after an Illegal Play



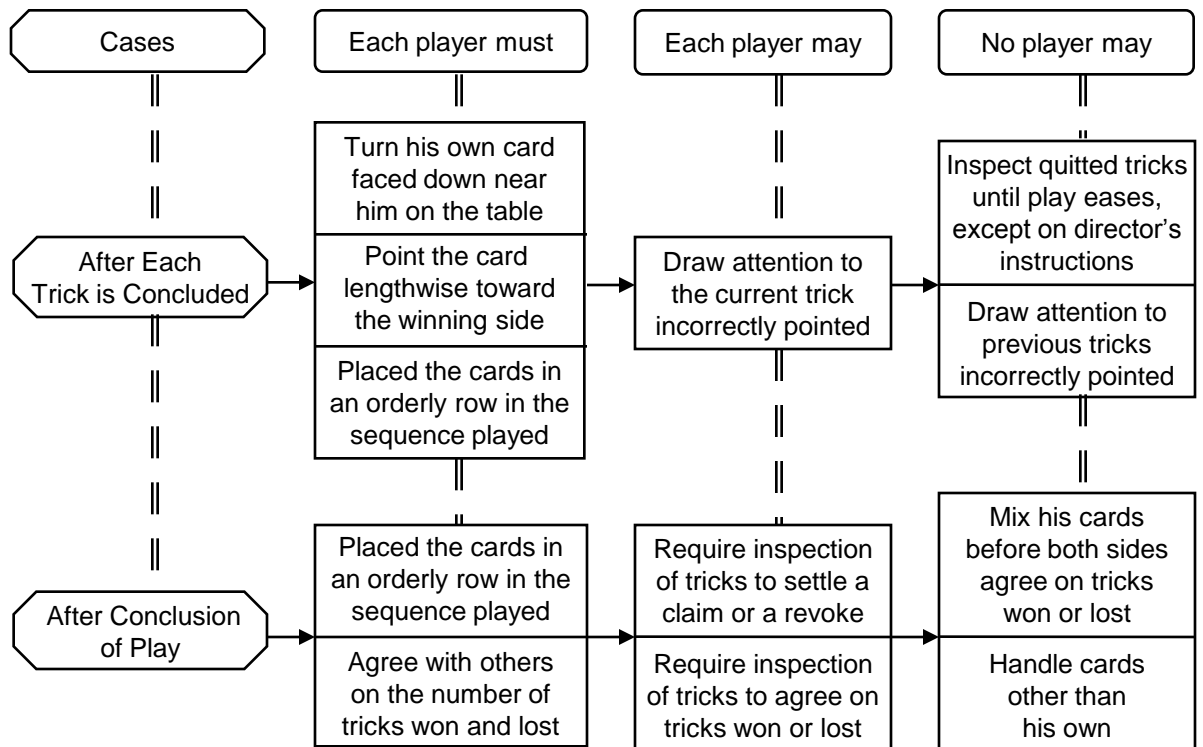
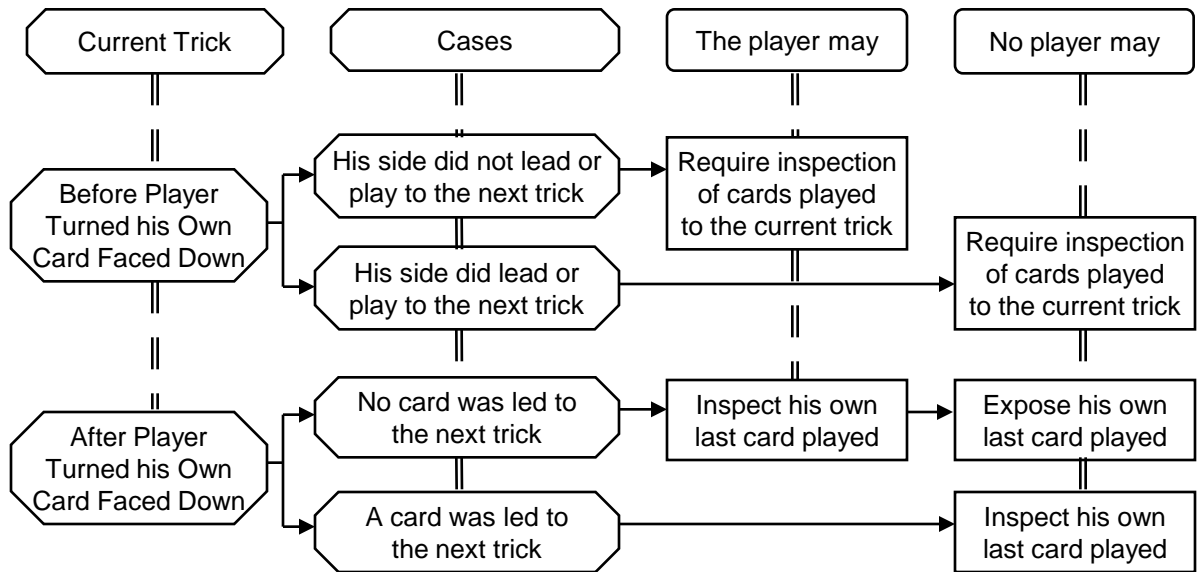
A play by a member of the offending side before a rectification has been assessed does not affect the rights of opponents, and may itself be subject to penalty.

Laws 62 to 64: After a Revoke



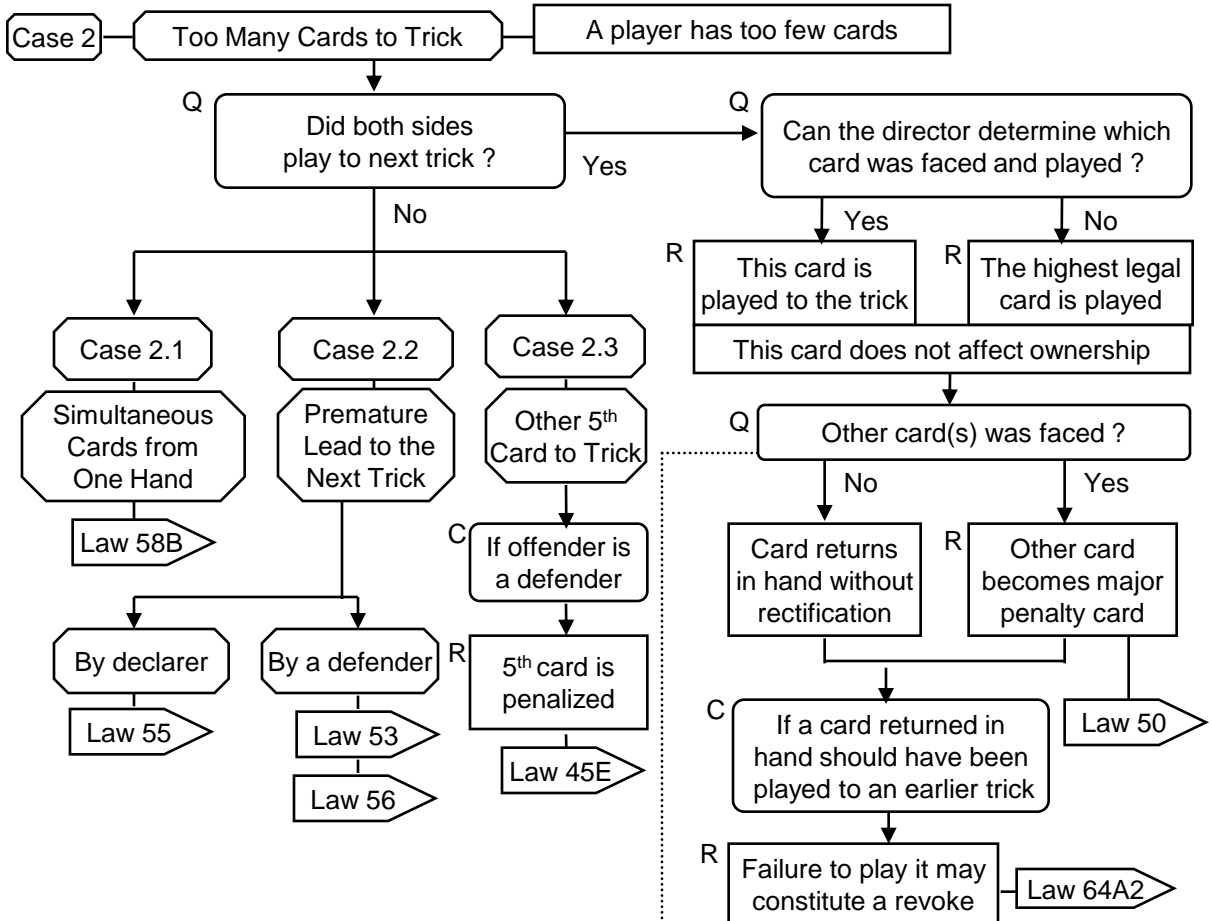
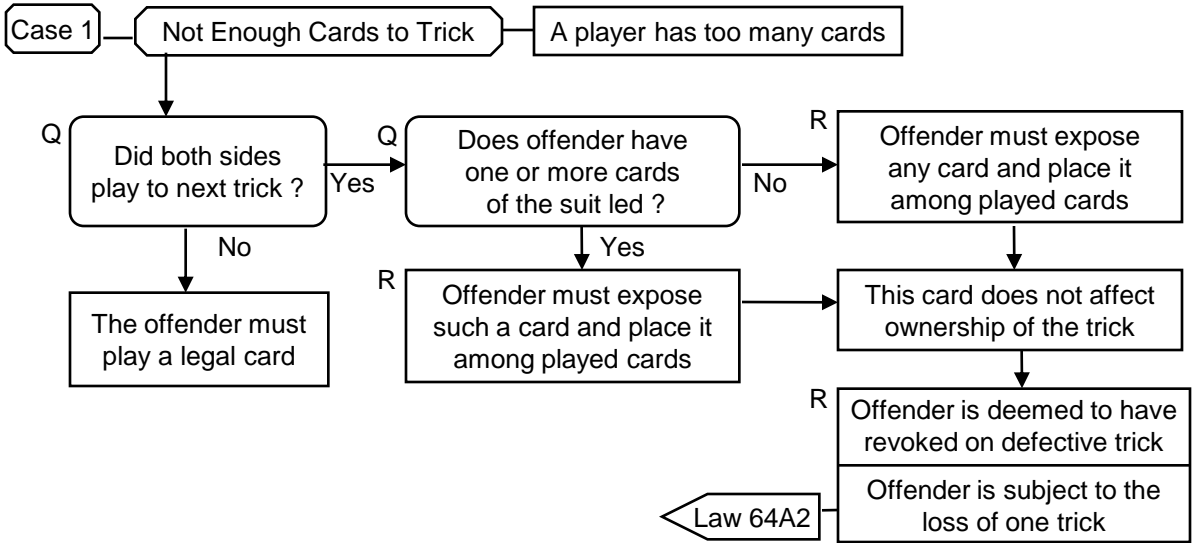
Director shall assign an adjusted score (see Law 12C) when he deems that after any established revoke, including those not subject to penalty, the non-offending side is insufficiently compensated.

Laws 65-66: Arrangement and Inspection of Tricks



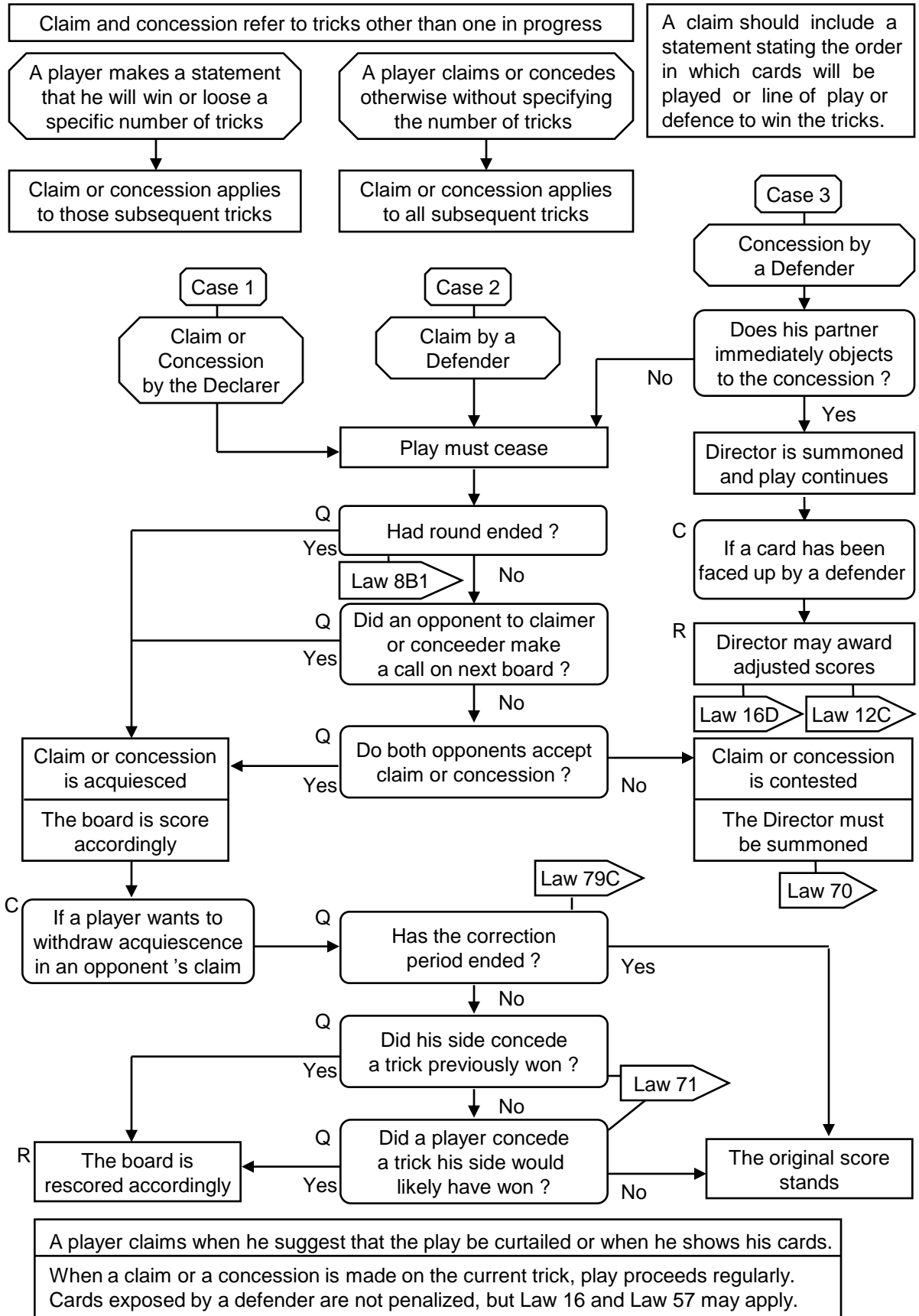
When a player mix his cards before agreement has been made on the number of tricks won or before a claim or a revoke has been settle, the director shall rule in favor of the other side if he cannot ascertain the facts.

Law 67: Defective Trick

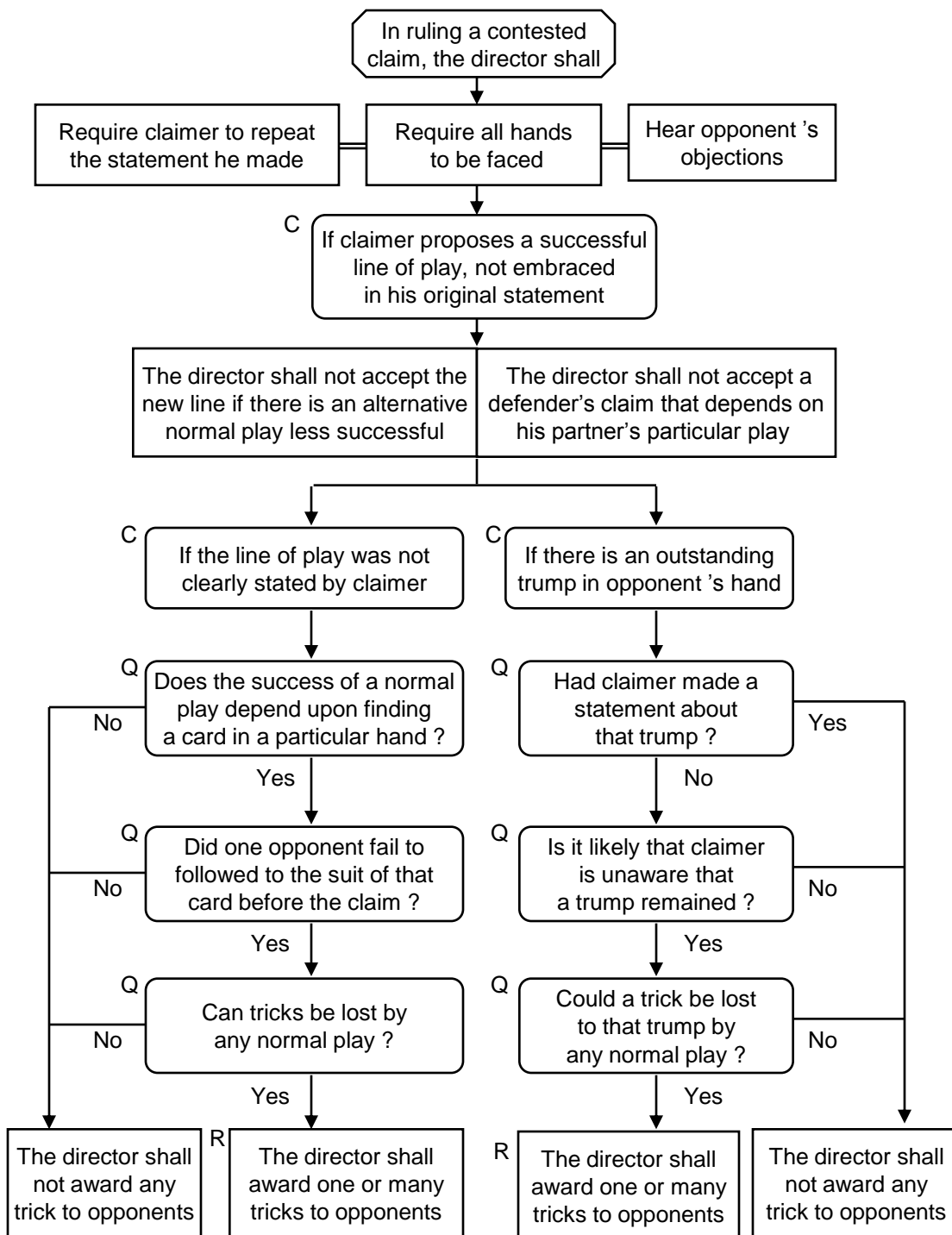


If an extra card to be restore to a defender's hand has been exposed (even by the director), it becomes a penalty card.

Laws 68-69: Claim or Concession of Tricks



Law 70: Contested Claim or Concession



A normal play includes play that would be careless or inferior for that class of player..

Any doubtful point shall be resolved against the claimer.

The Regulating Authority may specify an order in which a suit is played if not clarified in the statement of the claim (from top to down in ACBL land).