

## DEFENSIVE CARDING ON THE OPENING LEAD—THIRD HAND HIGH

1. Partner leads low. If the dummy plays low (or has only low cards), play your highest card (unless #2 or #3 applies).

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
Examples: 2	10	K (play the K)
	5	8
	<u>3</u>	4

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
2	10	A (play the A)
	5	J
	<u>3</u>	7

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
2	A	Q (play the Q)
	8	10
	<u>3</u>	9

2. Partner leads low. Play the lower of any cards of equal value in your hand.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
Examples: 2	8	K
	5	Q (play the Q)
	<u>3</u>	4

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
2	J	K
	5	Q
	<u>3</u>	10
		9 (play the 9)

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
8	7	Q
	5	J
	<u>3</u>	10
		9
		4 (play the 4)

3. Partner leads low. If dummy has an honor that you can beat, play an intermediate card if you have one and “stay over” the dummy.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
Examples: 2	Q	A
	8	J (play the J)
	<u>7</u>	3

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
2	K	A
	10	J
	<u>3</u>	9 (play the 9)
		4

4. If partner leads a Q, dummy has only low cards, and you hold the Ace, typically play your Ace and lead back toward partner's J. Example:

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
Q	8	A (play the A)
	5	9
	<u>3</u>	4

5. If partner leads the K and you hold Ax (doubleton), or if partner leads the Q and you hold Kx (doubleton), play your high card to "unblock" the suit and return your low card. Example:

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
<u>K</u>	J	A (play the A)
Q	5	4
10	<u>3</u>	
9		
4		

6. If partner leads the 10 and dummy has an honor that you can beat, duck the intermediate card and "stay over" the dummy. Example:

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
10	Q	A
	8	J
	<u>7</u>	3 (play the 3)

7. In the auction, your side has bid and raised hearts. The opponents won the contract in spades. If partner leads the 2, what do you play and why? What if partner leads the 9? Example:

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Hand</u>
2	Q	A
	10	J (play the J)
	<u>8</u>	6
		5
		4