

“Lost Lead” vs “Not Lead”

NSOs have specific ways they use the phrase lost Lead because their paperwork has boxes that track “Lead” and “Lost.” SKs track when a jammer loses their eligibility to earn Lead before either jammer has been awarded Lead in that jam. After Lead is awarded, they also track if a Lead jammer loses Lead due to being penalized or if they or a teammate removes their jammer cover.

When a jammer is awarded Lead, the applicable NSO marks the “Lead” box on their paperwork and the scoreboard often highlights the Lead jammer on the display. When a jammer successfully calls the jam off before 2 minutes have expired, the NSO marks the “Call” box.

Example 1: If red jammer is awarded Lead and blue jammer is still in their initial trip, we would not refer to blue jammer as having lost Lead in this case. They simply did not get Lead because the other jammer got it first. The NSOs do not track this. Blue’s “Lost” box is left blank in this case.

Example 2: If red jammer is awarded Lead and gets a penalty or removes their helmet cover, we say red has now lost Lead, and the NSOs track this on their paperwork using the “Lost” box. The scoreboard typically also un-highlights the jammer on the display. Lead can only be awarded once per jam. Since red already earned Lead that jam, red can’t earn it again that jam, and blue jammer cannot now earn Lead that jam, either. But we wouldn’t say in this case that blue has lost Lead. Only red lost Lead in this case.

There are other instances where the NSOs mark the “Lost” box that only apply ***when Lead is still available to be awarded*** and ***the jammer is still on their initial trip***. If no one has yet been awarded Lead, Lost is marked if the following happen before a jammer exits the front EZ for the first time on their initial trip:

- Jammer receives a penalty during the initial trip
- Jammer or teammate removes the jammer helmet cover during the initial trip. (A jammer can start the jam with the cover off, they just must put it on before they can earn a pass)
- Jammer emerges from the EZ without having earned a pass on one or more blockers. In other words, the jammer is not Lead because of one or more NEPs.

If a jammer is still in their initial trip and the opposing jammer is awarded Lead, none of the above bullets are tracked on the paperwork anymore in that jam as Lost for that non-Lead jammer. Lead has been awarded, and nothing the non-Lead jammer does for the remainder of the jam can be considered as having lost Lead. **Once Lead is awarded, only the Lead jammer can lose Lead.**

Each jammer can potentially lose Lead once per jam. Once they lose Lead, they cannot undo it. The paperwork is marked, and there's nothing a jammer can do to regain eligibility for that jam or lose it again. It's lost.

If both jammers have completed their initial trip and both have lost Lead, there is no Lead for that jam. The NSOs mark "Lost" on both scoresheets, and the jam will go for the full two minutes.