



BC Soccer Policy

Policy Type	Operational Policy
Created	May 2024
Revised	-
Reviewed	Every 2 years
Policy Name	Protest Policy

Policy Statement

Protests on games will be made according to the rules of the competition in which the game was played.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the standards for how protests will be handled by the organization with jurisdiction over the competition.

Standards

General

- a. A governing jurisdiction shall be empowered to determine:
 - a. The circumstances and/or parameters for determining an abandoned match
 - b. The circumstances for which an abandoned match is/may be considered a forfeit by a team
 - c. If an abandoned match is to be rescheduled, awarded to the opponent or indefinitely postponed
- b. A protest will only be considered on the grounds of misapplication of F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game, on the eligibility of players, or on breaches of Competition Rules & Regulations.
 - a. Protests on games will be made according to the rules of the competition in which the game was played
 - b. A Coach or Team official can lodge a protest on a Match Official's rule interpretation ONLY and may NOT protest and Match Official's decisions
- c. The Protest Panel must consist of at least one (1) and maximum of three (3) members
- d. Members of Protest Panels cannot be members of any subsequent Discipline or Appeal Hearing Panel that deals with any matters arising from the protest matter
- e. The Protest Panel will deal only with the matters raised in the protest
 - a. Any other issues that arise (e.g. discipline) will be dealt with by the appropriate Governing Organization as may be necessary
- f. In dealing with a protest, a Protest Panel may take into consideration the possession by the protesting team of any prior knowledge, which, if properly used, might have obviated the protest.
- g. Any team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match to its opponents, provided the protest is upheld.
- h. Video tape evidence is acceptable provided it substantiates verbal evidence given by any party. Video tape evidence that simply seeks to show errors made by a match official will be ruled out of

order and not considered. Video tape evidence that shows possible errors in identification by the Match Official will be allowed.

- i. Tape recorders can be used at hearings convened to deal with protests. All persons participating in the hearing must be advised that the hearing is being taped.
- j. A copy of the protest shall be forwarded by the association having jurisdiction to the opposing team within two (2) business days after the receipt of the protest. Upon receipt of the protest the opposing team shall have a maximum of 48 hours to supply a response to the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer care of the BC Soccer office, failing which the Judicial Chair of BC Soccer may render their decision based solely on the information provided by the protesting team.
- k. All protest hearings will be documented with formal findings and decisions arrived at by the Protest Panel.
- l. The protest shall be signed by the team coach or manager, club or member association official.
- m. The protest fee must be received by the association having jurisdiction within 48 hours of the protest being filed.
- n. The fee (payable to the association having jurisdiction) shall be determined and circulated by the Association.
- o. In the event that a protest is upheld by the association having jurisdiction, the protest fee shall be refunded. In the event that the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained.
- p. The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer, or the association having jurisdiction as applicable, is required to provide to all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision and the associations appeal procedures, within five (5) business days of notification of the opposing team.
 - a. The Judicial Chair of BC Soccer or designate, is required to provide to all parties affected by a decision, a written ruling which shall include the rationale for the decision prior to the commencement of the next days' matches.
 - b. The decision of a Protest Panel from any BC Soccer Provincial Cup Final match shall be final and binding.

Definitions

Guidelines

Applicable Operational Procedures

Compliance to BC Soccer Governing Documents

In accordance with BC Soccer's "Bylaws 3.4.a.ii" all member organizations must comply with the applicable Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Judicial Code and Policies, other Policies, decisions and directives of BC Soccer and the statutes, bylaws, regulations, directives and decisions of Canada Soccer, FIFA at all times

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