

VOLLEYBALL BC

Protests and Event Discipline Procedure

** This Protests and Event Discipline Procedure does not supersede or replace Volleyball BC's Discipline and Complaints Policy, but is in addition to the Volleyball BC's Discipline and Complaint Policy **

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) "Event" – A Volleyball BC sanctioned event
 - b) "Protest" – An issue lodged by a team captain to the first referee immediately after a perceived referee error in interpreting the rules or in applying a rule. Referee decisions regarding ball-handling faults (or other judgment calls) may not be protested.
 - c) "Representatives" - All categories of membership defined in the Volleyball BC Bylaws as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with, Volleyball BC including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, coordinators, judges, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, directors and officers of Volleyball BC

Purpose

2. Volleyball BC is committed to providing a game environment in which all Representatives are treated with respect. This Procedure outlines how to file a protest during an Event and how alleged misconduct during an Event shall be handled.

Scope and Application of this Policy

3. This Procedure will be applied to all Volleyball BC sanctioned Events unless the Event host states any modifications to this Procedure (and the reasons for those modifications) in the Event's invitation package that is distributed to all participating clubs and teams. Changes to this Procedure must also be outlined in the event host's sanctioning request.
4. If the Event is being hosted by Volleyball Canada (such as in the case of a National Championship), the Event Discipline and/or Protest procedures of the National organization shall replace this procedure. Incidents involving Representatives connected with Volleyball BC (such as Volleyball BC athletes, coaches, members, and directors and officers) must still be reported to Volleyball BC to be addressed under Volleyball BC's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, if necessary.
5. This Procedure does not replace or supersede Volleyball BC's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. Instead, this Procedure works in concert with the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* by outlining, for a designated person with authority at an Volleyball BC sanctioned event, the procedure for taking immediate, informal, or corrective action in the event of a possible violation of Volleyball BC's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*.

Protests

6. Most Events are organized to allow the settling of a protest immediately, and the procedure is usually outlined in the Event rules. If the protest occurs during league play, or any other time a protest committee is not on site, the referee shall handle the protest.
7. Once the captain indicates that he or she wishes to lodge a protest, the referee will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged. The captain must describe the incident on the score sheet or on a paper to be attached to the score sheet before he signs off the score sheet. This record includes game number, score, ball possession and player position on floor at time of protested decision, and reason for protest.

8. The protest is then referred to the appropriate higher authority (e.g., league executive, jury, or on-site coordinator), who is not in a conflict of interest, for acceptance or refusal. Refusal means that the game will continue. Acceptance involves replaying of the match in whole or in part depending on the judgment and in the next available gym space as allocated by the higher authority. The decision to accept or refuse a protest is final and may not be appealed.

Misconduct During Events

9. Incidents that violate or potentially violate Volleyball BC's *Code of Conduct and Ethics* can occur during a match or away from the court but between parties connected to the Event and shall be reported to a designated person (on-site coordinator) responsible at the Event.
10. The designated person at the Event will use the following procedure to address the incident that violated or potentially violated Volleyball BC's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*:
 - a) Notify the involved parties that there has been an incident that violated or potentially violated Volleyball BC's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*
 - b) Convene a jury of either one person or three people (one of whom shall be designated the Chairperson), who shall not be in a conflict of interest, to determine whether Volleyball BC's *Code of Conduct and Ethics* has been violated. The designated person at the Event may serve on the jury.
 - c) The jury will interview and secure statements from any witnesses to the alleged violation
 - d) If the violation occurred during a match, interviews will be held with the officials who conducted the match and with the coaches and captains of each team when necessary and appropriate
 - e) The jury will interview and secure a statement from the person(s) accused of the violation
 - f) The jury will render a decision and determine a possible penalty
 - g) The Chairperson of the jury will inform all parties about the jury's decision
11. The penalty determined by the jury may include any of the following, singularly or in combination:
 - a) Oral or written warning
 - b) Oral or written reprimand
 - c) Suspension from future matches at the Event
 - d) Ejection from the Event
 - e) Other appropriate penalty as determined by the jury
12. The jury does not have the authority to determine a penalty that exceeds the duration of the Event. A full written report of the incident and the jury's decision shall be submitted to Volleyball BC following the conclusion of the Event. Further discipline may then be applied per Volleyball BC's *Discipline and Complaints Policy* if necessary.
13. Decisions made in the scope of this Procedure may not be appealed.
14. This Procedure does not prohibit other Individuals from reporting the same incident of gross misconduct to Volleyball BC to be addressed as a formal complaint under Volleyball BC's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
15. Volleyball BC shall record and track all incidents reported to its office.