

2010 GSC Protest Procedures

The Suncoast Softball League trusts that all coaches and managers provide accurate NAGAAA ratings for all of their players, as included in their registration. On the remote chance that another team does not agree with this assessment of another team's player's skills, we have defined the protest process that must be followed in order for the field coordinators to resolve the potential concern.

Types of Protests:

- The GSC Field Coordinator(s) at the softball complex will rule on all protests regarding the application of rules of play.
- A Protest Committee will rule on all other protests in the following manner.

Protest Committee:

The Protest Committee will hear and rule on all protests other than those related to the application of the rules of play.

- Composition - The Protest Committee shall consist of at least three other members from teams not associated with the cities filing the protest or being protested.
- Protest Committee members must be present and available to hear protests at the assigned time and place as determine by the GSC Field Coordinator(s).
- Convening the Protest Committee – When a protest is filed, the Field Director will convene the Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest.
- Protest Committee business shall only be discussed with other Protest Committee members

Protest Committee Chairperson:

The Protest Committee Chairperson will be the GSC Field Coordinator.

- The Protest Committee Chairperson will facilitate the procedure for protesting a player or team.
- Once a protest has been filed, the Protest Committee Chairperson will assemble members of the Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest.

Filing a Protest:

- Protests may only be filed by the opposing team's Manager.
- A protest must be filed prior to the completion of the game in question.
- When filing a protest, the protesting party must identify the player(s) being protested and the specific basis for the protest including the questions of the Player Ratings Guide that are being challenged, if any.
- A protest fee must also be posted at the time of the filing of the protest.
- The game umpire will notify a Field Coordinator.
- At the time of the protest, the Field Coordinator will notify the teams' Managers.
- After a protest is filed, the game will continue.

Protest Fees:

- During pool play, and double elimination the ratings protest fee is \$100.00 for the 1st challenged question and \$25 for each additional challenged question.
- If a protest is upheld, the protest fee and challenged question fee(s) are returned.
- If a protest is denied, all fees are nonrefundable.

Hearings:

The Protest Committee will hear the arguments of both teams in order to rule on a protest.

- During pool play, the Protest Committee will rule on protests as quickly as possible but, in any event, prior to the determination of seeding for double elimination play.
- During double elimination play, the Protest Committee will rule on the protest prior to the start of the next game in which either team is to be involved.
- All player ratings from the prior year and the current year will be available for all Protest Committee hearings.
 - The Protest Committee chairperson will begin the proceedings by explaining the protest hearing procedures to each team's Manager.
 - The protesting party will begin the hearing by explaining the basis for the protest and presenting any evidence to support the protest.
 - After the protesting party has presented its case, the protested party will be afforded the opportunity to present evidence to rebut the protesting party's argument.
 - The votes will be tallied and the parties will be informed of the Protest Committee's decision.
- If the Protest Committee changes a player's rating, it will be submitted to the Field Coordinator(s) and will become that player's rating for the rest of the tournament.

Penalties:

- If a protest results in a player rating change that causes a team to move up a division:
 - The protested team forfeits the protested game and the opponent is named the winner of the game, and
 - The protested team is eliminated from the GSC Tournament,
- If a protest results in a player rating change that does not cause a team to move up a division,
 - The result of the protested game stands. The only exception to this would be if a team has three or more protested player rating questions upheld. The protested team will be declared the loser of that game.
 - The protested team can continue to play.
 - If a protested player's rating is increased by one point, the player can continue to play.
 - If a protested player's rating is increased by 2 or more points, the player will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the tournament.
 - If, due to an upheld protest, a player exceeds the limit for that division, the player is ineligible going forward. The team can continue to play only if the new team rating, which includes the ineligible player's new rating, is less than the division total.