

FIVB PROTEST PROTOCOL

To be utilised under rule 6.1.7. of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rules of the Game

1. OVERVIEW

- The Protest Protocol is a series of structured steps designed to enable successful resolution of a protest on the application of the rules of the game, from player(s) involved in International Beach Volleyball competitions.
- A Protest Protocol is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the 1st Referee.
- The Protest Protocol may be undertaken by the relevant FIVB Official(s) based on circumstances before, during or after a match.
- The relevant FIVB Official(s) will consider the protest on its merits based on five criteria.
- Three levels of Protest Protocol exist these being undertaken either at the time of the circumstances(s) (Level 1 and 2) and / or after the match has been completed (Level 3).

2. AIM OF THE PROTEST PROTOCOL

- The Protest Protocol represents the FIVB's formal procedure to deal with problems occurring before, during and after a match. Therefore the aims of the Protest Protocol are:
 1. To establish or re-establish the match conditions to the matches previous state of play and to recommence play as soon as applicable
 2. To provide a structured process to allow resolution of Protests governed by the appropriate FIVB regulations or rules
 3. To enact a procedure that has a minimal impact on the flow of a match especially if the Protest involves more than one Level of jurisdiction
 4. To implement a Protocol that is logical, transparent and easy to follow
 5. To implement a Protocol that is based on sound legal and ethical grounds
 6. To implement a Protocol that maximises the relevant FIVB Official(s) chances of making a correct decision on the legitimacy of the Protest by the player(s).
 7. To implement a Protocol that follows the principles of the FIVB's Code of Conduct.

3. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A PROTEST

- The criteria for acceptance of a legitimate Protest shall involve any one or more of the following circumstances:
 1. The referee misinterprets a rule of the game
 2. There is a scoring error (rotation or match score)
 3. There is an irreconcilable breakdown in the matches conduct or officiating
 4. A technical aspect of the match conditions (weather, light etc)
 5. The referee did not correctly apply the rules / regulations or did not assume the correct consequences of his/ her decisions.
- The relevant FIVB Official(s) must only consider these five criteria in evaluating whether to accept a Protest as being valid or not and therefore capable of potential consideration.
- It is improper for a FIVB Official(s) to accept a Protest that involves playing actions or misconduct unless there is a misinterpretation of the Rules of the Game.
- The relevant FIVB Official(s) must also utilise these five criteria to evaluate the relative merits of the Protest once it has been accepted as valid for consideration. The FIVB Official(s) must clearly identify which of the five criteria apply to the protest. It is possible that a protest may satisfy more than 1 criteria.
- The relevant FIVB Official(s) may also consider if due process has been observed in the consideration of the Protest.

4. FIRST REFEREES' ACTIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROTEST PROTOCOL

- A Protest Protocol is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the 1st Referee.
- The 1st Referee must therefore, prior to signalling for the relevant FIVB Official(s) to enter the court ensure that all practicable steps have been taken to ensure that the Protest Protocol is not enacted. This includes:
 1. Communicating clearly to players the nature of the fault / basis of decision
 2. Repetition of hand signals where appropriate
 3. Consultation with all relevant officials applicable to the application / interpretation of the rule(s)
 4. If appropriate confirm the criteria for a valid protest
 5. Confirm that, after all the above steps have been undertaken, that the player(s) wishes to formally protest.
- The 1st Referee should not:
 1. Once a player(s) has formally protested choose not to request the relevant FIVB Official(s) presence on court
 2. State to the player the likely outcome of the protest
 3. Comment on the validity or legitimacy of the players protest.

5. PROTEST PROTOCOL LEVEL 1: RESOLVED AT TIME OF PROTEST (by Technical Supervisor or Referee Delegate)

5.1 Overview of Protocol for resolving Protest at the time of player(s) initiation

- A Protest Protocol (Level 1) is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the 1st Referee and the 1st Referee then requesting the presence of the relevant FIVB Official(s).
- The Protest Protocol Level 1 (both before or during a match) for FIVB Official(s) involves the following stages:
 1. Initial determination of nature of Protest
 2. Decision whether to proceed with Protocol based on its validity
 3. Gaining of further information / evidence applicable to Protest
 4. Conveying results of Protest to relevant Officials and Players
 5. Conveying results of the Protest to Scorers and other parties
 6. Starting or recommencing the match.
- A Protest Protocol (Level 1) is the first of three stages of potential protest.

5.2 Who evaluates the protest?

- The Referee Delegate will usually undertake a Protest Protocol at the time of the protest. Only in exceptional circumstances would a Level 1 Protest not be undertaken at the time of the player's initiation.
- In exceptional circumstances the Technical Supervisor may replace or substitute for the Referee Delegate.
- Another FIVB Official may in exceptional circumstances assist the FIVB Official who evaluates the validity of a protest.
- In exceptional circumstances the Technical Supervisor may authorise another person to act in the Referee Delegates capacity.
- The FIVB Official evaluating the protest should in all but exceptional circumstances not be from a country involved in the protest nor have a conflict of interest in its potential outcome.
- Persons providing information to the Protest Protocol do not have a decision-making authority on the validity or outcome of the protest.
- All FIVB Official(s) especially the Referee Delegate should not place themselves in a position to potentially influence proceedings before the Protest Protocol has commenced.
- Referee Delegates should ensure that their movements during the competition maximises their potential availability for Protest Protocols.

5.3 How is the Protest Protocol commenced? (Referee Delegate to conduct)

- The Protocol commences with the signal of the 1st Referee indicating that the relevant Referee Delegate should enter the Field of Play.
- A Protest may be requested by any player(s), not necessarily the captain.
- The 1st Referee should signal only to the Referee Delegate when the player(s) has formally (as defined in rule 6.1.7) indicated his / her intention to protest.
- The Referee Delegate should initially speak to the 1st Referee to obtain the general nature of the Protest.
- The Referee Delegate must then confirm with the player(s) the basis for their Protest.
- The Referee Delegate must then consider the relevant criteria for accepting the basis of the Protest and decide on its validity. The Referee Delegate will then either allow the Protest Protocol to proceed or reject the basis for the Protest Protocol being enacted.

5.4 The process of the Protest Protocol (after Protocol commenced)

- The players should initially go to their respective designated chairs.
- The Referee Delegate should clarify any points of uncertainty with the 1st Referee.
- Information / evidence should then be gathered from other parties pertinent to the decision.
- This information / evidence should if possible be gathered individually but if appropriate may be gathered collectively.
- A person to translate this information / evidence may be utilised.
- The Protocol should where possible be conducted in the working language of the FIVB: English.
- The process of gathering of information / evidence is usually done around the 1st Referees chair or near the scorers table (for Protest regarding scoring).
- The players should not be physically present at the questioning of the 1st Referee or other parties.
- The overall process must be a clearly structured pattern for gathering information / evidence.

- During the Protest Protocol the players may after an initial organisational time period:
 1. Use the playing court but not leave the free zone
 2. Use the match balls
 3. Use the current side of the court that they are playing on or both sides of the court by agreement of all the players.

5.5 Resolution of a Protest Protocol

- The decision to resolve a Protest Protocol should be based on the following:
 1. Strict interpretation of the criteria for evaluating a Protest (section 3 above)
 2. An assumption that the decision as made by the match officials is correct especially the final decision of the 1st Referee
 3. The facts as established by questioning the parties to the Protest especially the observations of the match officials
 4. The establishment of the correctness of the officials' actions in relation to the Rules of the Game.
 5. Where the Rules of the Game do not cover a specific action the Referee Delegate may interpret the spirit of the Rules of the Game.
- The 1st Referee should be the first person informed of the outcome of the Protest Protocol followed by appropriate other match officials
- The players of both teams should then be informed on court of the result of the Protest Protocol.
- The players should receive a brief summary of the basis for the decision.
- The player(s) should upon being informed of the decision immediately be asked if they wish, subsequently to initiate a Protest Protocol Level 2. Player(s) of either team have a right to request that this process be initiated. This does not apply however to protests that are not initiated.

5.6 Recommencement of the match (no Protest Protocol Level 2 initiated)

- Following the Referee Delegates conveying of the decision to the appropriate match officials and the players the following steps may be necessary to recommence play:
 1. Decision conveyed to the Scorer
 2. Decision conveyed to the public (which may include announcement of resulting decision)
 3. Decision conveyed to the media (television, radio etc).
- If the protest by the player(s) is successful all measures necessary to correct the match state (as advised by the Referee Delegate) must be undertaken.

5.7 Possible consequences of a Protest Protocol

- There are 5 possible consequences of a protest at Level 1 (resolved or attempted to be resolved at the time of the Protest):
 1. The Protest will initially be rejected by the Referee Delegate (after a player(s) request under Rule 6.1.7) and no Protest Protocol will be commenced (due to its validity under section 3 criteria) In this circumstance the Technical Supervisor will be notified by the Referee Delegate and a fine will be applied (according to the WT Handbook, Chapter addressing Specific Regulations and Sanctions)
 2. The Protest by the players will initially be accepted by the Referee Delegate but after following the Protest Protocol the protest is rejected (i.e.: not valid)
 3. The Protest by the players will initially be accepted by the Referee Delegate and following the Protest Protocol the protest is successful
 4. The Protest Protocol could not be undertaken (e.g.: No FIVB Official available) and / or the player(s) may appeal the result of the Protest Protocol. Both of these situations are resolved under Level 2 or 3 as appropriate
 5. The Protest Protocol was not undertaken after a formal request to do so by player(s) (i.e.: the relevant FIVB Official was not requested to enter the field of play by the 1st Referee). This situation is resolved under Level 3 (after the match has finished).

5.8 How is a Protest Protocol recorded on the scoresheet?

- At the time the Referee Delegate initially enters the court the Scorer should record on the scoresheet (as per the FIVB Scoresheet Instructions) sufficient match details to be able to recommence the match from this point.
- The scorer should not record any factual information regarding the basis of the protest.
- If the Referee Delegate initially rejects the Protest due to its validity the words NOT INITIATED should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is rejected the words REJECTED LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is successful the words ACCEPTED LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is not able to be undertaken (after the relevant FIVB Official was requested to enter the field of play) the words PENDING LEVEL 1 shall be recorded in the remarks section.
- The Referee Delegate has the authority to add further information as required in the remarks section of the scoresheet.
- The 2nd Referee is responsible for the checking the scoresheet prior to the recommencement of play.
- These same principles should as appropriate, also be applied to a Level 2 Protest Protocol.
- At the completion of the match, the 1st referee should ensure that the Remarks section of the scoresheet has been completed with all the required information as indicated by this protocol.
- If the Referee Delegate (RD) is not present at the court at the completion of the match, the 1st referee must obtain the respective signature prior to the scoresheet being delivered to the Competition Office, although avoiding any delays for BVIS purposes.

6. PROTEST PROTOCOL LEVEL 2: RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER EITHER TEAM REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF LEVEL 1 DECISION (by the Executive Committee)

6.1 Overview of Procedure

- A Protest Protocol (Level 2) is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest the outcome decision of a Level 1 Protest Protocol:
 1. The Protest Protocol was rejected at Level 1
 2. The Protest Protocol was accepted at Level 1 but subsequently challenged by the other team
- A Protest Protocol Level 2 must relate to protests that were correctly requested and recorded under Level 1 of the Protest Protocol by either player in the respective team.
- The Protest Protocol Level 2 for FIVB Officials involves the following stages:
 1. Initial determination of nature of Protest from the team protesting
 2. Decision whether to proceed with Protocol based on its validity by Executive Committee
 3. Gaining of further information / evidence applicable to Protest from the RD (or TS)
 4. Gaining of further information / evidence applicable to Protest from other officials
 5. Conveying results of Protest to relevant Officials and Players
 6. Conveying results of the Protest to Scorers and other parties
 7. Starting or recommencing the match.
- In general many of the same regulations / procedures as for Protest Protocol Level 1 are applicable to a Level 2 Protest.

6.2 Who evaluates the protest?

- The Technical Supervisor will convene an Executive Committee whose membership and procedure to be followed is defined by the FIVB World Tour Handbook.
- The Referee Delegate is not a member of the protest Committee.
- The Referee Delegate (or the Technical Supervisor) may be required to summarise the Level 1 Protest Protocol rejected or accepted and appropriate facts relating the criteria for the decision.
- The Referee Delegate (or any other authorized person as defined by Section 5.2) may be required to advise the protest Committee on the Rules of the Game.

6.3 How is the Protest Protocol commenced?

- It is not necessary for the player(s) to write the details of the protest or for it to be initially recorded.
- The Referee Delegate indicates that one of the teams wishes to initiate a Level 2 Protest Protocol.
- The protest Committee enters the playing court.
- No bond is required.
- Where the Protest relates to a result, or non implementation of a Level 1 protest both teams have a right to subsequently protest at Level 3, after the completion of the match without prior formal notification.

6.4 The process of the Protest Protocol

- The process of the Executive Committee considering the Protest is governed by the FIVB World Tour Handbook.
- Many of the processes of a Level 1 Protest Protocol are applicable to a Level 2 Protest.
- The Protest Protocol may be commenced by the Technical Supervisor even in the absence of other Executive Committee members provided that all evidence is subsequently presented to all members before making a decision.
- The Executive Committee may choose to consider any information relating to the Protest but only from official information sources such as (but not exclusively) TV footage and official match statistics.

7 PROTEST PROTOCOL LEVEL 3 RESOLVED AFTER THE MATCH (by the Executive Committee)**7.1 Overview of Procedure**

- A Protest Protocol (Level 3) is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest after the match based on either:
 1. The Protest Protocol was not initiated at Level 1 and or Level 2 (e.g.: no FIVB Official available or 1st Referee does not commence Protest Protocol after formal request to do so by player(s)).
 2. The Protest Protocol at Level 1 was not initiated by the FIVB Official
 3. Events after the completion of the match
 4. Due process was not followed in Level 1 and or Level 2
- A Protest Protocol Level 3 must (except in the case of events after a match) relate to protests that were correctly requested and recorded under Level 1 and or Level 2 of the Protest Protocol by either player in the respective team.
- The Protest Protocol Level 3 (after a match) for FIVB Officials involves the following stages:
 1. Initial recording on the scoresheet of the basis of Protest (Level 3)
 2. Payment of the concerned bond (see FIVB World Tour Handbook)
 3. Executive Committee reviewing basis for Protest
 4. Conveying of results of Protest to all parties including explanation of the basis of the decision
 5. If appropriate corrective action to replay the match.
- In general many of the same regulations / procedures as for Protest Protocol Level 2 are applicable to a Level 3 Protest.

7.2 Who evaluates the protest?

- The Technical Supervisor will request that the Executive Committee be convened whose membership and procedure to be followed is defined by the FIVB World Tour Handbook.
- The FIVB President and Beach Volleyball Director may in exceptional circumstances be used to determine the Protest Committees membership.
- The Referee Delegate may be required to advise Executive Committee on the Rules of the Game.

7.3 How is the Protest Protocol commenced?

- The Level 3 protest is commenced by the team wishing to Protest confirming this fact in writing in the remarks section of the scoresheet (not necessarily the player who previously had indicated their wish to protest).
- The protest must be signed by the relevant team's captain.
- It is not necessary for the player(s) to write the details of the protest. The protest may be written by any party but must finally be signed by the captain of the appropriate team.
- The match officials must not prevent or dictate the content of the Protest.
- The Protest should desirably be recorded in the Working Language of the FIVB: English.
- The player(s) have 20 minutes to complete the recording of the protest on the scoresheet.
- Once the scoresheet has been signed by both captains (or relevant Supervisor pp) with no Level 3 protests recorded in the remarks section no further protests are legal.
- The Protest Protocol (Level 3) is required to be accompanied by the payment of a bond.
- Where the Protest relates to a result of a Level 2 protest both teams have a right to subsequently protest at Level 3, after the completion of the match without prior formal notification.

7.4 The process of the Protest Protocol

- The process of the Protest Committee considering the Protest is governed by the FIVB World Tour Handbook.
- The scoresheet may have a linking statement to other document regarding the protest (if insufficient space exists). This document is to be presented to the FIVB Technical Supervisor no later than 30 minutes after the end of the match.
- The relevant Supervisor may sign the scoresheet after 20 minutes pp if a captain does not show up to sign the scoresheet. From this point in time no Protest is legal.
- The captain of the team not involved in the protest must be informed immediately verbally by the Technical Supervisor (or other relevant FIVB Official) if a Protest (Level 3) is to be recorded in the remarks section of the scoresheet.

8 FIVB OFFICIAL REPORTS

- The Referee Delegate (and in some circumstances the Executive Committee) must write a short report stating the basis for the decision and confirming the process undertaken (WT Refereeing Delegate's Protest Protocol Report, supplied in digital format).
- A copy of the scoresheet should be attached to the Report.
- The Referee Delegates Report should be included in the Technical Delegates report to the FIVB.
- The Referee Delegates WT/25 report to the FIVB Beach Volleyball Referees Commissioner should include comments on the number and the nature of Protests undertaken, the key issues and outcomes and a copy of their Report.
- The Referee Delegate should as soon as possible after match where a Protest Protocol was Not Initiated at Level 1 supply the Technical Supervisor with a copy of their report and the relevant scoresheet. This report and scoresheet allows the Technical Supervisor to immediately convene a meeting with the relevant team(s) for concerned sanction implementation.