

UNDERSTANDING VOLLEYBALL BC'S PROTESTS AND EVENTS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Who does this policy apply to?

- This policy applies to all members and participants in Volleyball BC events. This includes employees, contractors, athletes, volleyball clubs, coaches, staff, referees, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and directors of Volleyball BC.

When does this policy apply?

- This policy covers all Volleyball BC events. Volleyball BC is committed to ensuring a respectful game environment. The procedure explains how to file a protest and how to handle bad behaviour during an event.
- If Volleyball BC is organising an event that is governed by another organisation, then that organisation's protest procedures will apply. For example, if Volleyball BC is hosting a National Championship, Volleyball Canada's protest procedures will apply. However, if an incident involves a Volleyball BC member or participant, it must still be reported to Volleyball BC to be addressed under the [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#) if needed.
- This procedure also supports Volleyball BC's Discipline and Complaints Policy by providing guidelines for immediate action during an event if someone violates the [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#).

What is a protest and how can I make one?

- A "protest" is a formal complaint made by a team captain to the referee right after a possible mistake in interpreting or applying the rules. Complaints about judgment calls, like ball-handling, cannot be protested.
- A protest typically takes place immediately and is resolved during the event. If a protest occurs during a league game, the referee will handle it.
- These steps will be taken:

1. The team captain notifies the referee of the protest.
2. The captain records the incident on the scoresheet or on a paper to be attached to the scoresheet before it is signed off on. The record must include
 - a. Game number
 - b. Score
 - c. Ball possession
 - d. Player position on floor at time of protested decision
 - e. Reason for protest
3. The protest is reviewed by a higher authority (e.g., a league executive, jury, or on-site coordinator) to decide whether to accept or reject it:
 - a. "Refusal" means the game will continue.
 - b. "Acceptance" means the match will be replayed in whole or in part.
4. The decision is final and cannot be appealed.

What happens when someone behaves badly during an event?

- If someone behaves in a way that breaks or might break Volleyball BC's [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#) during an event, it should be reported to the person in charge at the event (the on-site coordinator).
- The person in charge will handle the situation as follows:

1. Inform the people involved that there has been an incident that may have violated the Code of Conduct and Ethics.
2. Set up a jury, which can be one or three people who do not have any conflicts of interest. The person in charge can be part of this jury. One of the jury will be the Chairperson.
3. The jury will talk to any witnesses and gather statements about what happened.
4. If the incident happened during a match, the jury will also interview the referees and, if needed, the coaches and captains of both teams.
5. The jury will also interview the person accused of the misconduct and get their statement.
6. The jury will make a decision about what happened and decide on a penalty if necessary.
7. The Chairperson of the jury will let everyone involved know what the decision is.

- The penalty given by the jury could be any of the following, alone or combined:
 - A verbal or written warning.
 - A verbal or written reprimand.
 - Suspension from playing in future matches at the event.
 - Removal from the event entirely.
 - Any other appropriate penalty the jury thinks is necessary.
- The jury can only give penalties that last for the duration of the event. After the event, a detailed report of the incident and the jury's decision will be sent to Volleyball BC.
- If needed, additional discipline may be applied after the event in line with Volleyball BC's [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#).

Note: This document is designed to explain Volleyball BC's [Protest and Event Discipline Procedure](#). There may be details in the Policy that are not contained in this document. In the event of any difference between the two documents, the content of the Protest and Event Discipline Procedure takes priority.