FIVB PROTEST PROTOCOL

To be utilised at FIVB World Competitions under rule 6.1.7. of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rules of the Game. The designation “relevant FIVB Delegate(s)” has been used in this protocol to apply to Technical Supervisor and Refereeing Delegates. Their specific roles are defined within the 2011 World Tour Handbook

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 FIVB World 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 three criteria.
- Two levels of Protest Protocol exist these being undertaken either at the time of the circumstances(s) (Level 1) and / or after the match has been completed (Level 2).

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).

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 misinterpreted or did not correctly apply the rules / regulations, or did not assume the consequences of his/ her decisions.
    2. There is a scoring error (rotation or match score)
    3. A technical aspect of the match conditions (weather, light etc)
- The first Referee must only consider these three criteria in evaluating whether to accept a Protest as being valid or not and therefore capable of potential consideration.
- It is improper for the first Referee to accept a Protest that involves playing actions or misconduct unless there is a challenge on possible misinterpretation of the Rules of the Game.
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) must also utilise these three criteria to evaluate the relative merits of the Protest once it has been accepted as valid for consideration. The FIVB Delegate(s) must clearly identify which of the three criteria apply to the protest. It is possible that a protest may satisfy more than 1 criteria.
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(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 Delegate(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. 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 and this meets the criteria for a valid protest choose not to request the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) presence on court.
    2. State to the player the likely outcome of the protest.

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

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 Delegate(s).
- The Protest Protocol Level 1 (both before or during a match) 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 two 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 its 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 Delegate who evaluates the validity of a protest.
- The FIVB Delegate 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 Delegate(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 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 wish to institute a Protest Protocol and this meets the criteria for a valid protest.
- The Protest Protocol (Level 1) implies the payment of a sanction fee (bond) as ruled by the FIVB Handbook.

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 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 should then if needed 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 should be conducted near the scorer's table and the relevant team area.
- 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.
- If upon being informed no player(s) question the decision, the Protest Protocol is considered resolved and officially closed.
- Player(s) of either team that disagree with the decision, have the right to request at that moment a Protest Protocol at Level 2 which may be then confirmed at the end of the match.

5.6 Recommencement of the match

- 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 3 possible consequences of a protest at Level 1 (resolved or attempted to be resolved at the time of the Protest):
  1. Following the Protocol the protest by the players is rejected. In this circumstance the Technical Supervisor will be notified by the Referee Delegate and a fine corresponding to the Protest Level 1 fee will be applied (see WT Handbook, Chapter addressing Specific Regulations and Sanctions).
  2. Following the Protocol the protest by the players is accepted. No fine applies here
  3. 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 at Level 1. Both of these situations are resolved under Level 2 (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 Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is rejected the words <u>REJECTED LEVEL 1</u> should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is accepted the words <u>ACCEPTED LEVEL 1</u> should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If after the protest being rejected at Level 1 player(s) state their wish to request a Protest Protocol at Level 2, the words <u>REJECTED / PENDING LEVEL 1</u> should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If after the protest being accepted at Level 1 player(s) state their wish to request a Protest Protocol at Level 2, the words <u>ACCEPTED / PENDING LEVEL 1</u> 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 <u>PENDING LEVEL 1</u> 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 checking the scoresheet prior to the recommencement of play.
- 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 AFTER THE MATCH (by the Executive Committee)

6.1 Overview of Procedure

- The request for a Protest Protocol (Level 2) is commenced by a player(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest at Level 2 based on either:
  1. The Protest Protocol was not initiated at Level 1 (no FIVB Official available).
  2. The Protest was rejected at Level by the relevant FIVB Delegate(s).
  3. The Protest was accepted at Level 1 by the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) but subsequently challenged by the other team.
  4. Events after the completion of the match.

- A Protest Protocol Level 2 must (except in the case of events after a match) relate to protests that were correctly requested and recorded under Level 1 of the Protest Protocol by either player in the respective team.
- The process of confirmation of a Protest Protocol Level 2 involves the following stages:
  1. Initial recording on the scoresheet of the basis of Protest (Level 2)
  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.

6.2 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 Referee Delegate is not a member of the protest Committee.
- The Referee Delegate may be required to advise the protest Committee on the Rules of the Game.
- The Referee Delegate (or the Technical Supervisor) may be required to summarise the Level 1 Protest Protocol rejected or accepted plus appropriate facts relating the criteria for the decision.

6.3 How is the Protest Protocol commenced?

- The Level 2 protest is commenced by the team wishing to Protest, at the end of the match and before the respective captain's signing the scoresheet, confirming this fact in writing in its remarks section (not necessarily the player who at the time of the occurrence had indicated their wish to protest).
- 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 Protest Protocol (Level 2) is accompanied by the payment of a bond as ruled by the FIVB Handbook.

6.4 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 then 30 minutes after the end of the match.
- The captain of the team not involved in the protest must be informed immediately verbally by the the 1st Referee if a Protest (Level 2) is confirmed in writing in the remarks section of the scoresheet.

7. FIVB OFFICIAL REPORTS

- The Referee Delegate at Level 1 and the Executive Committee at Level 2, must write a 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 shall 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 must as soon as possible after a match where a Protest Protocol was "Rejected 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 confirming the application of the relevant sanction fee (bond). See FIVB Handbook.