

# PROTESTS PROCEDURE

## 1. Purpose

This procedure outlines how International Tag Federation manages protests in regard to matches played. It ensures matters are handled fairly, consistently and transparently.

## 2. Scope

This procedure applies to all participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, spectators and representatives involved in International Tag Federation activities.

## 3. Types of Matters Covered

This procedure may apply to:

- The result of a match
- Eligibility of a player
- Other on-field matters

## 4. Matters not Covered

The following matters are not open to protests or discussion. The ITF formally advises all Nation delegates, players, coaches, managers and supporters that they must be aware of these points before the tournament:

- The Referee's calls are final and will not be questioned by the Tournament Officials. The referee may impose any sanction necessary to control the match and will impose penalties for infringements of the rules.
- Claims of bias will not be entertained.
- Any form of verbal or physical abuse of a referee will not be tolerated. Anyone found abusing a referee or official will be dealt with under the ITF Disciplinary Procedure.

## 5. Reporting a Matter

- Protests must be lodged by the **Nation delegate only**. Protests from any other party, including a coach or manager will not be accepted.
- Any protest must be submitted on the ITF Protests Form to the International Tag Federation Integrity/Safeguarding Officer or the ITF Tournament Director.
- Protests **MUST** be submitted within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match in question.
- If a team disputes the score recorded on the scorecard, they should refrain from signing it and instead file a protest within the 30-minute timeframe.
- Should a team dispute a player's eligibility, it must be accompanied with evidence, otherwise the protest will not be accepted.
- A **\$250 deposit fee** must be submitted with the protest, which will be refunded if the protest is successful.

### Match Result Protests

The following information **MUST** be provided with the protest within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match:

- Video of the game in full, showing all tries scored.
- The order of scoring (including player shirt numbers from both teams of the awarded player).
- The half-time and the full-time score.

Any protests lodged without this information will not be accepted.

Protests will not be accepted after the commencement of a finals match

### Player Eligibility Protests

The ITF takes allegations of ineligible players seriously BUT all such allegations MUST be accompanied by evidence that the player subject to the allegation is not eligible. Eligibility covers both age and heritage criteria.

### Other On Field Matters

Any other on-field matters, subject to Clause 4, must be accompanied by evidence such as video evidence or independent witnesses. Any protests regarding a referee's decision on the field will not be accepted.

## 6. Investigation

An appointed Protests Officer or the Tournament Director will:

- Review the protest and supporting evidence
- If a protest regarding scoring discrepancies is submitted as outlined above, the opposing team will be asked to verify the score along with the submitted evidence.
- Speak with relevant parties and witnesses
- Determine the outcome of the protest

## 7. Possible Outcomes

### Match Result Protests

- If the ITF is unable to verify the score after considering all evidence, the score recorded by the referee will stand.
- Where the ITF is able to verify a scoring discrepancy, the ITF has the authority to alter the result of the match.

### Eligibility Protests

If a team is found to be playing ineligible players sanctions may include:

- Disqualification of the player, team or Nation from the remainder of the event
- Termination of ITF membership
- Bans from International Tag Federation activities

### Other On Field Matters

The ITF, at its discretion, may impose sanctions in relation to any other on-field matters raised.

## 8. Notification of Outcome

The outcome and any sanctions will be communicated directly to the Nation delegate that lodged the protest.

## 9. Appeals

The results of protests lodged through this procedure are not subject to appeal. Any decisions made are final and binding.

## 10. Record Keeping

International Tag Federation will keep confidential records of complaints, investigations and outcomes in accordance with privacy and safeguarding requirements.

## 11. Policy Review

This procedure will be reviewed periodically to ensure fairness, consistency and alignment with best practice.