

## **Volleyball Manitoba Protest Procedures**

Volleyball Manitoba tournaments are organized to allow the settling of a protest immediately.

A captain may legally protest only an error in applying a rule or rule interpretation. A protest procedure is commenced by a team captain formally indicating their wish to protest following the explanation received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the 1st Referee. The captain must lodge the protest immediately at the time of misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged.

The captain must describe the incident on the score sheet at the time of the incident including set number (he may be assisted by a team official), score, ball possession and player position on floor at time of protested decision, and reason for protest. The back of the score sheet may be used or a separate page, attached to the score sheet. It must be signed by the relevant team's captain.

Once a team captain has formally protested, the 1st Referee should not:

1. Choose not to proceed with the protest procedure
2. Dictate the content of the protest
3. State to the player the likely outcome of the protest
4. Comment on the validity or legitimacy of the team captain's protest

The protest is then referred by the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee to the on-site Volleyball Manitoba Representative for review, and then acceptance or refusal (they may choose to consult with a VM Staff or official representative). Refusal means that the game or match result stands or the game continues. The decision to accept or refuse a protest is final and may not be appealed.

The criteria for acceptance of a legitimate protest shall involve any one or more of the following circumstances:

1. An improper decision by the referee who did not apply the rules or regulations
2. An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score

If the protest is accepted, the on-site Volleyball Manitoba Representative notifies both teams there is a protest and both teams return to their benches until the protest is resolved. At this time, a judges conference is established with at least two of the following: the on-site Volleyball Manitoba Representative, a Volleyball Manitoba Staff, Board or Committee member or Referee Delegate (may be called if not on-site at the venue). The judges conference holds official authority to solve problems occurring during the game in order to correct an improper situation in accordance with Volleyball Canada rules and regulations prior to resumption of play. The judges conference decision is final.

Sanctions may be put in place if it is deemed that a team is abusing the protest procedures.

Completion of the match:

The match is deemed over when the 1st Referee dismisses the teams from the court following the scoring of the last point in the match, then followed by handshakes. The signing of the score sheet is an administrative task where the coach is verifying the results.

If a protestable item/situation occurs on the last point of the match, the captain would have to lodge a protest with the 1st referee immediately for review. Same as during the match, where the protest must be lodged by the captain at the time of misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule.