

Protest Resolution Procedure for all FFA Chapter and National competitions:

PROTEST COMMITTEE

- 1) For each competition a Protest Committee must be convened by the organisers prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 2) Where possible the Protest Committee shall consist of a Chairperson who is the highest ranking officer of FFA when the officers of FFA are listed in the following order. National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and then from the state in which the Protest is being lodged the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.
- 3) The balance of the Protest Committee shall be made up of, for Chapter Competitions, 2 committee members of the Chapter concerned and for National Competitions 4 committee members of the National Board of FFA.
- 4) If there are insufficient Chapter Committee members or National Directors present at the subject competition then any vacancy in a Protest Committee shall be filled on a random draw basis from the other financial members of FFA present at the subject competition provided always that the person or persons making the protest and the person or persons against whom the protest has been made shall not be eligible to sit on the Protest Committee.

PROTEST PROCEDURE

- 5) All Protests must be lodged in writing and the form of Protest lodgement must:
 - a) Identify the names of all of the parties against whom the Protest is lodged;
 - b) Identify the names of all of the parties lodging the Protest;
 - c) Identify full details of the alleged event leading to the lodgement of the Protest;
 - d) Be lodged with the score sheets for the session in which the Protest is alleged or if the protest is outside a fishing session be lodged with a member of the Protest Committee at the earliest possible time.
- 6) At the Protest Hearing those present shall be given the right to make the following submissions for or against the protest in the following order.
 - a) An opening statement shall be made first by the person or persons lodging the protest then the person or persons against whom the protest has been lodged.
 - b) After the Opening Statements have been made then those present shall be given the right to make a Response to the Opening Statements in the following order. First the person or persons lodging the protest then the person or persons against whom the protest has been lodged.
 - c) After the responses have been made then those present shall be given the right to make a final summation in the following order. First the person or persons lodging the protest then the person or persons against whom the protest has been lodged.
- 7) The Protest Committee shall have the right to ask questions and receive answers from the person or persons to whom the question is directed at any time through the Protest Committee

hearing. Other members of FFA present shall not be entitled to interject in the question or answer process and if they do so and are cautioned by the Chairman of the protest Committee on three or more occasions will automatically receive a Formal Caution.

- 8) Once the above process has been completed the Protest Committee hearing shall be adjourned so that the Protest Committee can consider the Protest and make a determination. Whilst the Protest is being determined by the Protest Committee the complainants and the defendants will be required to wait at a location approved by the Protest Committee.
- 9) The Protest Committee determination shall be in one of the following four forms:
 - a) That the protest has been upheld and is of such a serious nature that one or more of the persons against whom the protest has been lodged has been disqualified from the competition.
 - b) That the protest has been upheld and the person or persons against whom the protest has been lodged has been disqualified from the competition session concerned in which case the person or persons disqualified from the competition session concerned shall receive the same points for the session concerned as they would have received if they caught no fish in that session.
 - c) That the protest has not been upheld.
 - d) That the protest has not been upheld but that the Protest Committee have Formally Cautioned one or more members of FFA as a result of the protest.
- 10) Within 15 minutes of the protest being determined then the parties to the Protest Hearing will be reconvened to hear the determination.

APPEAL PROCESS

- 11) Once the findings of the Protest Committee have been made then any party to the protest will have 15 minutes to lodge an appeal in writing against the decision of the Protest Committee and the form of Appeal lodgement must:
 - a) Briefly outline the basis of the appeal.
 - b) Delivered to the chairman of the protest committee
 - c) Must be accompanied by the sum of \$50 for each person lodging the appeal. These appeal costs will be refunded if the appeal is successful but will be retained by FFA if the appeal is not successful.
- 12) Where possible the Appeal Committee shall consist of the next highest ranking officer of FFA when the officers of FFA, who were not involved in the original Protest Hearing, when the officers of FFA are listed in the following order. National President, national Vice president, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and then from the state in which the Protest is being lodged the President, Secretary or Treasurer.
- 13) The balance of the Appeal Committee shall be made up of, for Chapter Competitions, 2 committee members of the Chapter concerned and for National Competitions 4 committee members of the National Board of FFA who were not involved in the original Protest Hearing.

14) If there are insufficient Chapter Committee members or National Directors present at the subject competition then any vacancy in an Appeal Committee shall be filled on a random draw basis from the other financial members of FFA present at the subject competition provided always that members of the Protest Committee and persons who were not eligible to be a member of the Protest Committee shall not be eligible to sit on the Appeal Committee.

15) At the Appeal Committee hearing those present shall be given the right to make the following submissions for or against the protest in the following order.

- a) An opening statement shall be made first by the person or persons lodging the appeal then the person or persons against whom the appeal has been lodged.
- b) After the Opening Statements have been made then those present shall be given the right to make a Response to the Opening Statements in the following order. First the person or persons lodging the appeal then the person or persons against whom the appeal has been lodged.
- c) After the responses have been made then those present shall be given the right to make a final summation in the following order. First the person or persons lodging the appeal then the person or persons against whom the appeal has been lodged.

16) The Appeal Committee shall have the right to ask questions and receive answers from the person or persons to whom the question is directed at any time through the Appeal hearing. Other members of FFA present shall not be entitled to interject in the question or answer process and if they do so and are cautioned by the Chairman of the Appeal Committee on three or more occasions will automatically receive a Formal Caution.

17) Once the above process has been completed the Appeal Committee hearing shall be adjourned so that the Appeal Committee can consider the Appeal and make a determination. Whilst the Appeal is being determined by the Appeal Committee the complainants and the defendants will be required to wait at a location approved by the Appeal Committee.

18) The Appeal Committee determination shall be in one of the following four forms:

- a) That the decision of the Protest Committee stands.
- b) That the decision of the Protest Committee was wrong and that the new determination shall be in one of the following four forms:
 1. That the protest has been upheld and is of such a serious nature that one or more of the persons against whom the protest has been lodged has been disqualified from the competition.
 2. That the protest has been upheld and the person or persons against whom the protest has been lodged has been disqualified from the competition session concerned in which case the person or persons disqualified from the competition session concerned shall receive the same points for the session concerned as they would have received if they caught no fish in that session.
 3. That the protest has not been upheld.
 4. That the protest has not been upheld but that the Protest Committee have Formally Cautioned one or more members of FFA as a result of the protest.

- 19) Within 15 minutes of the Appeal being determined then the parties to the Appeal Committee hearing will be reconvened to hear the determination.
- 20) Except for the rights of members under the constitution of FFA and the laws of Australia then the Decision of the Appeal Committee will be final.

GENERAL

- 21) Protest Committee and Appeal Committee hearings will be held in the form of a round table meeting at which all persons lodging the protest or appeal and all persons against whom the protest or appeal has been made shall be invited to attend.
- 22) Any members who is selected to sit on a Protest Committee or Appeal Committee is obliged to sit on that committee unless they are determined by the other Protest Committee or Appeal Committee members to have a bona fide conflict of interest in relation to the matter being considered.
- 23) Any member of FFA who refuses to sit on a Protest Committee or Appeal Committee or fails to turn up within 15 minutes of the appointed start time for a Protest Committee or Appeal Committee Hearing shall automatically receive a "Formal Caution".
- 24) If any invited member of FFA does not arrive at the Protest Hearing or Appeal Hearing within 15 minutes of the appointed time then the Protest Hearing or Appeal Hearing shall proceed in their absence.