



GASPARILLA SOFTBALL CLASSIC



Protest Procedures

The Suncoast Softball league trusts that all coaches and managers provide accurate NAGAAA ratings for all players, as included in their registrations. On the remote chance that another team does not agree with this assessment of another team's player skills, we have defined these protest procedures which must be followed in order for the Field Director to quickly resolve the potential concern.

Protest Types:

Rules of Play Protest - The GSC Field Director(s) at the softball complex will rule on all protests regarding the applications of the rules of play.

Non-Rules of Play Protest – The Protest Committee established at the softball complex will hear and rule on all protests not specific to the Rules of Play.

Protest Committee:

The Protest Committee shall consist of at least three other members from teams not associated with the cities filing the protest or being protested.

Protest Committee Members must be present and available to hear protests at the assigned time and place as determined by the GSC Field Director(s).

When the protest is filed, the Field Director(s) will convene the Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest.

Protest Committee business shall only be discussed with other Protest Committee Members, to include an voting within Committee.

Protest Committee Chairperson:

The Protest Committee Chairperson will be one of the Field Directors, not on either the roster of the protesting team or team being protested.

The Protest Committee Chairperson will facilitate this procedure for protesting a player or a team.

Once a protest has been filed, the Protest Committee Chairperson will assemble the members of the Protest Committee to hear and rule on the protest.

Filing a Protest:

Protests may only be filed by the opposing team's manager.

A protest must be filed prior to the completion of the game in question.

When filing a protest, the protesting party must identify the player(s) being protested and the specific basis for the protest, to include the questions on the Player Rating Guide that are being challenged, if any.

A protest fee must also be posted at the time of the filing of the protest.

The game umpire will notify one of the Field Directors.

At the time of the protest, the Field Director will notify both teams' managers.

After a protest is filed, the game will continue.

Protest Fees:

The ratings protest fee is \$200.00 for the 1st challenged question, and \$50 for each additional challenged question.

If a protest is upheld, the protest fee and any additional challenged question fees will be returned to the challenging team's manager.

If a protest is denied, all related fees are not refunded.

Hearings:

The Protest Committee will hear the arguments of both teams in order to rule on a protest.

During pool play, the Protest Committee will rule on protests as quickly as possible and prior to the determination of seeding for double elimination play.

During double elimination play, the Protest Committee will rule on the protest prior to the start of the next game in which either team is to be involved.

All player ratings will be made available for the Protest Committee to review

The Protest Committee Chairperson will begin the proceedings by explaining the protest hearing procedures to both team managers.

The protesting party's manager will explain the basis for the protest and present any evidence to support said protest.

After the protesting party's manager has presented its case, the protested party will be afforded the opportunity to present evidence to rebut the protesting party's argument.

Both managers will then be excused so that the Protest Committee can discuss and vote to gain a simple majority from within the members of the Protest Committee. Both managers will be brought back into the meeting and informed of the decision.

If the Protest Committee changes a player's rating, it will become that player's rating for the rest of the tournament.

Penalties:

If a protest results in a player rating change that also causes a team to move up a division, the protested team forfeits the protested game and the opponent is named winner of the game. The protested team is also eliminated from the GSC Tournament.

If a protest results in a player rating change that does not cause a team to move up a division:

- The result of the protested game stands. The only exception to this would be if a team has three or more protested player rating questions upheld. If this occurs, the protested team will be declared the loser of that game.
- The protested team can continue to play.
- If a protested player's rating is increased by one point, the player can continue to play, as long as his/her new rating is within the division's maximum rating.
- If a protested player's rating is increased by 2 or more points, the player will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the tournament, even if his/her new rating is within the division's maximum rating.
- If, due to an upheld protest, a player exceeds the limit for that division, the player is ineligible going forward. The team can continue to play only if the new overall team rating remains within the division's maximum rating.