



Gasparilla Softball Classic Protest Procedures

The Gasparilla Softball Classic 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 Coordinator(s) to quickly resolve the potential concern.

Protest Types

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

Non-Rules of Play Protest – A Protest Committee shall be established at the softball complex to hear and rule on all protests from that game 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 Coordinator(s).
- When the protest is filed, the Field Coordinator(s) will select and 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 any voting within Committee.

Protest Committee Chairperson

- The Protest Committee Chairperson will be one of the Field Coordinator(s), 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 and fee paid, 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. One fee per player.
- The game umpire will notify one of the Field Coordinators.
- At the time of the protest, the Field Coordinator 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, none of the related fees will be refunded.

If more than one question is protested, the percentage of the total fee per question will be refunded for each question upheld. For example, if three questions are protested a fee of \$300 would be posted. If only one question is upheld and two denied only \$100 of the fee (1/3) will be 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. This may include prior rating history, if available.

- 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 two exceptions to this would be if (1) 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, and be eliminated from the tournament, or (2) the result of the protest makes the player in question ineligible for the division or the tournament. If this happens, 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 only one point, the player can continue to play, as long as the player's 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 (including the eliminated player). The team will also be declared the loser of that game.

Dual protests:

Whenever two (2) teams shall protest each other in the same game and both teams have not yet had a loss in double elimination and both teams have at least one (1) protest question upheld the following shall apply:

- a. If the penalty for both Team A and Team B result in both teams being declared the loser, yet allowed to remain in the tournament, then the loser of the game, as determined by the real score of the game, will move to the loser's bracket. The winner of the game will advance to next level of the winner's bracket and a forfeit will be declared, thus sending the team to the loser's bracket.
- b. If the penalty for both Team A and Team B results in both teams being declared the loser, and one (1) team is ejected based on the result of the protest and the other team is allowed to continue based on the result of the protest, the team that is allowed to continue will move to the loser's bracket.

PLEASE NOTE: Rosters are locked at the beginning of the tournament. The only changes made after the last pitch of your Round Robin games are those made as a result of upheld protests. Players cannot be removed.