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## League Officer's Guide to Handling Protests

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League officials should try to resolve problems prior to receiving a written protest. When a bowler asks a question, try to answer it by using the *USBC Playing Rules & Commonly Asked Questions*. If you cannot find the answer, tell the bowler you will contact USBC for the information [Rules@bowl.com](mailto:Rules@bowl.com) or (800)514-BOWL Ext. 3155.

### *A protest is filed, now what?*

Protests should be filed in writing. However, an officer may choose to take action on a verbal protest. Officers should look out for what is best for the league. Any written protests must be acted upon by the league board of directors and should be done as soon as possible, provided the protest is timely.

#### Protests must be filed in writing within:

- 15 days of the event during the regular schedule
- 72 hours if the games challenged occurred on the last session of a segment or in the final two weeks of the season or playoff.

### *The protest is timely what do we do?*

#### Follow the check list below...

- \_\_\_ Schedule a meeting of the league board of directors (team captains and league officers); invite all other concerned parties.
- \_\_\_ Provide the board with copies of the written protest, league rules, and USBC Playing Rules involved.
- \_\_\_ Keep detailed minutes of the meeting including a roster of those present and absent and vote count of the decision made.
- \_\_\_ Review the applicable league rules and/or USBC Rules and Commonly Asked Questions in the USBC Playing Rules book for similar circumstances.
- \_\_\_ Ask the parties involved questions pertaining to the matter.  
Dismiss non-board members prior to taking a vote.
- \_\_\_ Ask for a motion to decide the protest, which must be seconded to be voted on.  
(A motion that does not receive a second dies.)

#### Possible decisions

- ★ **Null and Void** – Action taken when it finds a rule was violated, but mitigating circumstances were involved. Example, league officers may have misinformed the team captain. The board must also make the decision to either rebowl the games or use the percentage method for calculating position standings
- ★ **Forfeit** – Action taken when it finds a rule violated but no mitigating circumstances involved.
- ★ **Stand as Bowled** – After reviewing a protest, it is determined there is no cause for action.
- \_\_\_ Vote on the motion; majority vote required. (If no majority is reached the motion dies and another must be made. The board must make a decision.)
- \_\_\_ Notify the parties involved of the decision verbally and/or in writing and that an appeal can be filed within the timelines of Rule 119.



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### **The board's decision stands unless overturned on appeal.**

Appeals are filed in writing to the local association or USBC. If members of the local association board are involved in the matter, the appeal may be filed with USBC. An appeal with the local association, that decision may be appealed to USBC.

### **Appeals must be filed in writing within:**

1. 15 days of being notified of the decision during the regular schedule.
2. 72 hours when notification occurs:
  - a) In the final two weeks of the league schedule.
  - b) At the end of a segment if the league bowls a split season.
  - c) After the league schedule has ended.
  - d) As a result of playoff competition.