



Tournament Manager's Protest Guide

Tournament managers 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* and/or your tournament rules. If you cannot find the answer, tell the bowler you will contact USBC for the information and get back with the bowler. USBC contact information: Rules@bowl.com or 800-514-BOWL ext. 8955.

A protest was filed. What happens now?

Protests should be filed in writing. However, a tournament manager may choose to act on a verbal protest. Tournament managers should act in the best interest of the tournament and bowlers. Any written protests must be addressed by the tournament manager and should be done as soon as possible, provided the protest is timely.

Protests must be filed in writing in a timely manner:

- **Adult Tournaments** - Within 72 hours of the infraction, or prior to tournament prizes being paid, whichever occurs first.
- **Youth Tournaments** - Within 72 hours of the infraction.

The protest is timely. What do we do?

Follow this check list:

- Investigate the rule violations cited in the protest.
- If needed, contact:
 - The individual who filed the protest for additional information.
 - The individual who the protest was filed against for additional information.
 - Other participants in the tournament regarding rule violations cited in the protest. Ask for their comments.
 - USBC Rules Department.
- Tournament management must provide a decision regarding the protest.
- Notify the parties involved of the decision in writing and inform them that an appeal can be filed within the timelines of Rule 329.
- Prizes potentially affected by the ruling must be held until the expiration of the appeal timeline.

Tournament prize fund must be held when there are disqualifications, protests or appeals.

If you have sent notices of disqualification, or are notified of a protest or appeal, tournament management must withhold all affected prizes until the protest or appeal is resolved. If you choose to pay out the prize list prior to a finalization of any pending appeals, you run the risk of additional prize fund liabilities if the initial decision is overturned upon appeal.

Tournament management's decision stands unless overturned on appeal.

Appeals are filed in writing to the local association or USBC. If an appeal is made with the local association, that decision may be appealed to USBC.





Appeals must be filed in writing in a timely manner:

- **Adult Tournaments** - Within 10 days of notification of tournament management's decision.
- **Youth Tournaments** – Within 72 hours of notification of the decision.

What to expect when there is an appeal?

The local association and/or USBC Rules Department will notify tournament management of the appeal and request information in order to make an informed decision. For example:

- Copy of tournament management's decision letter.
- Copy of the individual's entry form and recap sheet.
- Copy of the tournament rules.
- Any additional information the tournament management may have that is relevant to the issue.

