*Handling Protests*

As a reminder, only the following may be protested

* Misinterpretation of a playing rule
* Failure of first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
* Failure to charge the correct penalty/sanction for a given fault
* Score sheet ( score )
1. Protest committee goes to the court – one SCR and one member of championship and if available another SCR or at least a ranked referee
2. Head referee asks the 1st referee which team is protesting – No discussion with the 1st Referee beyond determining the protesting team
3. Head referee assures everyone is where they should be ( 1st ref at stand , 2nd ref at pole at scorers side, teams behind the ten foot line on their side of the court
4. Committee goes to the protesting team and asks for the head coach and captain
5. Pull the head coach and captain away from the rest of the team and the asst. coaches
6. Introduce the committee and ask the coach/captain what rule they are protesting
7. Guide them as needed to clarify what rule they are protesting
8. Ask the Captain what he/she said to the 1st referee and how the 1st referee responded (hopefully this will identify the words the 1st referee used that led to the team’s decision to protest. If the captain did not talk to the 1st referee, let the coach know how they should have handled the situation prior to getting to the point of a protest
9. Avoid discussion of things that happened earlier in the match or other calls they disagreed with throughout the match or day
10. If the decision is purely judgement ( the ball was /was not higher than the net or in the plane :a block was/was not the first contact ETC ) the protest is denied and play resumes as quickly as possible skip to step 15
11. Protest committee talks to the R 2 if they have pertinent info or involves a 2nd referee decision or if the R2 may have an opinion on the play
12. Protest committee then talks with the score table is the protest involves the score, libero or a substitution
13. Protest committee then talks to the first referee to get the pertinent facts keep the conversation brief
* Tell us what happened and what you called
* Did the captain come over to you and talk to you? What did you tell them?
* Avoid discussion of things that occurred earlier
1. Protest committee separates from everyone ( usually near net at middle of the court ) and discusses the situation
* If the situation primarily involved judgement, the decision of the 1st referee is upheld – even if the committee thinks the referee’s judgement may be incorrect
* If the 1st referee applied the rule correctly, the decision is upheld – even if the committee thinks the referee could have handled the situation better
* If the 1st referee did not apply the rule correctly, the protest is upheld, and the decision is reversed. It is then up to the committee to decide the correctable actions ( replay, points sanctions )
1. The head referee informs the protesting team of the result of the protest, If you can others of the committee should inform the 1st referee.
2. The committee then informs the opposing team and finally the score table. Making sure the score reflects the decision of the committee, next servers and full lineups as needed

General Reminders

+ A protest can only be upheld if the 1st referee misapplied the rule or failed to apply the correct rule. It cannot be used to reverse a poor judgement or to apply the “art of officiating “to a situation. We do not want to give teams the impression they can protest because they disagree with the way a referee handled a situation even though the rules were applied correctly

+ A protest does not always allow us to “get the call right “if the situation is not protestable or if the judgement of the 1st referee was used to determine the outcome of the play

+ A protest can assist in reversing a call if the committee is able to determine that the officiating team made a mistake or applied a rule incorrectly