

ARTICLE 13 - PROTESTS, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO APPEAL

SECTION 1 PROTESTS – These procedures will be followed when any registered team or player is protesting against any opposing team or player, any official or Tournament Director's rule interpretation:

- A. **Player Eligibility** – A protest may be made regarding any player's eligibility at anytime during a game. Any registered team or player protesting the eligibility of a player of the opposing team must furnish proof that the player is ineligible. In case of an obvious violation of eligibility rules, the request underlying the protest may be granted immediately by the MAAD Executive Board.
- B. **Rule Interpretation** – A coach or manager may lodge a protest regarding an official's or the MAAD Tournament Director's rule interpretation of Rules and Regulations but must do so at the time of the incident. For such a protest to be officially recognized, the protesting coach or manager must use the words, "I protest" and complete the necessary paperwork. The game may continue to be played while the protest is pending.

SECTION 2 PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTS –

- A. A protest concerning player eligibility or rule interpretation must be lodged with the referee or umpire, or the MAAD Tournament Director at the time of the incident. The referee or umpire will stop the game and gather with the team coaches or managers and the MAAD Tournament Director for a ruling on the protest. The time of the game and the names of the players on the court/field must be recorded by the umpires or referees when the game is stopped.
- B. Any person or team that seeks to protest must notify the MAAD Tournament Director that a protest is being registered and must complete and submit the protest form in writing to the Secretary of the Grievance Committee no later than 3 hours after the conclusion of the tournament in which the incident occurred.

SECTION 3 PENALTIES FOR ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS –

- A. Any team found to have ineligible player(s) during a competition will forfeit the contest. All points won in games in which an ineligible player was used will be forfeited.
- B. Violation of this rule makes a player ineligible. The player is barred from participation in MAAD competition for the remainder of the tournament or until the final decision/ruling of Executive Board.

SECTION 4 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES – The procedures will be followed when any Club Member or Independent Team Member of MAAD files a grievance against any other Club Member or Independent Team Member of MAAD, or an individual player based on any portion of MAAD's Bylaws and Rules & Regulations:

- A. **COMPLAINT** – Any club, team, or individual member of MAAD dissatisfied with or aggrieved by any interpretation, action, or decision of MAAD may submit a written complaint to the MAAD Secretary.
 - 1. **Deadline** – The complaint must be submitted to the MAAD Secretary not more than 3 months after the effective date of the said interpretation, action, or decision to review.
 - 2. **What the Complaint must include** – This complaint must contain a statement of the relevant facts, explain the relief requested and be accompanied by the record. This complaint must include any documents to be considered on review and a copy of the adverse decision, if it is in writing.
 - 3. **Who the Complaint is against** – The complaint must identify whether it is against a Club Member, an Independent Team Member, or a player or manager or coach or scorekeeper of either a Club or Independent Team.

4. Who the Complaint is from – The complaint must identify whether the complaining party is MAAD, an officer of MAAD, a Club Member, an Independent Team Member, or a player or manager or coach or scorekeeper of either a Club or Independent Team.
 5. Grounds for Complaint – The complaint may assert any of the following grounds:
 - a. Any violation of the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of the MAAD;
 - b. Any inappropriate or unauthorized expenditure or taking of MAAD funds;
 - c. Any refusal to cooperate with the Officers of MAAD;
 - d. Any attacks on the Officers of MAAD outside of the authorized procedures pursuant to the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the MAAD.
 6. Respondents Must Get Copy of Complaint – If any respondents are named in the complaint, the MAAD Secretary shall provide a copy of the petition, together with any accompanying documents, to each respondent within 10 days after receiving the complaint. Each respondent may file a written response to the complaint with the MAAD Secretary, and shall provide a copy of any such response to the complaint, at any time prior to the hearing.
- B. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE –
1. Receipt of Complaint – The MAAD Secretary must provide a copy of the complaint to the Grievance Committee within 5 days after receipt of the complaint.
 2. Setting the Date of Hearing – Within 15 days after a complaint has been received by the MAAD Secretary, the Grievance Committee shall set a date, time and place for hearing to consider the complaint at the next tournament and shall inform all parties concerning such date, time and place. The hearing shall take place no more than ninety (90) days from the date that the complaint was received by the Grievance Committee.
 3. Authority to Resolve Dispute – The Grievance Committee may attempt to resolve the dispute informally to the satisfaction of all parties prior to the date set for the hearing and may implement any resolution agreed upon by all parties.
- C. HEARINGS –
1. Record of the Hearing – The Grievance Committee may make a record of the hearing, which may be in the form of a videotape and/or a summary record of the proceedings. The record shall be made available to each interested party upon request and payment therefore.
 2. Evidence and Process – At all hearings, all parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present oral or written evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to present such factual claims as desired. The rules of evidence shall not be strictly enforced, but rules of evidence generally accepted in administrative proceedings shall be applicable.
 3. Burden of Proof – The burden of proof shall be upon the complainant. Upon completion of the presentation of the complainant's evidence, the respondent, if there is one, may move to dismiss. If such motion to dismiss is denied, the respondent shall then have the burden of proof to counter any evidence presented by the complainant.
- D. DECISION:
1. Vote of the Grievance Committee – A majority of the members of the Grievance Committee that attended the hearing shall render a final decision in any hearing.
 2. Deadline for Decision of the Grievance Committee – The Grievance Committee shall render a final decision within sixty (60) days after the date that the hearing concludes.
 3. Communication of the Decision – The decision shall be communicated to all in writing or electronic mail.
 4. Reconsideration of the Decision – Petitions previously considered and decided upon by the Grievance Committee shall not be reopened for consideration except by direction of the Board of Delegates upon a showing of sufficient cause.
- E. APPEAL –
1. Method of Appeal – Any party to a hearing may appeal a decision to the Board of Delegates by filing a written statement of appeal with the MAAD Secretary.

2. Deadline to Appeal – Any party that wishes to appeal must do so within thirty (30) days after the date of the Grievance Committee's decision.
3. Appeal Subject to Acceptance by Board of Delegates – Only when there is a vote to accept the appeal by two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the Board of Delegates, will the appeal be allowed to proceed. Such a vote must occur within one year of the date of the decision
4. Review of Appeal – Upon review of the appeal, the Board of Delegates may choose to review the evidence, and then uphold or overturn the decision of the Grievance Committee. Alternatively, the Board of Delegates may choose to remand the matter to the Grievance Committee for further consideration.
5. Reinstatement – A complaint for reinstatement to eligible status can be acted upon at any time by the Executive Board, subject to ratification by the Board of Delegates at an Annual Meeting immediately. A two-third (2/3) vote of those members of the Board of Delegates present and voting is necessary to ratify reinstatement.