



4.6 SWIM MEET PROTEST PROCEDURES

Purpose of policy

This policy will ensure MSABC swimmers, coaches and officials have a clear understanding of the MSABC Swim Meet Protest Procedures.

Policy

1. Situations Where Protests are Permitted

- a. Protests are possible:
 - i. if conditions endanger the competition and/or the competitors; or,
 - ii. if the rules and regulations for the conduct of the swim meet are not observed against decisions of the meet officials (including Meet Referee, Starter, Chief Timer and Stroke and Turn Judges).
- b. No protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

2. How Protests are Submitted

- a. Protests must be submitted:
 - i. to the Meet Referee;
 - ii. in writing;
 - iii. by the swimmer, team leader or coach; and,
 - iv. within 30 minutes following the declaration of the infraction under protest.
- b. Initially, a verbal protest may be registered to the Meet Referee, who may decide to freeze the processing of meet results pending review of the written protest that must follow.
- c. The results of an event conducted "under protest" shall be withheld (not announced or published) and prizes, point scores and awards shall not be awarded until the protest is resolved. All protests shall be considered by the Meet Referee. If he/she rejects the protest, the reasons for the decision must be stated. The team leader or coach may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal, whose decisions are final.

3. Appointing a Jury of Appeal

- a. The Meet Manager shall appoint members to the Jury of Appeal. They may be appointed for the entire meet or to adjudicate a specific event. The Jury of Appeal shall be chaired by the Meet Manager or his/her designate. The chairman shall have no vote. The voting members shall be odd in number (either 3 or 5, depending upon the complexity of the issue.) These members shall be comprised of individuals who are familiar with MSC Competition Rules and who have had



no involvement in the disputed decision or the protest. The Jury of Appeal shall convene and reach a decision by majority vote as soon as practical during or after the swim meet. The Jury of Appeal shall hear evidence as it sees fit. However, the protester(s) and the referee(s) and official(s) whose decisions are being disputed shall have the right to present their case(s). The Jury shall conduct its business in private. When a decision is reached, the Meet Referee and the protester shall be informed immediately. The expectation is that the Jury of Appeal will reach a decision on the day the protest is registered. Following the Jury's decision, which is final, the results of the event shall be determined and posted.

- b. The Chairman of the Jury of Appeal shall make a written formal record of the proceedings (Jury Record), including a description of the incident, initial decision and protest, the jury members, the witnesses called, the final decision rendered (with the vote count) and a brief description of the rationale. All members of the Jury of Appeal shall sign the Jury Record. Copies of the Jury Record shall be provided to the protester and the Meet Referee. One copy, along with the original protest form and any other pertinent data, shall be submitted to the MSABC Board along with the official meet results.

Review of policy

This policy shall be reviewed by the MSABC Board of Directors as required.

Adopted and in effect – 15-April-2013

Last reviewed – 12-January-2019