

## **THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE FOR PROTESTS**

A tournament committee, established by the event coordinator, shall govern all USA Wrestling events. The committee shall number five (5) members, who shall be residents of different geographical areas, if possible. One member shall be designated chairperson. When possible a majority of the members shall be USWOC officials of Category M1 national rating.

The chairperson of the tournament committee shall appoint three or more members of the committee, and he/she may include himself, to rule on any matter or issue (not to include judgment calls made by officiating crew). He/she shall select members of the committee from geographical areas that would avoid any presence of a conflict of interest.

Any decisions by the Tournament Committee shall be final without appeal.

## **TOURNAMENT PROTEST PROCEDURES & JURY**

A written protest may be submitted when a flagrant violation of the rules of wrestling or an irregular situation is noted. The protest must be filed in writing on an official protest form available from the chief pairing master.

On any protest involving application or interpretation of the rules, the mat chairman must be notified immediately after the end of the bout that a protest is imminent. The written protest must be filed no later than 15 minutes after the end of the bout.

The protest must be submitted to the chief pairing master, who shall forward it to the appropriate USWOC representative, selected by the USWOC President, to be the point person for obtaining the protest documents and fee. A fee of \$100.00, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld, must accompany each protest.

### **A protest may be accepted and examined when:**

- there has been a flagrant violation of the rules,
- there has been a timing error, during which the score of the bout change,
- two wrestlers have arrived at a prior agreement regarding the outcome of their bout, to influence the classification of an opponent,
- the judge and referee have awarded points in a unanimous manner and the mat chairman has changed their decision,
- points are entered in inverse order on the judge's and mat chairperson's score sheets, by error, or
- points have been award by majority vote of the officiating team and, by error these points have not been entered on the score sheets.

### **A protest may not be accepted nor examined when:**

- it concerns the officials' judgment, or
- it concerns disqualification of one or both wrestlers for cautions, brutality, or violation of the rules.
- The outcome of the protest will not change the winner of the period or match.

**If the protest is accepted, it shall be examined by a “Jury” composed of any number of USWOC members selected by the USWOC President or his designee. This “Jury” shall rule on all protests and shall make the final decision without appeal. For all protests, the “Jury” may be composed of the same or different USWOC members, as determined by the USWOC President or his designee.**

The “Jury” shall use the official USAW mat side video recording to rule on any protest. No other video source(s) may be used in the examination of a protest.

If for some unforeseen circumstance, the official USAW mat side video recording is unavailable the “Jury” may utilize the testimony of the officials who officiated the bout, the coaches who were mat side at the time the bout was contested and the score clock personnel at the time the bout was contested to determine the outcome of the protest.

After a decision is reached, the party filing the protest shall be provided a written explanation of the ruling. If the protest is upheld, the other party also shall receive a copy.

#### **Consequences as a Result of an Upheld Protest:**

If through use of the official USAW mat side video, or if necessary by testimony, the “Jury” determines that a **mis-application or interpretation of the rules** was made in the bout, or the “Jury” is **unable** to make a determination from the evidence the following shall occur:

1. If the protest pertained to the 1<sup>st</sup> period, after a 15 minute rest for the athletes, the entire bout shall be re-wrestled. The result of the re-wrestled bout is final and shall be accepted as the official result.
2. If the protest pertained to the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, after a 15 minute rest for the athletes, that period shall be re-wrestled. The results of the re-wrestled 2<sup>nd</sup> period and the original 1<sup>st</sup> period shall determine the winner and be accepted as the official result.

The score sheet signed by the mat chairman and by the winning wrestler shall be accepted as the official result, even if it differs from the visual scoreboard, unless—in consideration of a protest—the “Jury” determines that a rule was improperly applied.

If the scoring totals shown on the mat chairman’s score sheet differ from the actual totals of the individual points recorded, through an error in addition, the recording of individual scoring moves shall be considered official and the totals shall be corrected by the chief pairing master upon discovery of the error.

Questions concerning errors in recording of results, assignment of classification points and/or improper pairing of the contestants may be addressed to the chief pairing master without the filing of a written protest. Anyone bringing a question to the pairing officials should know the contestant’s bout number of the match in question.

When a wrestler is disqualified from a bout or from the event for brutality or flagrant misconduct, such action shall be subject to automatic review by the “Jury” without the filing of a formal protest.