

## Article IX – Protests

### 1. PROTESTS INVOLVING ELIGIBILITY

- A. Protests of eligibility may be made at any time during the current school year.
- B. A boy/girl who has been found ineligible shall be considered to have been ineligible in all the games he/she participated while ineligible, and those games shall be declared forfeit. Refer to General Bylaws Article IV - Special Rulings/Forfeitures.

### 2. PROTESTS INVOLVING GAME CONDITIONS AND/OR GAME RULES

A protest involving game conditions and/or game rules must be called to the attention of the officials before the game or during the game when the reason for the protest arises. The following procedures shall be employed:

- A. The cause for protest shall be discussed with the officials and the two coaches involved, and every attempt shall be made to settle the issue without protest. The home team has the primary responsibility to provide the rule book.
- B. If there seems to be cause for protest, then the athletic directors of the schools involved shall discuss the problem and seek a settlement without protest.
- C. If the athletic directors of the schools involved cannot agree to a settlement of the protest, the League Commissioner shall be notified, and he/she shall render a decision on the protest.
- D. If both schools involved in the protest cannot agree with the decision of the League Commissioner, then the Principals of either school may continue the protest as outlined in Section 6 below.

### 3. OTHER PROTESTS

A protest involving policy and procedures not connected with a game condition or rule shall be subject to the same procedures as outlined in 2 with the exception of part A.

### 4. NO PROTESTS OF JUDGMENT CALLS

No protest which involves an official's judgment shall be made. Protests shall be made only when a rule has been violated.

### 5. GAME RULES OF THE SPORT

The game rules of each sport govern the effect of a valid protest upon the game and game results. These rules are set in the Rule Books issued by the CIF and CCS. In protest cases not specifically covered by the Rule Book, the League Commissioner shall be responsible for rendering a decision. He/she shall employ any or all of the following steps:

- A. Consultation with Supervisors of Officials, Officials Association Committees and other League Commissioners.
- B. Reference to the WCAL Handbook, CCS and CIF rulings, bylaws and constitutions.
- C. Previous rulings made in similar protests, tradition, and consultation with local well known authorities.
- D. Personal interpretation and discretionary use of personal judgment whenever necessary.

### 6. WCAL INCIDENT AND ADVISORY BOARD

Whenever the League Commissioner deems it necessary or helpful to get feedback regarding decisions pertaining to (1) student eligibility, or (2) sportsmanship violations or concerns he/she may convene the WCAL Incident Advisory Board. The Commissioner may use this Board any time he/she seeks feedback and advice from Principals or Athletic Directors on any item listed above.

- A. Members of the Advisory Board will serve on 3 year cycles coinciding with the term of the WCAL Athletic Directors Chair and/or President of the WCAL Principals Council.
- B. The membership of the board will consist of the League Commissioner, the President of the WCAL Principals Council, the Chair of the WCAL Athletic Directors Council, and four (4) additional members;

2 Principals and 2 Athletic Directors to be elected by the Principals Council and the AD Council respectively.

- C. No member of the Board may participate if their school was involved in the incident/contest (either offending or offended).
- D. Reviews do not have to happen in person but should involve all members of the Board unless a Board Member's school was involved in the incident. The Board may review items over email or teleconference, etc.
- E. The Board will make a recommendation to the Commissioner regarding the incident which would include levying or lessening of any penalty or other consequences considered by the Commissioner.
- F. The Commissioner has the final authority to determine any course of action pertaining to the incident.

#### 7. RESULTS OF PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Final decisions regarding protests and appeals shall be documented in writing and sent to the school(s) involved whenever possible.

May 2023