

1100. PROTESTS & APPEALS

Protests, Appeals, and Complaints are beliefs that a wrong has been done and requires correction.

1101. Disciplinary Powers

The NISL office shall have the authority to suspend, fine, or disqualify players, coaches, and other team officials or competing clubs for violating league rules or for any action or conduct not in the best interest of soccer or the NISL. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as parents, relatives, and spectators are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the NISL.

1101a. Disciplinary Hearing/Committee

A disciplinary hearing is a meeting to decide whether or not a disciplinary action is needed for an incident with all parties having the chance to participate.

The NISL Disciplinary Committee shall consist of three persons.

All members of the NISL shall recognize any disciplinary action imposed by the Committee.

1102. Requirements

All protests, appeals, or complaints must specifically refer to the NISL Rule that is or has been violated. Should a rule not exist to resolve the protests, appeal, or complaint, then provide a simple statement on the problem.

1102a. Types of Protests

The NISL permits four types of protests, appeals, or complaints.

- 1) Events that occur on the field of play during a game or pre-game that have a direct bearing on the game or future game.
- 2) Between team management of both teams and/or players that are about events upon the field of surrounding the game. These have no direct impact on a game's outcome.
- 3) About the NISL, NISL office, staff members, or president of the official capacity
- 4) About a referee or linesperson

Decisions that arise out of the applicant of the rules of competitions, which is made in the course of competition and has no consequence beyond the competitions, shall not be appealable.

1103. Procedures

By playing in the NISL:

- 1) All questions relating to any dispute, protest, appeal, or complaint shall be referred to the NISL Executive Office of the League or the committee appointed by it. Decisions of such committee shall be final and binding on both parties.
- 2) The league administrative office must receive appeals or complaints no more than forty-eight (48) hours following the scheduled game from which the protest arises and must be in writing.
- 3) To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest, appeal, or complaint must be accompanied by a cashier's check in the amount of \$100 to cover administrative fees and a written copy of the complaint including full particulars.
- 4) Any protest, appeal, or complaint relating to the grounds, goal post, bars, or other appurtenances of the game shall only be entertained if an objection has been lodged with the referee prior to the start of the game. When a complaint has been lodged, protest must be made and such a protest must not be withdrawn except by the consent of the NISL.

1103a. Due Process

- 1) NISL receives notice of violation
- 2) NISL collects information surrounding violation
- 3) NISL renders decision based upon information received

- 4) Appeal to NISL Appeals Committee within seven days of the violation
- 5) Within ten days of the appeal, the NISL Appeals Committee will arrange a hearing
- 6) After NISL appeal hearing, the Committee will render a decision

1103b. Restrictions

No player, coach, team, or club shall be represented by an attorney.

No NISL member, including, but not limited to, league officials, clubs, teams, players, coaches, parents of players, spectators, administrators, or referees may involve the aid of the courts in the United States or of a state without first exhausting all available remedies including hearings and appeals within the member association or league.

For violation of this bylaw, the offending party shall be subject to suspension and fines shall be liable to the NISL for all expenses incurred by the NISL and its officers in defending each court action including, but not limited to:

- 1) Court costs
- 2) Attorney's fees
- 3) Compensation for time spent by the NISL officials and employees in responding to an defending against all allegations in the action including all court appearances
- 4) Travel expenses
- 5) Any other expenses necessitated by the court action