

EDF Protest & Corrections

Regulations

Version 1.9 (06-03-2024)



Purpose:

The EDF Protest & Corrections Committee exists to address after-event protests alleging breaches of Rule 13 (code of conduct, honor code) in sanctioned EDF events. Its primary objective is to strengthen fair play by ensuring players uphold appropriate behavior, respect dodgeball values, and adhere to established rules.

Understanding Intent vs. Ensuring Fair Play

The EDF Protest & Corrections Committee acknowledges the fast-paced nature of dodgeball and the multitude of balls in play, which can sometimes make it difficult to definitively determine the intent behind an action that may appear to violate Rule 13. Therefore, the Committee's primary focus is not on assigning blame or labeling individuals as "cheaters." Rather, its objective is to uphold fair play and ensure a respectful and competitive environment for all participants.

Key Considerations:

- Impact of Actions: The Committee prioritizes evaluating the actual impact of the alleged violation on the game and other players, regardless of the suspected intent.
- Unintentional Violations: It is understood that unintentional rule infractions can occur in the heat of competition. If the Committee determines that a violation was likely unintentional and did not significantly disadvantage the opposing team, a less severe consequence, such as a warning or brief explanation, may be issued.
- Educational Approach: The Committee may utilize its decisions as teaching opportunities to clarify rules and promote better understanding among players and teams. This fosters a positive learning environment and helps prevent future unintentional violations.

Remember:

- While intent may be difficult to ascertain, upholding fair play and ensuring a respectful and competitive environment remains paramount.
- The Committee's focus is on addressing the impact of actions and using its decisions to educate and improve understanding of the rules.

Protest & Appeal Committee:

1. Valid Protests:
 - Must raise a legitimate concern about a potential violation of Rule 13.
 - Must be submitted within one month after video footage of the relevant event becomes publicly available.
 - Must adhere to the prescribed format outlining the specific nature of the alleged violation, supporting evidence, and any relevant details.
2. Consequences:
 - Valid protests: The Committee will determine the appropriate outcome based on the validity of the protest and the severity of the alleged violation. This may include:
 - Warnings
 - Point deductions
 - Disqualification
 - Other relevant actions deemed necessary
 - Invalid protests: These may be dismissed immediately if deemed:
 - Unrelated to Rule 13
 - Submitted outside the designated time frame
 - Containing false or misleading information
 - Demonstrating a frivolous or vexatious nature
 - Invalid protests may result in a suspension of protest rights for until the end of the upcoming year.
3. Appeals:
 - To ensure a transparent and fair process, the EDF Executive Council serves as the Appeal Committee.
 - Appeals need to be brought to the EDF council within 2 weeks after the PCC has sent out their final reports. No appeals can be made after the time period has expired.
 - The appealed case will be presented to the Executive Council, which will review the case in its entirety and decide whether to confirm or change the verdict issued by the Protest & Corrections Committee.
 - Who Can Appeal: Any nation or individual who has received a penalty after a protest
 - Reasons for Appeal:
 - Conflict with the EDF constitution
 - Conflict with the general understanding of the game of dodgeball
 - Conflict with the EDF protest and corrections regulations
 - New information has come to light
 - Nations (not individuals) can also appeal if they deem the correction issued to them or to their individuals “excessive”. If the appeal is made for this reason and the original decision is upheld by the Appeal Committee, The nation in question will lose their right to appeal for the next two calendar years (until end of calendar year).

Protest Regulations:

1. Timeframe:
 - Only after-event protests concerning Rule 13 violations are accepted.
 - The earliest a protest can be submitted is the day video footage of the event is made publicly available.
 - The deadline for submitting a protest is one month after the publication of all video footage.
2. What Can Be Protested:
 - Nations can only protest alleged Rule 13 violations directly affecting them in matches where they were involved.
3. Who Can Protest:
 - Official representatives of a national organization (e.g., managers, board members) are authorized to submit protests.
4. Who Can Be Protested:
 - Protests can be directed towards nations and/or individual(s) (player, coach, retriever, staff).
5. Protests against officials and referees
 - There are no protest against officials and referees
 - As defined in the EDF Rules & Regulations, Rule 11 governs all challenges concerning referee decisions during a match.
 - Once the match concludes, there are no further avenues for contesting referee calls.
 - While respecting the final call, if you still believe it was incorrect, you can raise the issue with the Rules and Regulations Committee for review. However, it's important to understand that:
 - i. No disciplinary action will be taken against the referee(s), even if the committee agrees the call was erroneous.
 - ii. Any score changes based on past calls are not possible.
6. Submitting Protests:
 - Protests can be reported to any member of the EDF Protest & Corrections Committee.
 - Protests must be submitted in writing via email.
7. What Does the Protest Need to Include:
 - The protesting nation.
 - The target(s) of the protest.
 - Specific game(s) where the alleged misbehavior occurred, including exact timestamps if applicable.
 - Statements from players, coaches, or any other relevant witnesses involved in the game.
 - Further details that may be deemed helpful in understanding the protest.
8. Investigation:
 - Upon receiving a protest, the Committee will commence an investigation. This involves reviewing the relevant matches and gathering statements from the involved parties.

9. Counter Protests:
 - Counter protests are not permitted within the EDF protest process.

Decision Making Process:

1. Review and Discussion:
 - Each committee member will individually review all materials gathered during the investigation (video footage, statements, etc.).
 - Once individual reviews are complete, the committee will convene to discuss the case in detail and reach a decision.
2. Voting and Majority:
 - A 2/3 majority vote within the committee is required to determine the outcome of the case.
3. Penalty Authority:
 - The Protest Committee is solely responsible for applying Level 1 penalties.
 - For Level 2 penalties, the Committee's decision requires approval from the EDF Executive Council.

Corrections Regulations:

Overview:

The Protest & Corrections Committee can choose to apply, from the listed options below, the penalties they deem most appropriate. It is possible to apply both individual and team penalties.

Individual Penalties:

Level 1:

- Warning:
 - Serves as a formal notification of the violation and potential for harsher consequences of future infractions.
- Match Ban:
 - The person (player, coach, retriever, staff) is prohibited from participating in a specified number of matches in future EDF competitions.
Range: 1 to 6 matches

Level 2:

- Exclusion from EDF Events:

- The person (player, coach, retriever, staff) is banned from participating in future EDF events for a designated period.
Range: 6 months to 2 years
- Indefinite Exclusion from EDF Events:
 - The person (player, coach, retriever, staff) is permanently banned from participating in any EDF events.

Team/Nation Penalties:

Level 1:

- Warning: Serves as a formal notification of the violation and potential for harsher consequences of future infractions.
- Reduced Players: The team is required to play with fewer players for all group matches.
Range: 1 to 2 players
- Opponent Set Point Advantage: The opposing team receives a starting advantage of additional set points for all group matches.
Range: 2 to 10 set points

Level 2:

- Fines: Financial penalties are imposed on the nation. Until fines are paid in full the penalized team will not be allowed to participate in EDF sanctioned events.
Range: 50€ to 500€
- Entire Team Result Cancellation: All results of the penalized team's matches within the tournament will be nullified.
 - The team's standing in the tournament will be adjusted to last place.
 - All other teams in the tournament will move up in the standings accordingly.
 - If multiple teams receive this penalty, they will share the tied position of last place.
- Lost Qualification Rights: The team loses qualification rights for the next EDF event, regardless of their achieved result.
- Exclusion from the Next EDF Event: The team is barred from participating in the next EDF event.
Range: 1 to 3 events
- Indefinite Exclusion from EDF Events: The team is permanently banned from participating in any EDF events. This decision may be reviewed by the PCC within a timeframe decided by the PCC or by recommendation of the Executive Council.