**GOJHL PROTESTS**

Member teams may file a protest on a game played within the GOJHL

Upon receipt of a protest in the GOJHL office the Commissioner will examine the protest to determine that all procedures relative to the filing of the protest have been properly adhered to (reg. P2 & P3) and that there exist sufficient grounds upon which to base a protest

(reg. P1).

Following a satisfactory examination of the protest and providing the protest complies with the conditions set forth in reg. P1 and the procedures set out in reg. P2 & P3 have been met, the Commissioner will proceed with the protest in accordance with regulation P4.

**P1 Matters that may be protested are:**

**(a)** a game official’s miss-application of a Hockey Canada playing rule which may have given the opposition team a distinct advantage. **NOTE:** An official’s judgement is not grounds for protest.

**(b)** an improperly registered, an unregistered or a suspended player, coach, manager, trainer or other person participating in a game or being on the player’s bench during a game.

**(c)** a player not residing at the address indicated on his registration certificate at the time of registration, or not residing there for the remainder of the season, or not notifying the OHA of a change of address whether or not the change of address changes the player’s status if same is a relative factor.

**(d)** a player ineligible by virtue of his team having utilized more than their player and/or import allotment provided under the regulations of the OHA.

**P2** Time allowed for filing a protest:

**(a)** a protest must be filed within 48 hours of the starting time of the game in question.
 **NEW (b)** During Playoffs: a protest must be filed prior to the next game between the teams named in the protest should the game be scheduled before the 48-hour time limit.  **NEW (c)** During Playoffs: a protest must be filed within 24 hours of the conclusion of a series.

**P3 To Protest a team must:**

**(a)** Prepare the protest in writing. It is to specify the reasons for the protest, and present the facts supporting the protest. It is to be concise and contain numbered paragraphs. The protest shall be filed with the GOJHL Commissioner and be accompanied by a $500 00 protest fee The protest is to be filed by email, directly to the GOJHL office (within 48 hours of the starting time for the game) Sundays and holidays included.

**PROTESTS**

 **(b)** Deliver email a copy of the protest to the protested team within the time outlined in P2 (a) or (b) The GOJHL will forward a copy to the offending team, by email, who will have 48 hours to respond from the time the notice leaves the GOJHL office.

**P4** (a) Within 5 days of a protest being filed the Commissioner shall set a date for hearing the protest. The hearing date will be no more than 10 days after the filing date, if it is deemed necessary.

**(b)** In emergency situations the Commissioner may expedite the protest hearing.

**P5** The Commissioner shall notify all parties to the protest as soon as the hearing date is set. His notice shall inform the parties of the time, place and date of the hearing. He will also notify that if a party does not attend the hearing the protest may proceed in the party’s absence.

**P6** A team served with a notice of a protest may decide to defend or not defend against the protest.

**P7 To defend against a protest a team must:**

**(a)** Prepare a rebuttal in writing. It is to specify the reasons the protest is incorrect and facts to support its stand. It is to be concise and contain numbered paragraphs.

**(b)** The rebuttal shall be filed with the GOJHL within 48 hours of receiving the protest.

**P8** If the protest is based on a referee’s interpretation of the rules, the team against whom the protest is filed need not defend against the protest, or file a defence fee. The protest committee will hear the matter on the strength of the protest submission. The referee will outline the conditions under which he made the call and his interpretation of the rule(s) concerned by report submitted to the President.

**P9** A party to the protest may be represented by counsel or agent, call and examine witnesses, and present his arguments and submission, conduct cross-examinations of witnesses as reasonably required for a full and fair disclosure of facts given in evidence.

**PROTESTS**

**P10** The hearing shall be open to the public except where any party to the protest requests that it be held in camera. If the protest hearer is of the opinion that intimate financial or personal matters may be disclosed, that would jeopardize the interest of any person, he may hold that part, or all, of the hearing in camera.

**P11** A protest can be heard by the GOJHL Board of Directors, the Officers or a Committee appointed by the Chairman

**P12 The Committee:**

**(a)** In hearing a protest, the committee shall first determine if it has jurisdiction in the matter.

**(b)** Whether the protest filing procedures have been properly followed.

**(c)** Whether the proper fees have been submitted.

**(d)** If (b) and (c) are not in order shall excuse the principals and decide whether there is sufficient merit to continue with the hearing.

**P13 The hearing procedure:**

**(a)** A submission should deal strictly with the facts.

**(b)** One spokesman for each side shall be allowed to complete their submission without interruption.

**(c)** Committee members or other parties to the protest may ask questions, through the Chairman, once the submission is completed.

**P14 In rendering a final decision the committee may:**

**(a)** Allow the protest

**(b)** Dismiss the protest

**(c)** Determine the disposition of the protest and/or defence fees

**(d)** Assess fines that are appropriate

**(e)** Determine the disposition of the game protested

**(f)** Determine suspensions that are appropriate

**P15** The Committee shall give its oral decision not more than 5 days after the hearing is completed, followed by a written report of their findings