

Protest Rules

There are three main types of protest in the Emerald City Softball Association.

1. Ineligible Player Protest

An ECSA player may be protested for player ineligibility at any time based upon the following:

- The player has not signed his/her ECSA, ASA, and NAGAAA team rosters or his/her player rating is not listed on the NAGAAA team roster
- The ECSA player fee has not been paid.

2. ECSA or ASA Rules Misinterpretation

3. Protests Relating To NAGAAA Ratings

Procedures for Initiating a Protest

1. Ineligible Player Protest

Notification of such a protest shall be made to the Director of Competition via email or in person. There is not protest fee for an ineligible player protest and the ECSA Protest Committee can decide to have each game forfeited that an ineligible player participated in.

2. ECSA or ASA Rule Misinterpretation

All protests based upon the misinterpretation of a **playing rule** will follow ASA guidelines. The ASA guidelines state that a rules interpretation protest must be filed with the plate umpire at the time of incident and prior to the next pitch. Coaches should at all times have a copy of the ECSA play rules and an ASA rules book in their possession – the best way to resolve a rules interpretation is to present the rule as written from the ASA rule book. If there is still a misinterpretation of the rule after using this method, a coach or manager may request an Executive Board member to make a decision on the rules interpretation protest.. The game will be stopped at the point of the protest and will not continue until a ruling on the protest has been made. The ECSA Executive Board members should be contacted in the following order for resolving Rules Misinterpretation protests.

- A. Commissioner
- B. Director of Competition
- C. Assistant Commissioner A/B
- D. Assistant Commissioner C or D
- E. Secretary

If for some reason an ECSA Executive Board Member is not available the game situation at the time of the protest should be noted by both teams (both coaches should sign the other teams score book to indicate agreement on the game situation at the time of the protest) and the game will be allowed to proceed. After the game has been completed, an ECSA Executive Board member will make a decision on the protest. If the protest is approved, the game will be rescheduled and replayed from the point where the protest was filed.

3. NAGAAA Rating Challenge

Protest during a Game

During a game a coach/manager can file a player rating protest against a player of the opposing team. The protest must be filed prior to the end of the game. To file the protest, the coach/manager must present a properly filled out protest form to the plate umpire. Immediately following the protested game the coach/manager of the team filing the protest will seek out an executive board member to inform them of the protest and submit to them their protest fees. The Executive Board member contacted will retrieve the protest form from the applicable plate umpire and confirm with them that the protest was filed prior to the end of the game. The contacted Executive Board member will notify the coach/manager of the team and/or player being protested that a NAGAAA rating protest has been filed against them. The protest form and fees will be delivered to the Commissioner and the Director of Competition shall be notified of the protest.

Protest Fee: \$100 for one question plus \$20 per additional question. If the protest is upheld, the money for the filing fee and the fee for each question upheld will be refunded. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in an invalid protest.

Within seven (7) days of that notification point, an ECSA Protest Committee meeting will be scheduled and the following individuals will be invited to a meeting with the ECSA Protest Committee:

- 1) The coach/manager that initiated the protest
- 2) The coach/manager of the player that is being protested
- 3) The player that is being protested

Effects of ECSA Protest Committee rulings will be:

A. Within seven (7) calendar days after a protest decision has been made, the ECSA Commissioner or his/her designee will respond via email, post, or verbally to all parties involved in the protest procedure.

B. If a protest is made and upheld on the basis of a NAGAAA player or team rating but that protest ruling does not make the player or team ineligible for the division in which he/she/they are currently playing, then the protest may be upheld but no forfeit is assessed against the team. If, however, rating changes are upheld that make a player or team ineligible for the division in which he/she/they are currently playing, then the protest is upheld and a forfeit will be assessed.

C. If a protest is upheld and it results in no player being forced into a higher division but it causes the team to exceed their Division Team Rating limit the team will have to drop players from their roster to get their team rating within the Division limits to continue to play in that Division. If a team does not want to remove anyone from their roster they can petition the ECSA Executive Board to be allowed to play in the higher division. The ECSA Executive Board will consider such petitions but schedule constraints may not make it possible.

D. If a NAGAAA player rating change is made and upheld and the result forces an individual player into a higher division or the result forces a player to be dropped from a teams roster because of the Division Team ratings limit, then exceptions can be made to the players eligibility and they can be added to another team even if the move is beyond the season change date (SCD).

E. If a NAGAAA player rating protest is denied, there is no appeal process and the decision of the ECSA Protest Committee is final.

Protest Outside of a Game

Outside of game protest will only be allowed up to the Season Change Date. The Season Change date is established at the beginning of each season for each division. Only Coaches or Managers within each Division can file an outside of game players rating protest for players within their same Division.

The coach/manager must present the Director of Competition with a completed player ratings protest form either via email, direct mail or in person and the protest will not be considered valid until the Director of Competition is in receipt of the applicable fees for that protest.

Protest Fee: \$100 for one question plus \$20 per additional question. If the protest is upheld, the money for the filing fee and the fee for each question upheld will be refunded. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in an invalid protest.

As soon as the Director of Competition receives the completed protest form and applicable fee, he/she will notify the coach/manager of the team and/or player being protested that a NAGAAA rating protest has been received. Within seven (7) days of that notification point, an ECSA Protest Committee meeting will be scheduled and the following individuals will be invited to a meeting with the ECSA Protest Committee:

- 1) The coach/manager that initiated the protest
- 2) The coach/manager of the player that is being protested
- 3) The player that is being protested

Effects of ECSA Protest Committee rulings will be:

A. Within seven (7) calendar days after a protest decision has been made, the ECSA Commissioner or his/her designee will respond via email, post, or verbally to all parties involved in the protest procedure.

B. No game forfeits will be issued as a result of an outside of game protest.

C. If a protest is upheld and it results in no player being forced into a higher division but it causes the team to exceed their Division Team Rating limit the team will have to drop players from their roster to get their team rating within the Division limits to continue to play in that Division. If a team does not want to remove anyone from their roster they can petition the ECSA Executive Board to be allowed to play in the higher division. The ECSA Executive Board will consider such petitions but schedule constraints may not make it possible.

D. If a NAGAAA player rating change is made and upheld and the result forces an individual player into a higher division or the result forces a player to be dropped from a teams roster because of the Division Team ratings limit, then exceptions can be made to the players eligibility and they can be added to another team even if the move is beyond the season change date (SCD).

E. If a NAGAAA player rating protest is denied, there is no appeal process and the decision of the ECSA Protest Committee is final.

Suggested Reviews

At any point during the ECSA season, a coach/manager/team representative or an ECSA Executive Officer may suggest a board member to review a NAGAAA player rating. No fees are required. **No output or recommendations will be generated to the individual that suggested the review.** By sending in a suggestion, the player will be placed on a watch list. To instigate a "suggested review", send an email to **directorcompetition@seattlegaysoftball.com** with the necessary input (please include player name, team, and specific information related to the reason for the review.)

ECSA Protest Committee

The ECSA Protest Committee will consist of:

1. ECSA Commissioner
2. 1 of the 3 Assistant Commissioners that are not affiliated with or playing in the division that is being protested (substitutions would be ECSA Secretary, ECSA Membership Director or ECSA Treasurer).
3. Director of Competition

Note: The ECSA Commissioner has veto power on all Protest Committee Decisions.