

PROTESTS

Fortunately, protests occur only rarely. However, by following some simple steps, umpires can simplify the process as well as insuring everyone gets the same story.

First, whenever a coach announces he is protesting the game, it vital that all umpires get together and discuss the situation. In a multiple umpire crew, the one person you leave out may have the correct answer. Ask the coach to tell you exactly what it is he is protesting. Then, get together with your partner or partners and discuss what should be done. Reconstruct the play and decide if you have ruled correctly. Do this even though it's clear the coach is protesting what amounts to a judgment call.

Once you have determined the ruling, get BOTH coaches together and explain your decision. Ask the coach if he still wishes to go forward with the protest. If he does, it is imperative that the EXACT reason for the protest be noted in the scorebook. Let the protesting coach read your comments and make sure he agrees. Have your partner or partners as witnesses. This is very important. One of the first things a coach will do after the game is get to a rulebook and probably discover what he really should have been protesting. If you haven't been clear in your notes, it will be difficult for the convening authority to determine a correct ruling.

See the one man mechanic section for protests involving one man games.

After the game, prepare a written statement of the circumstances and forward the information immediately to your area liaison.

By following the above steps, you will insure that you are protected as to the exact nature of the protest.