

HOW TO PROTEST AN UMPIRE'S RULE INTERPRETATION

Rec & Ed staff occasionally receives e-mails and phone calls from softball, baseball or kickball managers complaining about umpire rulings at their games. Usually these contacts with the Rec & Ed office are made the day or so after the game. If the manager finds out that he or she was correct about the umpire's misinterpretation of a playing rule, but failed to notify the (plate) umpire in a timely fashion that the game was being played under protest, Rec & Ed has no choice but to disallow the protest. Below you will find instructions on how to legally protest an umpire's call.

The most important step about lodging a protest is for the manager to notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest before the next pitch. If it is the last play of the game, the manager must notify the plate umpire before the umpire leaves the field. If you have two umpires, make sure you make your protest to the plate umpire, not the field umpire. Teams have 48 hours after their game to submit their written protest to the Rec & Ed Office with the \$20 protest fee. (The fee is returned if your protest is allowed.)

There are only three types of protest allowed

- 1) **Misinterpretation of a playing rule** - must be made before the next pitch, or before all infielders have left fair territory, or, if on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the playing field.
- 2) **Illegal player** - must be made while the player in question is in the game and before the umpires leave the playing field.
- 3) **Ineligible player** - can be made any time during the game.

Once the protest has been made to the plate umpire, the umpire will notify the opposing team and the score keeper. Make sure that the protest has been marked in the score book, so that if the protest is allowed, the game can be picked up at the point of the protest after the correct ruling is applied.

What should you include in your written protest:

- 1) Date, time & place of game
- 2) Name of umpire(s) and scorer
- 3) Rule and section of official or local rules under which protest is made
- 4) Information, details and conditions pertinent to the decision to protest
- 5) All essential facts involved in the matter protested
- 6) The position of the baserunners just prior to the play being protested
- 7) The number of outs just prior to the play being protested
- 8) The count on the batter just prior to the play being protested
- 9) The score just prior to the play being protested