

Athlete Eligibility Protest Policy

Approved June, 2024

1. Purpose:

This Policy outlines the steps and guidelines for individuals to file a protest related to another participant's eligibility in BCSSA competitions and/or championships. This procedure aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and proper resolution of eligibility disputes.

2. Scope:

This procedure applies to all individuals, including athletes, parents, coaches, officials, and clubs affiliated with BCSSA, who wish to file a protest regarding another athlete's eligibility.

3. Definition of Eligibility Protest:

An eligibility protest is a formal complaint or dispute raised by a BCSSA registered individual, official, or parent/guardian challenging another athlete's eligibility to participate in a specific category, match, competition or event.

4. Protest Submission:

4.1. Notification: The individual or organization wishing to file an eligibility protest about another athlete must submit a written protest to office@bcsummerswimming.com

4.2. The protest must include:

4.2.1. The name and contact information of the person filing the protest.

4.2.2. Detailed information regarding the eligibility concern, including the name of the athlete in question and the specific grounds for the protest.

4.2.3. Any supporting evidence, documents, or witnesses related to the protest.

4.3. Submission Method:

4.3.1. The protest must be submitted via email to office@bcsummerswimming.com.

5. Protest Review and Investigation:

5.1. Initial Review:

5.1.1. Upon receipt of the protest, the BCSSA President and Provincial Registrar shall conduct an initial review to ensure that the protest meets the required submission criteria.

5.1.2. Confidentiality shall be maintained.

6. Notification to Parties:

6.1. If the protest is deemed valid for review, the BCSSA office will notify all relevant parties, including the athlete in question, the coach, and any involved organizations or teams, of the protest and request their cooperation.

6.2. Confidentiality shall be maintained by all parties.

7. Formation of Protest Review Panel:

7.1. The BCSSA president will ask the Regional Director(s) of the athlete(s) in question to appoint an independent panel or designated individuals to investigate the protest thoroughly. This panel will include the Regional Registrar(s).

8. Investigation:

8.1. The investigation may involve interviews with relevant parties, examination of supporting documents, and consultation with the Provincial Registrar if necessary.

9. Hearing Process:

9.1. If deemed necessary by the Panel, a hearing may be held to allow the appellant, the athlete in question, the coach, and any involved organizations or teams to present their cases. This hearing may be conducted in person, via videoconference, or through written submissions, depending on the circumstances.

10. Resolution: The investigation will result in one of the following outcomes:

10.1. If the protest is unsubstantiated, the athlete's eligibility remains unchanged.

10.2. If the protest is substantiated, the athlete's eligibility may be adjusted accordingly, which could include suspension or disqualification.

11. Communication of Outcome(s):

11.1. The Regional Director(s) shall communicate their decision and rationale for the decision in writing to all parties involved, the Provincial Registrar, and the BCSSA President.

12. Appeal Process:

12.1. The decision reached by the panel shall be considered final and binding unless:

12.1.1. there is new and compelling evidence that was not available at the time of the appeal.



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12.1.2. Procedural errors or misconduct significantly impacted the fairness of the appeal process.

12.2. In such cases, the appellant may appeal the decision to the Provincial Registrar within 2 days of the decision. See BCSSA Speed Swimming Rules 3.11.

13. Confidentiality:

13.1. All parties involved in the eligibility protest process must maintain strict confidentiality to protect the privacy and reputation of the athlete and ensure a fair and unbiased resolution.

14. Documentation:

14.1. All correspondence, protest submissions, investigation reports, and decisions related to eligibility protests must be properly documented and retained for a reasonable period for reference and potential appeals.

15. This BCSSA Eligibility Protest Procedure aims to ensure fairness and transparency in addressing eligibility concerns, ultimately promoting the integrity of youth sports within BCSSA.

Approval Date:	June 2024	Approved By:	Provincial Board meeting
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