

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

15. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match. Any club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his club) when such protest or complaint is determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between clubs in the competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee, whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest, of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee, unless the complaining club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £35. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting club losing its case. The competition shall have power to order the defaulting club or the club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £35 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received 7 days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining club of any information, which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the competition a club, official or player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Lincolnshire Football Association, including a fee of £35, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.