

TECHNICAL OFFICIAL GUIDELINES

Protests and Appeals

It needs to be recognised that Technical Officials are at an event to ensure that the technical and safety requirements of the event are observed, Technical Officials are not there to undertake activities that are responsibilities of the Race Director (RD), or the event organisation.

Overview

Provide a fair and transparent process for athletes to lodge a Protest or an Appeal within the AusTriathlon Race Competition Rules

Responsibility of the Technical Delegate with support of the Race Referee & Protest Jury members

Responsibilities

- Technical Delegate (TD) to explain to the Technical team how the Protest and Appeal submission process will operate for the specific event.
- TD is responsible for ensuring Protest forms and Receipt forms are available as required.
- TD to appoint Competition Jury in line with specifications in the Race Competition Rules (RCR).
- TD to ensure for all Events of National Significance (EONS) all members of the Competition Jury have completed the World Triathlon Protests and Competition Jury training module.
- For all non-EONS events it is recommended that the TD/HR undertake the World Triathlon Protests and Competition Jury training module
- All protests are to be lodged on the appropriate form accompanied by the applicable fee with the Head Referee (HR), who will issue a receipt of the fee. The receipt should be photographed by the HR and fee passed to the TD along with the Protest submission.
- HR will pass the Protest to the TD who is responsible for convening the Competition Jury
- The protest is assessed by the Competition Jury in line with the RCR and outcome advised to athletes involved.
- If the protest is upheld the applicable fee is returned to the athlete.
- If the protest is dismissed athlete is advised on the process to lodge an Appeal with the National Sports Tribunal (NST) as detailed in the RCR.
- If the protest is dismissed the applicable fee must be forwarded to the Head of Events and Technical at AusTriathlon.

Athlete Interaction

Protests by an athlete can be an emotional experience and need to be handled with both professionalism and empathy. While Technical Officials should always listen to an athlete's concerns, it is inappropriate to be involved in debating the merits of a protest. All athletes protest concerns should be directed to the HR.

Athlete wellbeing is of the highest priority during the protest processes, particularly for Children and Young People. This includes:

- Investigating the viability of providing an official support person to attend (including a guardian if available).
- Ensuring privacy for under-18 athletes during protest hearings, where facilities permit, in line with Child Safe Practices.

Key Considerations

Protest:

- Understand the distinction between a protest and an appeal.
- Understand who and what can be the subject matter of a Protest as detailed in the RCR
- Understand and follow the process flow chart as detailed in the RCR
- Penalties can be issued by any Technical Official but the decision on Protest submission is handled by the HR and decided by the Race Competition Jury.
- A jury representative should never be involved in issuing a penalty that can be the subject of a protest.
- Understand the submission timeframe for submitting a protest.

Jury:

- Jury must be appointed prior to the event. For Elite/Pro races the Competition Jury must be included in the Athlete Briefing
- Eligibility of jury members is dependent on the level of the event and is detailed in the RCR.
- Jury meeting to consider any protest should be as soon as possible as determined by the TD
- A member of the jury cannot also be a Technical Official, coach, competitor or immediate relative of any competitor involved in the protest.

Race Competition Jury Integrity:

The Race Competition Jury must observe the following principles:

- It must consider all submissions and expert opinions made to it;
- Recognise that honest testimony can vary and be in conflict as a result of personal observation or recollection.
- Have an open-minded approach until all evidence has been submitted
- Its decisions to uphold or impose a penalty shall be based upon the standard of a comfortable satisfaction of the majority of the Race Competition Jury members that the alleged violation has occurred.

On Day Administration Process:

- The athlete MUST notify the Head Referee of their intent to protest within **30 minutes** of completion of their race.
- Head Referee to provide athlete with a copy of the Protest Form.
- The athlete then has an additional **60 minutes** to complete the Protest Form which can also be downloaded via this link [Protest-Form-Sep2025-.pdf](#)
- Completed Protest Form must be accompanied a Protest Payment Fee of \$100, which can be accepted in cash (and sent on to Head of Events and Technical) or via a Protest Ticket purchase on Just Go.
- This can be accessed:
 - By visiting JustGO and selecting Athlete Protest Payment ticket under Events and Courses
 - Via link [Athlete Protest Payment](#)
 - Scanning QR code to be taken to the Protest and Appeal Payment ticket in JustGo:



Full Protest Procedures can be found in Appendix F of the AusTri Race Competition Rules (RCR) [Race Competition Rules – AusTriathlon](#)