How to File a Protest

When you have a question about a rule or incident, go to a league officer for information. The officers have copies of the USBC Playing Rules & Commonly Asked Questions which may answer your question or direct you to file a protest.

How to file a proper protest…
You can express your protest verbally and then follow it up with a written protest given to a league officer. Writing "I protest" on a napkin or recap sheet is not a proper protest. A protest must have details as to what rules were broken and how.

Protests must be filed in writing within:
1. 15 days of the event during the regular schedule
2. 72 hours if the games challenged occurred on the last session of a segment or in the final two weeks of the season or a playoff.

What happens after a protest is filed?
A meeting of the league board of directors (team captains and league officers) is scheduled; the protesting party and those involved should be invited to tell their side of the occurrence.
Those involved may be asked questions and if not members of the board are dismissed. The board then discusses the matter and makes a decision by majority vote. Afterward, those involved are informed of the decision either verbally, in writing or both. The decision made stands unless overturned by a higher authority – the local association or USBC.

What if I disagree with the league decision?
You may file a written appeal to your local association or USBC. If members of the local association board are involved in the matter, you may file with USBC. Should you decide to file an appeal with the local association, that decision may be appealed to USBC.

Appeals must be filed in writing within:
Appeals shall be filed in writing within:
1. 15 days of notification during the regular schedule.
2. 72 hours when notification occurs:
    a) In the final two weeks of the league schedule.
    b) At the end of a segment if the league bowls a split season.
    c) After the league schedule has ended.
    d) As a result of playoff competition.