

IQA Events Appeals Policy

The following policy outlines the procedures for appealing major on-pitch decisions including gross misapplication of rule enforcement which had a major and direct impact on the outcome of the match.

This policy is to ensure valid appeals are upheld when presented to the tournament committee in terms of incorrect rule application, gross player misconduct, or egregious misbehaviour.

Any appeals made will be reviewed and adjudicated by the onsite tournament committee.

Appeal Process

Should players or team staff feel that a rule was clearly applied incorrectly and the outcome of the match was directly and immediately affected as a result, team staff are able to submit a formal appeal and request a review if ALL of the following are true.

1. *The incident took place at an IQA event AND*
2. *The incident was submitted prior to the signing of the score sheet at the end of the match AND*
3. *The incident took place during an active match between players and/or team staff AND*
4. *The match officials made an objectively incorrect call regarding the incident AND*
5. *The incident clearly and directly did/should have led to the end of the match. These circumstances can only include*
 - a. *Incorrectly calling a flag catch good or not good*
 - b. *Incorrectly disallowing a game winning goal*
 - c. *Incorrectly allowing a game 'winning' goal*
 - d. *Incorrectly resolving the order of closely timed plays*
 - i. *Note that the order as determined by the referee cannot be overturned by an appeal*

Factual decisions — that is, decisions about what actually happened — are explicitly not eligible for appeal under any circumstances. The decision about what happened lies entirely with the respective referees. Appeals may only be submitted regarding incorrect application of rules based on the referees' version of events. A decision can only be appealed if it is an inarguable misapplication of the rulebook.

E.g. A team may not appeal a referee's decision that the flag runner was out of bounds when the winning catch was made, but they may appeal if the referee states that the flag runner was out of bounds when the catch was made, but they incorrectly call this a valid catch.

Based on the evidence, the tournament committee will determine if this warrants further investigation. They will then discuss with any involved parties, including match officials, team staff.

From here, the tournament committee will review the appeal, and if deemed necessary, overrule the decision made during the game, and/or game result, or determine another suitable resolution to the match. The committee may choose to take no further.

If the committee determines that the appeal was not made in good faith, or was in an attempt to abuse the policy, they may enforce:

- Nothing
- The speaking captain of the next game receives a red card immediately prior to the start of the game
- The game that was appealed will be counted as a forfeit
- The team will forfeit the competition

Any decision made by the committee is final and cannot be contested.

Procedure

If a team wishes to make an appeal, the speaking captain must immediately inform the head referee. The head referee must call a stick down and inform the pitch manager, who will radio the tournament director.

The tournament director will assemble the adjudicating committee and immediately present to pitch. If a COI is present within the adjudicating committee, the tournament director will call upon the alternative adjudicators for the next available adjudicator.

Once the speaking captain or team representative signs the match score sheet, no appeals for the game can be made.