



PO BOX 40081 Dupont PO, Toronto, ON M5R 0A2

APPROVALS

May 2014

July 17, 2019

June 12, 2023

APPEALS PROTOCOL

This document sets out an appeals protocol for use by Freestyle Skiing Ontario ("FO"), and its licensed members (athlete, coach, judge, official, associate license). Please see the Freestyle Canada ("FC") Appeals Protocol in Appendix I for policy related to the FC.

PROTOCOL

1. This policy applies to:
 - a. Any FC Licensed Member with an FO license (athlete, coach, official, judge, and associate) who is a permanent resident living within the Ontario Division Boundaries as described in Section 33(g) of the FC By-Laws.
2. Any FO licensed member defined in Section 1 will have the right to appeal a decision made by the FO Board of Directors, of any FO Committee of the Board, or of anybody or individual who has been delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board of Directors subject to the limits set out herein.
3. This Protocol will apply to:
 - a. Decisions within the FO High Performance Program regarding eligibility, selection, and allocation of competitive opportunities
 - b. Assignment of officials and/or judges to FO controlled FC Sanctioned competitions including Timber Tour, Provincial Championships, Ontario Winter Games (FC Appeals Protocol applies for Ontario hosted National FC events: Canada Cup competitions whereby FC designates officials and judges)
 - c. Recommendations by FO for assignments of officials and/or judges to FC national competitions
4. For further clarity, this Protocol will **NOT** apply to matters relating to:
 - a. FO or FC Selection Criteria
 - b. FO or FC quotas (for quota limited events)
 - c. Policies and procedures established by entities other than FO including, but not limited to:
 - i. FC, Fédération Internationale de Ski ("FIS"), Association of Freeskiing Professionals ("AFP"), other Canadian Freestyle Provincial Sport Organizations
 - ii. Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport including their Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program ("OAAP")
 - iii. Coaches Association of Ontario
 - iv. Canadian Sport Institute
 - v. Trillium Foundation of Ontario
 - vi. Sport Alliance of Ontario



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- d. Policy and procedures established by any other agency, association or organization external to FO
 - e. Infractions for doping offences, which are dealt with pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program or any successor policy
 - f. Allegations of harassment (See FO Harassment Policy)
 - g. Operational structure, staffing, employment
 - h. Budgeting or budget implementation; Team Fees, Chargebacks, Registration fees, Refund policies, and other budgeting or payment issues
 - i. Competition rules
 - j. Commercial matters for which another dispute resolution process exists under a contract or applicable law.
5. The Appeals process is available to members (as defined in Section 1) when other avenues for issue resolution have not resolved the relevant issue satisfactorily. Prior to moving to an appeal, members are encouraged to discuss and attempt to resolve their issue with the FO Executive Director and/or FO High Performance Director and the Chair of the Board of Directors.
6. Athletes and coaches who wish to appeal a decision must submit a written Notice of Appeal to the Chair of the FO Board of Directors within the appropriate timeline indicating:
- a) Their intention to appeal;
 - b) Coordinates of the Appellant;
 - c) Name of the Respondent;
 - d) Detail reason(s) for the appeal;
 - e) Grounds for the appeal;
 - f) Summary of the evidence to support these reason(s) and grounds for the appeal;
 - g) The suggested remedy or remedies requested.

All appeals must be accompanied by a \$250 administrative fee to Freestyle Skiing Ontario that is non-refundable.

7. Upon receipt of an appeal, the FO Chair of the Board of Directors will immediately (within 1 day) appoint the FC designated Case Manager to oversee management and administration of appeals submitted in accordance with this Protocol. The Case Manager will be independent of FO and the FC and will have an appropriate background in law and/or dispute resolution. The Case Manager has an overall responsibility to ensure procedural fairness is respected at all times in this Protocol, and to implement this Protocol in a timely manner. More particularly, the Case Manager has a responsibility to receive appeals, determine if appeals lie within the jurisdiction of this Protocol, determine if appeals are brought on permissible grounds, appoint the tribunal to hear appeals, determine the format of the appeal hearing, coordinate all administrative and procedural aspects of the appeal, and provide administrative assistance and logistical support to the tribunal as required.
8. The timelines that govern this Protocol are as shown in the attached chart titled 'Appeal Timelines'. The Case Manager reserves the right to modify these timelines as required to accommodate the particular circumstances of an appeal.



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9. An appeal may only be heard if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. Sufficient grounds include the Respondent:
 - a. Making a decision for which it did not have authority or jurisdiction as set out in governing documents;
 - b. Failing to follow procedures as laid out in the bylaws or approved policies of the Association;
 - c. Making a decision that was influenced by bias;
 - d. Failing to consider relevant information or taking into account irrelevant information in making the decision.
 - e. Exercising its discretion for an improper purpose; and/or
 - f. Making a decision that was unreasonable.
10. Within the appropriate timeline the Case Manager will review the Notice of Appeal and will decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for an appeal. If the Case Manager is satisfied that there are not sufficient grounds for an appeal, the parties will be notified of this decision in writing, stating reasons. If the Case Manager is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, then a hearing will take place.
11. Within the appropriate timelines, the Case Manager will appoint a tribunal consisting of a single Adjudicator to hear the appeal. In extraordinary circumstances, and at the discretion of the Case Manager, a tribunal of 3 Adjudicators may be appointed to hear and decide a case. In this event, the Case Manager will appoint one of the tribunal's members to serve as the Chair.
12. The Case Manager will determine the format of the hearing, which may involve an oral hearing in person, an oral hearing by telephone, a hearing based on written submissions or a combination of these methods. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Case Manager and the tribunal deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
 - a. The hearing will be held within the appropriate timeline.
 - b. The parties will be given appropriate notice of the day, time and place of the hearing.
 - c. Copies of any written documents which the parties wish to have the tribunal consider will be provided to all parties in advance of the hearing in accordance with the appropriate timeline.
 - d. Both parties may be accompanied by a representative or adviser, including legal counsel.
 - e. The tribunal may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing.
 - f. If a decision in the appeal may affect another party to the extent that the other party would have recourse to an appeal in their own right under this Protocol, that party will become a party to the appeal in question and will be bound by its outcome.
 - g. The hearing will be conducted in English
 - h. In the situation where the hearing is conducted by a Tribunal consisting of three Adjudicators, a quorum will be all three and decisions will be by majority vote.
13. At the conclusion of the Hearing, the tribunal will, within the appropriate timeline, issue



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- a written decision with reasons. The tribunal will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The tribunal may decide:
- a. To reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed; or
 - b. To uphold the appeal and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision; or
 - c. To uphold the appeal and vary the decision but only where it is found that an error occurred and such an error cannot be corrected by the original decision-maker reason of lack of clear procedures, lack of time, or lack of neutrality; and
 - d. To determine whether costs of the appeal, excluding legal fees and legal disbursements of any parties, will be assessed against any party. In assessing costs, the Adjudicator will take into account the outcome of the appeal, the conduct of the parties and their respective financial resources.
14. The decision will be considered a matter of public record. A copy of this decision will be provided to the parties and to the Executive Director of FO. Where time is of the essence, the tribunal may issue a verbal decision or a summary written decision, with reasons to follow provided the written decision with reasons is rendered with the appropriate timelines.
 15. The appeal process is confidential involving only the parties, the Case Manager and the tribunal. Once initiated and until a written decision is released, none of the parties or the tribunal will disclose confidential information relating to the appeal to any person not involved in the proceedings.
 16. The decision of the tribunal will be final and binding upon the parties and upon all Ontario members of FC subject to the right of any party to seek a review of the decision pursuant to the rules of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) as amended from time to time, and subject to these limitations:
 - a. The 'law' to be considered by the SDRCC tribunal is the internal rules, criteria and policies of FO and the FC;
 - b. The 'facts' to be considered by the SDRCC tribunal are the facts relevant to the case under appeal;
 - c. If the SDRCC tribunal determines that FO has made a decision in error, the role of the tribunal is to identify that error and send the matter back to FO to make the decision free from error, unless this is not possible or practical;
 - d. The parties will execute a arbitration agreement that will confirm the jurisdiction of the SDRCC tribunal to decide the matter, specify the precise decision under appeal, specify the issues in dispute and specify other matters the parties agree will be binding on themselves and the SDRCC tribunal.

APPEAL TIMELINES

ACTION	SELECTION APPEALS	APPEALS RE COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES	OTHER APPEALS
Decision			



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Written announcement of decision	Within 3 days of decision	Within 12 hours of decision	Within 3 days of decision
Submission of Notice of Appeal	Within 7 days of release of written announcement	Within 24 hours of release of written announcement	Within 7 days of release of written announcement
Determining if grounds exist for an appeal	Within 1 day of receipt of the Notice of Appeal	Immediately upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal	Within 3 days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal
Appointment of Tribunal	Within 2 days of determining if grounds exist for an appeal	Appointed in advance on standby basis	Within 14 days of determining if grounds exist for an appeal
Appeal Hearing	Within 7 days of the appointment of the Tribunal	Within 24 hours after determining if grounds exist for an appeal	Within 14 days of the appointment of the Tribunal
Release of written decision	Within 3 days following the end of the hearing	Within 2 hours following the end of the hearing	Within 3 days following the end of the hearing

Note 1: "Days" refers to total number of days

Note 2: Pursuant to Article 8; the Case Manager reserves the right to modify these timelines as required to accommodate the particular circumstances of an appeal