



A Guide to Protests

The General Competition Rules (GCR) supersedes anything you see here. This Guide is intended only as a basic overview.

Step One. There are strict time limits within which you must complete your Protest. You must submit your **written** Protest:

- Against the validity of an entry or qualification and conformity to the rules of an entrant, driver, or car **no later than one hour before the start of the race** segment of a competition. (GCR 8.3.2.B.1)
- Against a starting position or handicap **within thirty (30) minutes of announcement of starting position** or handicaps. (GCR 8.3.2.B.2)
- Against any driver's action or other mistake or irregularity occurring during a competition **within thirty (30) minutes of the conclusion of the competition**. (GCR 8.3.2.B.3)
- Against the results of a competition **within thirty (30) minutes of their posting**. (GCR 8.3.2.B.4)
- Against a Race Official **within thirty (30) minutes after completion of the competition or notification of Official's Action**. (GCR 8.3.2.B.5)

The Stewards of the Meeting may extend these time limits in exceptional cases where the protestor can demonstrate that evidence pertinent to the protest was not available within the time limit, or where the protestor can demonstrate he or she was unable to meet the deadline due to circumstances beyond his or her control. (GCR 8.3.2.B.7)

Step Two. Your Protest must be in writing, signed by you, and submitted to the Chief Steward. A fee of \$50 (\$25 for Regional Races or Driver's Schools) must accompany your Protest. (GCR 8.3.2.A) Your Protest **must** reference violations of specific provisions of the GCR, and/or the Supplemental Regulations. Written Witness statements, videos, and any other evidence supporting your Protest should be submitted with your Protest. If an item of video is used as evidence, it will be retained by the SCCA until the time for any appeal process is concluded.

Step Two 1/2. If you Protest a **mechanical** violation against a car, there are special rules for the conduct of the Protest. Please refer to GCR Section 8.3.3 for specifics. Speak with the Chief Steward for guidance.

Step Three. Once you have filed your Protest, you may not leave the Track, unless specifically released by the Stewards of the Meet. The Stewards of the Meet will conduct a Hearing on your Protest. They will schedule the Hearing as soon as practicable after your submit your Protest. Be patient, they may be busy with another Protest. Make sure you understand how you will be called.

At the Hearing, all parties and Witnesses will be interviewed separately and in private. If you have submitted videos as evidence, you may be required to arrange their viewing on a large screen. If you do not attend the Hearing for any reason, judgment may go by default.

Step Four. The Stewards of the Meet will give you their decision immediately after the Hearing, unless they tell you there is a specific reason for a delay in judgment. You will be bound by their judgment, but you have a right to Appeal. There are specific Rules for Appeals. (GCR 8.4) Speak to the Chairman of the Stewards of the Meet for guidance. If your Protest is determined to be well founded, your Protest fee may be returned.

Some Practical Advice. A "strained or tortured" interpretation of the General Competition Rules will simply be frustrating to you. If your Protest is found to be vexatious or in bad faith, you are looking at a Penalty. (GCR 8.3.6.B) Your Protest should be **reasonable, logical** and based on **sound evidence**.