

# Official Ruling 2014-01

## Protest of an Ineligible Tournament Player

### February 10, 2014

Tournament Rule XII(H)(1) defines an ineligible tournament player as:

(H) (1) An **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** is:

- (1) a player who is ineligible to be a member of a tournament team for a league because he does not live within the approved boundary of the league,
- (2) a player who did not meet the participation requirements in his/her league,
- (3) a player who violates Tournament Rule IV(C) or,
- (4) a player who is older than the maximum league age allowed for the respective age division of play.

- All protests on the ineligibility player must be filed with the tournament director prior to the beginning of any game. There is no requirement to hold the game up before the tournament director renders a decision on the protest if he does not make a decision before the game begins. If possible, the tournament director should render a decision prior to the start of any game. However, if the protest of ineligibility is made close to game time, the tournament director shall allow as much time as he needs to make a decision. If the tournament director rules a player ineligible, the rules simply provide for the removal of the player at the time the tournament director makes his ruling. If the player is participating in a game at the time the decision is rendered by the tournament director, the player will be immediately removed from the game. The game in progress will not be forfeited or replayed but will continue until its completion.
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(2) All protests based on the ineligibility of a player shall be filed with the tournament director prior to the beginning of any game in tournament play. No protest shall be accepted during a game except protest based on age eligibility. **PENALTY:** The penalty shall be the immediate removal of the player from his/her DYB tournament team roster and disqualification from tournament play.

Again, play does not have to be stopped and the game can be played to completion but if the player is ruled ineligible by age the following penalty applies:

(3) A protest of eligibility based on age may be presented to the tournament director at any time during tournament play. **PENALTY:** If, in the opinion of the tournament director, there is sufficient evidence of an age violation but there is no **WILLFUL VIOLATION** of the age eligibility rules, the tournament director shall disqualify the player from further tournament play. If in the opinion of the tournament director, there is sufficient evidence of a **WILLFUL VIOLATION** of age eligibility rules, the tournament director shall forfeit the last game played by the team and the team shall be disqualified from tournament play.

A ruling on a protest for the following violations cannot be appealed! These violations can be protested as indicated in (H) but once the tournament director rules...there can be no appeal of protest of a decision involving:

- a) A player who is accused of not participating in 11 regular season league games;
- b) A player who is accused of not living within the boundary of the league on whose tournament team he plays on; or
- c) A team composed of players in a league who population exceeds the 25,000 population limit without any other programs drawing players in this boundary (rare protest).

(J) (6) No appeal shall be accepted by any Tournament Director or State Director or by the Commissioner in tournament competition on the grounds of a violation of local league rules during regular season play and this shall include population or boundary violations.

Once a game begins, only a protest to the umpire in chief on a rule violation will require play to be suspended until a protest decision and appeal has been resolved.

Protests on the ineligibility of a player shall not be made to the umpire in chief but to the tournament director before any game or during the game, if an age violation. However, unlike a protest to the umpire in chief, play is not suspended but continues even though a decision may not be rendered until after the game begins or, in some circumstances, after the game is completed.

If a manager waits until the last minute to file an eligibility protest with the tournament director, the game will begin as scheduled and they risk the game will be completed before a decision can be made by the tournament director. The tournament director must have sufficient time to consider any evidence presented before he renders a decision.

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Commissioner