

PROTESTS. The members of the NIETOC Executive Council present shall have full power to adjudicate any protest, dispute, or interpretation of the rules.

The NIETOC will provide a form in the tab room on which protests may be filed. The following procedures will be followed:

A – Paperwork:

1. Name of coach filing protest (a coach on record with the tournament must file the protest) and school, city, state.
2. Code of person/team being protested.
3. Round being protested.
4. Section/room and speaker number of person/team being protested.
5. Specific infraction being protested, described with supporting detail.
6. Signature of protesting coach.

B – Process. After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed within 30 minutes following the round in question. In the event of a protest, the coach of the person/team being protested must provide an official response to the Bud room within 30 minutes. If the protest involves the script, the cutting and the original work must be produced within the initial 30 minutes.

C – Adjudication. Information regarding the protest shall be gathered by the tournament ombudsperson, who shall request a ruling by the NIETOC tournament director. If so desired, the ruling of the tournament director may be appealed to the NIETOC Tournament Rules Committee. **The Rules Committee's decision is final.**

D – Disqualification. In case of a disqualification of a contestant in the NIETOC tournament, the ranks of other contestants will be adjusted for the round being protested only; any prior rounds will remain unchanged.

