

Saskatchewan Powerlifting Association Policy on Appeals

1. Any member of the Saskatchewan Powerlifting Association Corp. (SPA) who is affected by a decision of an official committee or decision making body within the SPA has the right to appeal that decision. A member may not appeal any items that relate to the rules of competition, or elections held for executive positions.
2. Appeals committee will adhere to procedures based on due process and will include access to independent arbitration through the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC)
3. A member who wishes to launch an appeal, hereinafter referred to as the appellant, shall:
 - a. Submit a written notice of their intention to appeal to the SPA president no more than seven days after the announcement of the decision that is being appealed
 - b. Submit, along with the notice of intention to appeal, a \$100 fee which will be refunded to the appellant if a ruling is made in their favor
4. An appeal may only be requested if sufficient grounds for an appeal are present. Such situations include:
 - a. Instances where flagrant contraventions of standing policy are present
 - b. Where the decision in question was made by a body with no authority or jurisdiction in the matter
 - c. Instances where the decision is obviously influenced by bias not including decisions made based on ones performance compared to another
 - d. Evidence or information used in the decision making process was incomplete or missing except when the information that was incomplete or not presented to the discipline committee was within the knowledge and or control of the Appellant who chose not to present the information to the discipline committee.
 - e. Information considered immaterial was used in rendering a decision
5. An appeals committee shall be formed upon the receipt of a request for an appeal. Appeals committees must consist of:
 - a. No more than 3 members of the executive
 - b. Either the president or the vice-president
 - c. No members who deliberated on the decision which is being appealed, unless absolutely necessary.
 - d. The SPA reserves the right to seek external assistance so as there is no overlap between investigation, discipline and appeals committee members.
6. It is the duty of the appeals committee to review the request for the appeal and decide if sufficient grounds exist. The decision of whether or not to proceed cannot be appealed.
7. If it is found that sufficient grounds for an appeal exist then the appeals committee shall inform the appellant and any other appropriate parties that the committee will re-deliberate the issue seven days from the time of the announcement.

8. Within the seven day period the appellant must submit a written report of their argument as well as any additional evidence to the appeals committee.
9. Appeals committee will then deliberate the matter at the end of the seven day period in a special meeting. Deliberations shall only be open to the appeals committee after all evidence has been collected and will be conducted by documentary review. Only in extremely serious matters shall appeal committee hearings be conducted in person and in such a case, the seven day period can be extended up to, but no more than two months.
10. The appeals committee may also interview any involved parties to better render a decision on the matter at hand. Should the appeals committee feel that it is necessary to interview any of the involved parties or witnesses they will notify them as soon as possible to make arrangements for the interview to occur. Only members of the appeals committee shall be present for the interview and the interviews shall be kept confidential. Neither the complainant nor the subject of the complaint will be present for the interview nor will they be allowed to question the interviewee. However, the substance of the interview shall be recorded by way of written minutes to preserve a record thereof.
11. At the conclusion of deliberations, the appeals committee shall inform the appellant and any involved parties of its decisions, with reasons attached. It is within the power of the appeals committee to:
 - a. Void, vary or confirm the decision being appealed; or
 - b. Require any involved parties to change their previous decision.
12. A written copy of the decision shall be provided to the appellant as well as any other parties related to the appeal. All evidence, reports and minutes taken from disciplinary committee deliberations shall be kept and filed with a serving member of the executive for seven years.
13. If the appeals process of the SPA fails to resolve the issue, final arbitration can be passed on and be conducted through the SDRCC. Any decision made by the SDRCC on the matter shall be final and not open to appeals or intervention by the SPA.