

Scorecard Appeal Process

Signing incorrect scorecards continues to be an issue at USA Field Hockey tournaments.

The current rule for signing a card reads as follows:

At the conclusion of the game, umpires will record the score and circle the winning team. Each team captain or coach will sign the scorecard verifying the accuracy of the official record. A signed card stands and the score will not be changed.

Because everyone makes mistakes and we all believe that athletes should not be punished for an administrative error, USA Field Hockey has not always enforced the “signed card stands” rule.

However, when incorrect scores are posted, it is upsetting to parents, disruptive to the administration of the tournament and confusing to media and fans that may be following the tournament online or at the venue. Incorrect scores also cause turmoil at the crossover stage when the next scheduled game is dependent on the outcome of a match.

As a result, failure to submit the correct score damages the credibility of the tournament.

In an effort to reduce the number of incorrect scores posted while maintaining all fairness to the athletes and teams involved, USA Field Hockey will collect a \$50 appeal fee for any request to review or change a posted score.

The appeal process and \$50 fee can be avoided by ensuring that the scorecard is correct:

1. The score is correct as indicated.
2. The winning team is correct as indicated.

The following procedure will be in effect for all USA Field Hockey events:

1. Each head coach or proxy is responsible for confirming the final score and signing the correct scorecard at the conclusion of each game.
2. In the event an incorrect scorecard is submitted and an incorrect score is posted, teams may post a \$50 appeal fee to have the score reviewed.
3. The decision to appeal a score posting rests entirely with the teams involved. USA Field Hockey will consider signed cards as the correct and final outcome of the contest. No changes will be made to the official score

unless an appeal is submitted and upheld.

4. The \$50 fee must be posted by the team requesting the score review within --- hours of the posting of the match results.
5. Team contacts or coaches are the only individuals who can post the appeal fee and request a review. Parents, athletes, fans or umpires cannot initiate the appeal process.
6. Upon consensus by the coaches and umpires involved in the match, the score will be overturned and any changes will be made to the official results.
7. The \$50 appeal fee will not be returned if the error is the result of submitting an incorrect scorecard.
8. The \$50 appeal fee will be returned in the event of a tournament administrative error.
9. Failure to sign a scorecard does not nullify the outcome of the contest or excuse individuals from the appeal process.
10. Any disputes on the final score must be settled with the umpires at the time the cards are signed.
11. The appeal process applies to posted scores only. There is no appeal process for calls made during any match.
12. Deception on a scorecard is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is a violation of USA Field Hockey's Code of Conduct (Rule 4). Code of Conduct violations are grounds for restriction of an individual from future USA Field Hockey programs and/or the loss of eligibility of a team in future USA Field Hockey events.

The appeal process is established to help make coaches/contact accountable for verifying the final score while providing an outlet for correcting an incorrect posting.

All requests for a change in the posted result must follow the appeal procedures and be accompanied by the \$50 appeal fee for whatever the reason:

- "I never signed the card" (see No. 1 and No. 9 above)
- "That's not my signature" (see No. 1 above)
- "I saw the score was correct but didn't check to see who they had indicated had won the game." (see No. 1 above)
- "I couldn't find the umpire at the end of the game" (see No. 1 above)

- "Our team is not going to pay the \$50 to have the correct score posted." (See No. 1 and No. 3 above)
- "It is not fair to the athletes to lose a game they rightfully won" (See No. 1 and No. 3 above)
- "You can ask anyone there. Everyone at the game knows the posted score is incorrect." (See No. 1 and No. 3 above).
- "I was coaching on another field and our assistant coach didn't know what to look for when signing the card." (See No. 1)
- "We scored a goal at the end of the game that's not posted." (See No. 1 and No. 10).
- "We scored 1 more goal in our first game that wasn't recorded in our score, but we now need that goal because of the goal differential tie-breaker." (See No. 1 and No. 4 above)
- "We have the game on video. We can SHOW you the score is wrong. (See No. 1 above.)

The reason for the appeal does not matter. If the score is incorrect, post the \$50 fee, follow the appeal procedures and if all parties can come to an agreement, the score will be changed. If the error is the responsibility for the tournament administrators, your fee will be returned.