Issue and discussion
As a principle, a pilot who is penalised should always have the possibility to appeal. This is not always the case in Cat 2 events. We need to describe the complaint/protest/appeal process in our Cat 2 events.

Proposal

Add to Section 7 Common
12.4. Penalties, Complaints, Protests, Appeal

12.4.1 Penalties
Penalties may be imposed for infringement of, or non-compliance with, any rule or local regulation, including unsporting behaviour or misconduct. The severity of the penalties may range from a warning, as a minimum, up to disqualification, as appropriate for the offence.

The penalties imposed may be (but is not limited to) one of the following:
- Warning (either verbal or formally written).
- Operational disadvantage.
- Alteration of placing order.
- Disqualification.
- Cross-Country: deduction of points. This may be a finite number of points or a percentage of the winner’s score. A finite number may be up to the entire score of a pilot for that day.
- Accuracy: imposition of maximum score for the round.
- Aerobatic: deduction of points as specified in Section 7B 7.2.2.
- Other penalties imposed after the event by the CIVL Bureau/FAI

Officials entitled to impose penalties:
- Cross-Country: Meet Director.
- Accuracy: Meet Director, Chief Judge.
- Aerobatic: Meet Director, Safety Director, Competition Coordinator, Chief Judge
- CIVL Bureau or FAI, if appropriate

12.4.2 Complaints
A complaint shall be made by a pilot or Team leader, in writing, preferably in English
- In Cross Country and Aerobatic to the Meet Director or his deputy
- In Accuracy to the Chief Judge for judging matters, to the Meet Director for all other matters

Complaints will be dealt with expeditiously.
Complaints and rulings on complaints shall be published on the headquarters official notice board.

12.4.3 Protests
If the complainant or his Team Leader is not satisfied with the complaint ruling, he shall protest in writing, preferably in English, to the Meet Director or his deputy. A proforma for compiling Protests can be found in an annex of SC7I (Guidelines and Templates). The Meet Director will immediately pass the protest to the Protest Committee.

12.4.4 Protest Committee
A Protest Committee shall be nominated before the start of the first task/round/run. The Protest Committee is composed of five members elected by the pilots during the mandatory safety briefing. The members may not be part of the organisation. When a member is directly or indirectly involved in the protest, he’s temporarily suspended from his function in the Protest Committee until the protest has been resolved. A minimum of three Members is required for the Protest Committee to provide a valid ruling. The Protest Committee will rule as soon as possible on the protest, in writing, preferably in English.

The Protest Committee shall publish the protest, together with their ruling, on the headquarters official notice board.

12.4.5 Appeal
The treatment of appeals is defined in the General Section of the Sporting Code 6.5 and 6.6.

12.4.6 Documentation
All involved (Meet and Safety Directors, Chief Judge, Protest Committee) shall keep in mind that a protest ruling might be appealed to FAI. It is of the utmost importance that all documents related to penalties, complaints and protests be collected by the Event Director and kept for at least 90 days after the end of the event.

12.4.7 Recommendations
- Before protesting, the complainant or his Team Leader are encouraged to read Section 7I Guidelines and Templates, Chapter 7. The Protest Form Template can be used (Annexe F).
- Before ruling on a protest, the Protest Committee members are encouraged to read Section 7J CIVL Jury Handbook, Chapter 6.
- A protest fee may be requested. In Cat 1 events, it is not larger than $50 US or €50. It is suggested that Cat2 events use the same amount. If the protest is upheld, the fee is returned to the complainant. Any retained protest fees that are required by Cat2 event organisers, must be forwarded to the FAI.

12.4.8 Deadlines
Deadlines for complaints and protests should be defined in the local regulations. It is suggested:

The deadline to make a complaint when requesting a correction of the provisional results is
- In Accuracy, one hour after the publication of the provisional results.
- In Cross Country, four hours after the publication of the results. When the results are published after 22:00h, the deadline is no earlier than 11:00h the next day.

The deadline to make a protest is
- Within four hours of the result of the complaint being published at the main headquarters.
- Within one hour on the last planned two tasks/rounds/runs.

12.4.9 Aerobatics
When a pilot notices any mistake in the list of manoeuvres published at the end of the run (manoeuvre name, direction, choreography bonus...) he is allowed to address the matter directly to the Chief Judge, who will verify and correct when necessary.

A pilot who thinks that his score has been penalised by a judging mistake or any other occurrence or decision can complain to the Protest Committee within 30 minutes after the publication of the run results. If a pilot addresses his complaint directly to the judges, he will be penalised with one or more warnings according to S7B Chapter 7.2.2.

The Protest Committee reviews the complaint and assesses if forwarding the protest to the Chief Judge is justified. If yes, the Protest Committee forward the complaint to the Chief Judge. The Protest Committee discusses the complaint with the judges, bringing evidence when available. The Chief Judge takes his decision at the end of the discussion. His decision is final and cannot be appealed.