



Official ITA Team Match Protest Ruling

Division & Gender: Division I Women Date of Match: 3/24/18

Match: University of Houston vs. Louisiana Tech University

Team Protesting: University of Houston

Ruling Committee: Division I Women's Southern Region Ranking Committee

Protest Summary:

The ITA Women's Division I Southern Region Ranking Committee has thoroughly reviewed the line-up protest statement submitted by Coach Courtney Steinbock (Houston) regarding her match against Louisiana Tech University on March 24, 2018, as well as the subsequent defense statement submitted by Coach Amanda Stone (Louisiana Tech). The protest was sent to the Southern Region committee in place of the national committee in hopes of a more "local" review of Louisiana Tech's lineup.

At this time, the Committee is not prepared to rule that a violation of **ITA Rule I.E.3** (...players must play in order of ability, *Page 4 of the 2017-18 ITA Rulebook*) has occurred. The committee did express concern over the current order based on available match data, specifically with the placement of players Montalvo and Oravcova at positions higher than perhaps warranted. Moving forward, the committee would ask that Coach Stone continue to evaluate her lineup based, in part, on available match data and make necessary changes to reflect the proper order of ability, within ITA rules.

Furthermore, the committee wishes to issue a formal reprimand to Coach Stone for multiple violations of **ITA Rule I.E.4** (...lineup changes in back-to-back dual matches) over the course of the season that Coach Stone has admitted to. In accordance with ITA "Third Party Protest" procedures, future violations of ITA Rule I.E.4 will result in a 7-0 team default for that match.

Please note that decisions made by an ITA Division I Regional Ranking Committee can be appealed to the National Ranking Committee so long as the appeal is made soon after the ruling. Please also be aware that ITA policy does not permit coaches to contact committee members before or after a protest decision is made to question this decision or ask for additional information.