



Official ITA Team Match Protest Ruling

Division & Gender: Division II Men Date of Match: 2/25/17

Match: Mercyhurst University vs. West Liberty University

Team Protesting: Mercyhurst University

Ruling Committee: Division II Men's Atlantic Regional Ranking Committee

Protest Summary:

The ITA Men's Atlantic Regional Ranking Committee has thoroughly reviewed the protest statements submitted by Coach Simon (Mercyhurst) regarding his match against West Liberty University on February 25, 2017, as well as the subsequent defense statement submitted by Coach McCullough (West Liberty).

The final ruling of the Committee is that West Liberty **did not** violate **ITA Rule I.F.3** (...*players must play in order of ability, Page 4*) with respect to the challenge of the doubles lineup, but that they **did** violate **ITA Rule I.F.4** (...*lineup changes in back-to-back dual matches, Page 4*) with respect to the move of singles player Pablo Cimorra from line 6 to line 3.

The committee decided that as a result of the violation of this ITA rule, the 5-4 win for West Liberty will be nullified (match considered "not played") for ITA Team Ranking purposes. As the individual matches were played in good faith, those results will be allowed to stand for ITA Individual Ranking purposes. It was also the committee's judgement that a letter of reprimand be sent to the West Liberty Head Coach as a result of this rule violation.

The protest ruling made by the ITA Men's Atlantic Regional Ranking Committee was appealed to ITA National Ranking Committee, and the ITA National Ranking Committee upheld the regional committee's ruling to nullify the match.

Please note that decisions made by the ITA National Ranking Committee are final and no appeals will be accepted. 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.