

Rule Change Proposal #1 Scorekeeping Errors

Current Rule

I.J.7. Finality of SAFECON Results: Announcements of the results at the awards banquet are final.

Proposed Rule Change

I.J.7. Finality of SAFECON Results:

- a. Announcements of the results at the awards banquet are intended to be final. An exception may be made to review a scorekeeping error (omission or incorrect placing) having a significant impact on the results. Such review must be requested within 7 days of the awards banquet. Corrective action may be taken by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of NIFA Council. An explanation of the error will be included if corrected results are posted.

Explanation for Change

In the past, official results were modified on a case-by-case basis when significant errors were found. Decisions were made after thorough consideration, but they have been inconsistent. The accuracy and consistency of judging has improved to the point that most mistakes occur after the events while scores are being tabulated. The integrity of NIFA is damaged by not acknowledging these human error mistakes with a resolution process to make it right. We post overall results for transparency and feedback. Any error becomes obvious, so leaving it unacknowledged has no benefit. Chief Judges and Scorekeepers will continue making every effort to avoid mistakes using electronic scoring, checklists for final scoring review, and guides to avoid common errors.

This rule change is not a way to overturn scores or contest a judge's call. A protest procedure is already in place. Event scores are not open to debate after the banquet. What this rule change will allow for is a review period (detailed in the NIFA Policy Manual) and a standard process to correct for inaccurate or missing overall results due to scorekeeping errors. Making corrections to results will be the exception to the finality of SAFECON results. Therefore, using a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote reflects NIFA Rules I.H. regarding making exceptions to any rule.

The following details will be included in the NIFA Policy Manual. The intention of setting the period of 7 days is to allow time to gather and present evidence of any omission or incorrect placing. A review will begin immediately when requested. If the evidence of error is clear and the impact significant, all available information will be shared with the NIFA Council. A vote on any corrective action will occur within 30 days of the request for review.