

The following is the result of the Florida Gulf Coast University protest of their 5:00pm and 7:00pm games against University of Florida on February 8, 2014.

Games protested by FGCU for Off-Field Unknown Roster Violation.

**Requested Action** - Forfeit games.

**Protest:**

FGCU is protesting their 5:00pm and 7:00pm games against University of Florida on February 8, 2014, requesting forfeit victories because Florida was in violation of following NCSA rules:

- 6.01.0 Players are not deemed eligible to participate in any **NCSA Sanctioned Softball Game** until their paperwork has been processed with the league. When the player appears on the team's roster, which is available on the Official NCSA Website ([www.clubsoftball.org](http://www.clubsoftball.org)), then that player is then eligible to compete in **NCSA Sanctioned Softball Games**.
- 6.02.0 Any team found playing an ineligible player will be penalized by forfeiting all games that that ineligible player participated in while holding an ineligible status.

FGCU Club Softball President, Kayla Miller, stated "WE ARE PROTESTING THE 2 GAMES WE PLAYED ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 5PM AND 7PM DUE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF A PLAYER NOT ON THE UF'S OFFICAL ROSTER. ASHTON HILL #1 PLAYED IN BOTH GAMES SATURDAY AND WAS NOT ON THE ROSTER BUT ADDED SUNDAY MORNING. BOTH GAMES PLAYED ON SATURDAY WERE LOST BY ONE RUN AND ASHTON HILL SCORED IN BOTH GAMES AND WAS A KEY HITTER AND PLAYER IN BOTH GAMES. WHEN WE RETURNED TO THE HOTEL AT NIGHT WE FOUND THAT HILL WAS NOT ON THE ROSTER. WE INFORMED THE UF PRESIDENT THAT HILL WAS NOT ON THE ROSTER SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE OUR LAST GAME AT 10AM AND SHE SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE. THEY THEN SAT HILL FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GAME SUNDAY."

**Defense:**

Florida Club Softball President, Kendall Burkett, stated "When the roster issue was first brought to our attention on Sunday, the player in question, Ashton Hill, was immediately removed from our line up for the game that morning. We were unaware of the situation, but were willingly cooperative and attentive to FGCU's concerns of her playing. According to the University of Florida RecSports website, Ashton was added to our roster on 9/5/2013 and her academic eligibility form was also completed and approved. With the communication between our past president and current president (myself) being limited after she stepped down two weeks ago, the current eligibility status was not effectively communicated to the other officers, since she was the one addressing this aspect of the team.

It was always our intention to have Ashton Hill on our official roster, thus why she was on the academic eligibility form. When we informed the player in question of the situation, she said that she had completed the online registration and paid the one dollar fee, however, it seems the transaction did not go through. When this was brought to her attention, she immediately went back to the website and filled out the registration form again, on Sunday morning, and was added to the roster.



850 Ridge Avenue  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Office: (412) 321-8440  
Fax: (412) 321-4088

---

In regards to the comment of Ashton Hill being a key player, she played right field and only had one ball hit to her in both games. In Game One, she was 1 for 3 with an infield single. In Game 2, she was 1 for 3 as well. In her first two at bats she was hit by a pitch, in her third about she reached on a fielder's choice, in her fourth at bat she grounded out, and in her last at bat she reached base on an error, which ultimately led to her scoring. We do not believe that she was a key player in Saturday's wins, but regardless, both games would have been tied without her scoring.

On behalf of the team and Ashton Hill, I can confidently say that everyone was under the impression that she was on the official roster and that we had no intentions of playing someone deemed ineligible. It was an honest mistake that occurred due to extenuating circumstances and we would like for the NCSA to consider allowing us to replay these games.”

**Investigation:**

The player in question, Ashton Hill, did not complete the Online Player Registration until the morning of February 9, 2014. She was activated at that time an eligible to play in games that day (2/9/2014), but was not present on the official roster for the games played on February 8, 2014.

**Ruling:** Protest Granted – While the NCSA recognizes Florida's extenuating circumstances in this situation, and we acknowledge Florida's statement that this was completely unintentional, the fact is that NCSA Rules 6.01 and 6.02 must be upheld and thus the NCSA has no choice but to issue forfeit victories to FGCU. The score of these games will be updated to reflect a 7 to 0 victory for FGCU and all player statistics should be disallowed for each team.

**Savannah Ahrens  
NCSA Director of Operations**