

## **Project Disqualification Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Colorado State Science Fair Inc. (CSSF, Inc.) that all projects approved by the Scientific Review Committee for participation in the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF) be treated fairly and respectfully and with sensitivity to the future development of students in science and engineering disciplines. In the spirit of scientific inquiry, judging should be based upon the project quality and the logical chain of reasoning applied. Also, it is proper that scientific theories be open to question of debate. This policy encourages critical thinking and open minded investigation without bias.

Projects that are of concern are those that may have violated the code of ethics, but have been cleared by the SRC for competition. Potential violations include plagiarism, projects that are found not to be created by the student presenting it and/or any other form of dishonesty.

In cases where an ethics violation is brought to the attention of the Executive Director, Board of Directors Member or any other CSEF official, an ad hoc committee will be convened immediately. The committee will be composed of the Executive Director, a Board of Directors representative, an SRC representative and any other individual having knowledge of the project, its science and any other expertise needed to evaluate the situation. If the evaluation by the ad hoc committee concludes that a violation of the ethics code has indeed occurred, the committee will assess appropriate punishment, up to and including disqualification and immediate removal from the CSEF.