

Policy for an Alleged Ethical Violation After Approval by the Scientific Review Committee



The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) of the Colorado Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF) is charged with ensuring that all projects comply with the *International Rules for Pre-College Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs*. Among other responsibilities, the SRC reviews each project to ensure it complies with rules and laws governing human and animal research as well as the ethics statement of the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF):

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef.international-rules/rules-for-all-projects/#Ethics>

If the SRC has approved a project for participation in the CSEF and a subsequent allegation of a violation of the ISEF ethics statement is raised,¹ the complainant shall set forth in writing the nature of the allegation (for example: an allegation of plagiarism, an allegation the student was not responsible for the project, an allegation of academic dishonesty, etc.).

The CSEF Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of the SRC, shall promptly investigate the allegation. After the investigation has been completed, if the CSEF Executive Director and the Chair of the SRC conclude there has been no violation of the ISEF ethics statement, then the decision to dismiss the complaint shall be communicated to the complainant in writing.

If the CSEF Executive Director and Chair of the SRC conclude there has been a violation of the ISEF ethics statement that warrants disqualification of the student's project from the CSEF, then a written decision via email or postal mail, shall be delivered to the student, the Adult Sponsor and the Regional Fair Director within fourteen (14) days. The written decision shall set forth the right of appeal.

The decision may be appealed to the President of the CSEF Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days of the date of the written decision. The Petition shall set forth the grounds for appeal, including both factual and procedural allegations of error. The President of the CSEF Board of Directors shall appoint a 3-member panel that does not include the CSEF Executive Director or the Chair of the SRC. This panel shall review the information obtained during the initial investigation as well as information presented within the Petition of Appeal. The review shall be based solely on the basis of the record and written briefs. The decision of the hearing panel shall be final.

¹The allegation may be raised with the CSEF Executive Director, the Chair of the SRC, a member of the Board of Directors, a CSEF judge, or another CSEF official.