

Scientific Review Committee Membership and Operations Policy

The Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is responsible for the evaluation of student research, certifications, research plans and exhibits for compliance with the International Science and Engineering Fair rules and pertinent laws and regulations. In accordance with CSEF's affiliation with Society for Science and the Public, the SRC will review all projects that are forwarded from the 13 Regional Science Fairs at least two weeks prior to the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair and provide feedback to the Regional Fair Directors on those projects that must be addressed before being allowed to compete in the CSEF. The SRC must consist of a minimum of three individuals and include:

- a. a biomedical scientist (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., D.M.D., or D.O.),
- b. an educator, and
- c. one other member

To be considered for membership on the Scientific Review Committee, a nominee must complete a SRC Membership Form and it must be accompanied by a recommendation from the current SRC Chair and from the CSEF Director. This information is submitted to the CSEF Director who will forward the nomination and supporting materials to the Colorado State Science Fair, Inc. Board of Directors for consideration.

The SRC Chairperson will be chosen from among the approved members and will be an Associate Member of the Board of Directors and will report to the Board of Directors on SRC matters at each of the scheduled BOD meetings.

The process for SRC review will include the following steps:

1. Each regional science fair will be assigned two SRC members to review paperwork. These team members cannot be affiliated with the assigned regional science fair in any way.
2. Each Regional Science Fair will be required to either send 1 hard copy or 1 electronic copy of the Finalist's paperwork to the CSEF for SRC review.
3. The CSEF Director will review the Finalist's paperwork for completeness and minor inconsistencies and this information will be sent to the SRC members reviewing that region.
4. The CSEF Director will post the Finalist's paperwork to Google Docs and share that region's folder with the assigned SRC members for review.
5. The SRC members will review the Finalist's paperwork for compliance with the rules and safety guidelines.
6. The SRC members will note whether the project is Approved for Competition and no further action is required; has Research Plan Questions that need to be addressed prior to being approved for competition; has Safety/Supervision Concerns that need to be addressed prior to being approved for competition; has Form Corrections Needed that need to be fixed prior to being approved for competition; an Interview is Needed where a student, his/her adult sponsor and/or teacher will need to speak to the SRC at CSEF prior to being approved for competition; or is a Possible Fail to Qualify (FTQ).
7. When paperwork is not complete, the SRC will also make notes as to what information is still needed to complete the registration.

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8. The SRC members will meet in person at least two weeks prior to the CSEF to confer on particularly complicated projects and for final review of corrections.
9. Subsequent reviews of student paperwork will be done via email as corrections and further information is submitted to the CSEF.
10. Any Finalist not responding to a request from the SRC prior to the CSEF will need to visit the SRC on Thursday morning of the CSEF prior to setting up his/her project.
11. Finalists requiring an Interview with the SRC will be notified after the SRC meeting and prior to the CSEF. Interviews will be held from 8:30 – 11:00 AM on the Thursday of the CSEF on a first come, first served basis.
12. Interviews with the Finalist shall be conducted by at least 2 SRC members. It is preferable, but not required, that a teacher or parent attends the interview with the Finalist.
13. Projects with a Fail to Qualify status will be notified immediately following the SRC meeting in late March by the CSEF Director via a registered letter outlining the reasons for the Fail to Qualify status. Finalists will be given the opportunity to appeal the decision by contacting the CSEF Director and the SRC Chairperson. The CSSF, Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee will also be notified about projects with a Fail to Qualify status and any appeals regarding this status.
14. An appeal to the Fail to Qualify status of a project must be in writing and received by the CSEF Director, no later than four days after receipt of the registered letter.