

**The Standard:** Judging is conducted in a fair and ethical manner. Conflicts of interest are addressed and the process of judging and final decision making is as transparent as possible while maintaining the integrity of the process. All of those involved in judging and in making winner selections do so with the best interest of the student participants. The decisions of judges are final.

#### Arkansas State Science Fair Policy on Conflicts of Interest in Judging

To take every effort to avoid conflicts and possible favoritism, judges must disclose any of the following situations regarding any student in the judge's assigned category before the Arkansas State Science Fair is held, should they arise:

1. the judge is related to the student
2. that student is a close family friend
3. the judge mentored the student in question on a past project or the current project
4. the judge taught at the student's school

Additionally, advance notification is required if:

5. the judge has already judged at a regional fair in the same category as the state fair judging assignment

Should one of these situations occur, it is the judge's responsibility to notify the Arkansas State Science Fair Judging Chair immediately for reassignment to another category or another acceptable adjustment of duties.

It should be noted that judging teams will usually consist of a minimum of 2 individuals, but more frequently 3 (or more). Judging teams are expected to interview every fair participant and deliberate as a team when selecting category place finishers as well as recommendations for ISEF finalists.