

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS AND PARENTS

NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Version March 2016

The code of conduct describes the behaviours that do not agree (are not consistent) with the values of National Science Fair. Any attempt to deliberately break the values laid down by the National Science Fair may be viewed as serious.

Participants at the National Science Fair event are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner so as to support the values of the National Science Fair. The National Science Fair values include:

- integrity (truthfulness)
- respect for all anybody who is also involved with the National Science Fair
- respect for the property of others
- commitment to intellectual and personal growth of our diverse population
- any form of plagiarism/use of material without acknowledgement is a serious violation.

The code of conduct applies to all participants who participate at any of the regional, national and international Science Fair events.

Students who need to travel to any Science Fair event must be responsible for their own behaviour and be prepared to face the consequences should they break any of the Science Fair values.

The Science Fair shall not be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury or any other consequences resulting from the participant's failure to comply with the rules and regulations laid down by the Science Fair.

The National Science Fair will not allow the following behaviours to occur at any of the National Science Fair events:

1. Physical harm to any person; this includes assault, sexual and/or physical abuse.
2. Harassment, whether physical or verbal, oral or written.
3. Conduct which threatens the mental health, physical health, or safety of any person. This includes drug or alcohol abuse and any form of destructive behaviour.
4. Dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating.
5. Intentional disruption of any activity whether it be run by the National Science Fair or by any other sponsor.
6. Theft /illegal possession or damage to personal or National Science Fair property or services
7. Forgery, alteration, fabrication, or misuse of identification cards, records or misinterpretation of any kind.
8. Unauthorized entry, use, or occupation of National Science Fair facilities.
9. Disorderly conduct of any kind; including intoxication, indecent or obscene behaviour, libel, slander and illegal gambling.

10. Illegal purchase, sale, use, possession, or distribution of alcohol; drugs or controlled substances.
11. Failure to follow any instructions given by any National Science Fair official – especially those related to security or safety.
12. Unauthorized possession or use of any weapon including firearms, BB-guns, air rifles, explosive devices, fireworks, or any other dangerous, illegal or hazardous object or material.
13. Interference with or misuse of fire alarms, blue lights, elevators, or other safety or security equipment or programmes.
14. Loitering and/or playing around corridors, stairways.

Disciplinary action

1. Every Regional Science Fair Coordinator (RSFC) is responsible for discipline and has the full authority and responsibility to correct the behaviour of participants when necessary.
2. Any corrective measure or disciplinary measure will correspond with and be appropriate to the offence.
3. All participants will abide by the discipline system that has been developed to assist and guide participant's behaviour during any National Science Fair activity.
4. Should a matter be deemed severe in nature, the responsible RSFC may refer the matter to the National Science Fair (NSF) Director for a decision.
5. The NSF Director may convene a disciplinary hearing consisting members of the Organizing Committee and/or selected RSFCs.
6. A decision taken at this hearing will be final and will be communicated to the offending learner/ parent in writing.

Disciplinary sanctions

Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, one or more of the following disciplinary sanctions may apply:

1. Verbal warning (school informed of misdemeanour and disciplinary measure taken)
2. Written warning (copies sent to parents and school)
3. Withdrawal of participation for the current or forthcoming National Science Fair
4. Disallowed participation at the National Science Fair
5. Disallowed participation at any International Science Fair
6. Disallowed participation at any future National Science Fair
7. Withdrawal of any medals received
8. Withdrawal of special prizes received