



RATIONALE:

When students have expended great amounts of time and energy to prepare for participation in MESA Day Competitions, disqualification from the event can be very upsetting for the students. In an attempt to provide a student with every opportunity to understand the reason(s) for a disqualification and to aid in mitigating an unpleasant situation, the Appeals Process has been developed. It is imperative that every student, judge, director and advisor attending MESA Day be familiar with the process and, if necessary, follows it to the letter.

PROCEDURE:

Competitions that require a specifications check should have that check while students are participating in the math tests during the first portion of the morning. For any project disqualified during the specification check judges will describe the reason(s) for the disqualification and post this information in a prominent area near the contest site. A special "window of time" (20 – 30 minutes) will be designated immediately following the math testing when students may proceed to that area to check the status of their project.

If a student feels that he or she has been **erroneously disqualified** from an event and wishes to appeal the action, the student may first appeal to the **event judge**, if possible. If the issue is immediately resolved, the student may still have the opportunity to participate in the event. However, if the student remains dissatisfied with the judge's decision following that appeal, the student must then complete the MESA Day Event Appeals Form and present it to the designated arbitrator(s). **The appeal must be completed and submitted by the student. An advisor or parent cannot accompany a student during the appeals presentation.** The Arbitrators' decisions are final **NO APPEALS MAY BE FILED ONCE JUDGING IS COMPLETED.**

APPEALS COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Composed of approximately 3 individuals who are drawn from a pool of persons designated to make up the committee, with one person acting as Chair of the committee
- ❖ Selected by the Host Center with the collaboration of the MESA Statewide Office
- ❖ Committee is in place to respond to an appeals form

STEPS IN THE APPEALS PROCESS

1. The student may first appeal to the event judge concerning the decision. If the student continues to feel that the decision is incorrect, the student may then submit an appeals form to the arbitration committee.
2. The issue **MUST** be expressed in writing by the **student(s)** using the "Official Event Appeals Form (see form attached) prior to the committee's review
3. The issue **MUST** then be presented by the **student(s)** to the appeals committee.
4. The committee reviews the issue/dispute and seeks clarification from the judge(s) if needed.
5. The committee will resolve the dispute in a timely manner.
6. The decision of the committee is final and will be communicated to the contest judge, to the students and to the MESA Day Host. **An attempt by either the student or the advisor to continue with an appeal once a final decision has been rendered by the appeals committee may cause the student to be disqualified from ALL MESA Day events.**