

## Hints for Special Projects (presented 9.04.2015)

**Please understand that all forms and reviews are for the safety of the student, subjects, and the adult sponsor.**

### **Humans – ISEF Rules pages 8 – 10, 20, 30; ISEF Forms: 4 and Informed Consent**

#### **SSEF Supplement page 5; SSEF Form: Verification of Informed Consent Forms**

Describe potential population as described on page 30 (do not contact potential participants until IRB has approved the project). This is part of the Method along with the survey and one of the additional references listed on page 20.

The Informed Consent form must clearly identify all of the potential risks. NO project is without risk (see ISEF page 10). High school students that are 18 are still considered a minor and should have parental permission. Be sure participants print, sign and date the informed consent forms PRIOR to participation in the project if the IRB requires the use of the form.

When submitting forms before competition at your school bring all of the signed Informed Consent forms to the sponsor who will help prepare the Verification of Informed Consent Form (VIFC) from the [www.ssefflorida.com](http://www.ssefflorida.com) website. Only one redacted Informed Consent form is submitted to the Regional science fair before competition with the VIFC. Black out the printed and signed name but NOT the date on the redacted form.

### **Vertebrate Animals – ISEF Rules pages: 11 – 13, 20-21, 30; ISEF Forms: 3, 5A or 5B**

#### **SSEF Supplement: page 3; SSEF Form: Mortality Report**

Item 4 on ISEF page 11 requires explanation for the use of vertebrates in research in the method. Care of the animals required on Form 5A must also be described within the method. Also include the measurements that will be taken so you can determine if the animals are stressed and the experimentation MUST stop. Any deaths due to the experiment result in disqualification and must be investigated by a qualified adult. An animal care reference must be included in bibliography.

After experimentation, the SSEF Mortality Report from the [www.ssefflorida.com](http://www.ssefflorida.com) website must be completed and included with the forms prior to any competition.

### **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents – ISEF Rules pages: 14-17, 21, 30; ISEF Forms: 6A, 6B**

#### **SSEF Supplement: page 4-5; SSEF Form: BSL1 or BSL2 Laboratory Checklist**

All projects dealing with microorganisms including but not limited to bacteria, viruses, mold must thoroughly read the ISEF and SSEF pages listed above. Details in the method must include collection and disposal of the cultures/samples. A reference for aseptic technique must be in the bibliography. Because bleach solutions are commonly used for cleaning surfaces, generally these projects fall under the Hazardous Chemicals, Activities and Devices category also.

The adult sponsor or designated supervisor completes the BSL1 or BSL2 Laboratory Checklist which are available on the [www.ssefflorida.com](http://www.ssefflorida.com) website.

### **Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, or Devices – ISEF Rules pages: 18 -22, 30; ISEF Form: 3**

#### **SSEF Supplement: page 4**

All projects involving hazardous chemicals, activities and/or devices must include risk and safety precautions that are identified on Form 3 ALSO within the method. **These projects must be reviewed by SRC PRIOR** to experimentation. Additional safety references as suggested on pages 21 and 22 are required in the Bibliography. The MSDS/SDS should be evaluated for every chemical in the procedure, even those commonly used. Please realize that the state may have more restrictive guidelines for disposal than those listed on the MSDS/SDS.

Only the adult who will DIRECTLY supervise the experimentation should assist the student in completing the Form 3 and act as a designated supervisor.