

ISEF Rules & Guidelines: Summary of Issues in Georgia

See the ISEF Rules & Guidelines for official rules.

SRC Signatures (See visuals on following page)

ISSUE: Adult Sponsor serving on SRC/IRB reviewing project

- ▶ To avoid conflict of interest, no Adult Sponsor, parent or other relative of the student, the Qualified Scientist, or Designated Supervisor who oversees the project, may serve on the SRC or IRB reviewing that project.

ISSUE: Missing Regional SRC signature on Form 1B

- ▶ Every Form 1B must be signed by Regional SRC in **Section 3**.
- ▶ Additionally, for Human Participants/PHBA/Vertebrate Animal projects, Form 1B must be signed by SRC/IRB in **Section 2, either in 2a or 2b**. If the project was done at home/school/field and received prior SRC/IRB approval (required), SRC/IRB signs in **2a** before experimentation. If project was done at RRI, SRC signs in **2b** after experimentation.

ISSUE: Missing SRC signature on Form 6A

- ▶ Every Form 6A must be signed by SRC in **Section 4**. If the project was done at home/school/field, the SRC must approve and sign **before experimentation**. If project was done at RRI, SRC may sign **after experimentation**.

Human Participants

ISSUE: Incomplete Form 4

- ▶ All fields on Form 4 must be answered **including the IRB checkboxes in the "IRB USE ONLY" section**. IRB must indicate level of supervision required.

ISSUE: Missing IRB approval / erroneously treating a project as exempt

- ▶ All projects involving human subjects (even if only the student researcher) **MUST** have **FULL IRB APPROVAL** prior to experimentation. Exemptions are very limited. Student-designed inventions, prototypes, computer applications, engineering/ design projects (i.e., something student created) are only exempt if **the researcher or a single adult guardian is the ONLY person testing the invention and NO human data (e.g., heart rate) is gathered from the tester**.
- ▶ Projects that involve conducting **SURVEYS** are NOT exempt from IRB approval.

Vertebrate Animals

ISSUE: Missing SRC approval prior to experimentation

- ▶ All vertebrate animal studies **must be approved prior to experimentation**. The **only** exemptions are studies involving **behavioral observations** where there is **NO interaction or manipulation** of the environment. Changing a pet's food counts as manipulation of the environment and requires pre-approval. (p. 14, 'Exempt Studies...')

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents

ISSUE: Culturing bacteria in a home environment (including swabs from household surfaces)

- ▶ Culturing of PHBAs, even BSL-1 organisms, is **prohibited in a home environment**. (p. 15, 'Rules for...' #3)

ISSUE: Missing SRC approval prior to experimentation

- ▶ All projects involving PHBAs must be approved prior to experimentation, with **limited** exemptions.

Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, or Devices

ISSUE: Missing Form 3

- ▶ While projects involving hazardous chemicals, activities, or devices (as defined by ISEF Rules & Guidelines) do not necessarily require approval prior to experimentation, these projects must *always* have a completed Form 3.

Bottom of Approval Form [1B]:

2. To be completed by the local or affiliated Fair SRC
(Required for projects requiring prior SRC/IRB APPROVAL. Sign 2a or 2b as appropriate.)

a. Required for projects that need prior SRC/IRB approval BEFORE experimentation (humans, vertebrates or potentially hazardous biological agents).

This SRC/IRB has carefully studied this project's **Research Plan/Project Summary** and all the required forms are included. My signature indicates approval of the **Research Plan/Project Summary** before the student begins experimentation.

SRC/IRB Chair's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)
(Must be prior to experimentation.)

OR

b. Required for research conducted at all Regulated Research Institutions with no prior fair SRC/IRB approval.

This project was conducted at a regulated research institution (**not home or high school, etc.**), was reviewed and approved by the proper institutional board before experimentation and complies with the ISEF Rules. **Attach (1C) and any required institutional approvals (e.g. IACUC, IRB).**

SRC Chair's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yy)
(May be after experimentation)

3. Final ISEF Affiliated Fair SRC Approval (Required for ALL Projects)

SRC Approval After Experimentation and Before Competition at Regional, State, or National Fair

I certify that this project adheres to the approved **Research Plan/Project Summary** and complies with all ISEF Rules.

Regional SRC Chair's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

State/National SRC Chair's Printed Name
(where applicable)

Signature

Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

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Local/Regional SRC/IRB signs here BEFORE EXPERIMENTATION if project requires prior approval (human participants, PHBA, or vertebrate animals)

Local/Regional SRC signs here AFTER EXPERIMENTATION if project required prior approval (human participants, PHBA, or vertebrate animals) but was conducted at RRI and received proper review and approval by RRI.

Regional SRC signs here AFTER EXPERIMENTATION and BEFORE SENDING YOUR PROJECTS TO GSEF

Bottom of Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment Form [6A]:

documentation and acknowledge the accuracy of the responses above.

CERTIFICATION - To be SIGNED by the QUALIFIED SCIENTIST or DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR

The QS/DS has seen this project's research plan and supporting documentation and acknowledges the accuracy of the information provided above. This study has been approved as a (check one) BSL-1/ BSL-2 study, and will be conducted in an appropriate laboratory.

QS/DS Printed Name

Signature

Date of review (mm/dd/yy)

SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION - To be completed by the LOCAL or AFFILIATED FAIR SRC

The SRC has seen this project's research plan and supporting documentation and acknowledges the accuracy of the information provided above.

SRC Printed Name

Signature

Date of review (mm/dd/yy)

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Local/Regional SRC signs here. If PHBA project was NOT conducted at RRI (and therefore requires prior approval), SRC signs BEFORE EXPERIMENTATION. If project was done at RRI, SRC signs after experimentation.