

*REGENERON*

**ISEF**

A PROGRAM OF  
SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC

**VIRTUAL | 2020**

**International Rules  
for Pre-Collegiate Research:  
Guideline for Science and Engineering Fair  
2020-2021**



SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC

# International Rules for Pre-Collegiate Research: Guideline for Science and Engineering Fairs 2020-2021

## Scientific Review Committee (SRC)

The ISEF Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is a group of volunteers charged with supporting the review and revisions of the International Rules for Pre-College Research: Guideline for Science and Engineering Fairs. The ISEF SRC also reviews and approves all projects of the Regeneron ISEF. The ISEF SRC can be contacted at [src@societyforscience.org](mailto:src@societyforscience.org) to answer questions throughout the year.

Members of ISEF Scientific Review Committee 2020:

Ms. Susan Appel  
Mr. Henry Disston  
Dr. Jennifer Green  
Dr. Paula Johnson  
Dr. Timothy Martin

Mrs. Evelyn Montalvo  
Mr. Joseph Scott  
Dr. Jason Shuffitt  
Mrs. Andrea Spencer

# International Rules for Pre-Collegiate Research: Guideline for Science and Engineering Fairs 2020-2021

The purpose of these rules is to:

- protect the rights and welfare of the student researcher
- protect the rights and welfare of human participants
- protect the health and welfare of vertebrate animal subjects
- protect and promote good stewardship of the environment
- ensure adherence to federal regulations
- ensure use of safe laboratory practices
- determine eligibility for competition in ISEF

For pre-review and approval of your project, find your fair at:

<https://findafair.societyforscience.org/>

For rules questions, contact the ISEF Scientific Review Committee:

[SRC@societyforscience.org](mailto:SRC@societyforscience.org)



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## Ethics Statement

Student researchers, as well as adults involved are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Integrity.** Honesty, objectivity, and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research.
- **Legality.** Compliance with all federal, country, state and local laws is essential.
- **Respect for Confidentiality and Intellectual Property.**
- **Stewardship of the Environment.** To protect the environment and its organisms from harm
- **Animal Care.** Proper care and respect must be given to vertebrate animals.
- **Human Participant Protection.** The highest priority is the health and well-being of the student researcher(s) and human participants.
- **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBAs).** To conduct and document a risk assessment, and to safely handle and dispose of organisms and materials



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## Eligibility Rules for 2020 -2021

Each student is only allowed to enter one project.

- That project may include no more than 12 months of continuous research and may not include research performed before January 2020.
- Projects that were conducted between January 2020 and March 2020 that competed at an ISEF-affiliate fair, may not be presented in 2021 without meeting the continuation criteria.
- Team projects must have no more than three members.
  - Teams competing at ISEF must be composed of the original members who competed at the ISEF-affiliated fair and must all meet ISEF eligibility.

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## SRC Review of 2020 Projects Common Concerns

- Research involving human participants
  - Obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approval prior to start
  - Document through Form 4 of the IRB's judgment of supervision, informed consent and when working with minors, parental permission
- Research done within timeframe of eligibility guidelines
- Size of team projects (maximum of 3)
- Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBAs) – with proper approvals, supervision and proper biosafety-level laboratory environment



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## Changes for 2020- 2021

- Minor clarifications of language regarding ethics statement & eligibility.
- Added an exempt tissue - c. Human capillary/blood collection (.e. finger stick).
- Added a reference to a Guide for Engineering & Invention Projects

## Upcoming Efforts

- Continue to explore ways to reorganize the materials for better comprehension. The International Rules contain four key elements:
  - Rules
  - Rules specific to Regeneron ISEF (including Display & Safety Regulations)
  - Required documentation (Forms)
  - Guidance to support safe and sound research practices

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## Questions?

Email questions throughout the year to: [SRC@societyforscience.org](mailto:SRC@societyforscience.org)

For a copy of the International Rules and the associated guidance, visit our website:

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>