

Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair Display and Safety Regulations

Display and Safety Authority

The Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair Safety Committee is the final authority on display and safety issues for projects approved by the SRC to compete in the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair. Occasionally, the BRHRSF Display and Safety Committee may require students to make revisions to conform to display and safety regulations. The Regional Science Fair adheres to the rules of the Intel ISEF. The Regulations that follow have been divided into two main categories to separate those that deal specifically with display regulations and those that pertain to safety regulations.

Display Content for Research Institution and/or Continuation Projects

The project display summarizes the research project and must focus on the student(s) work for this year's study with only minimal reference to previous research. Longitudinal studies may present only conclusionary data from prior years. [Exception: the project title of the display board may mention years or which year the project is (for example, "Year Two of an Ongoing Study").] Continuation projects must have the Continuation Project Form (7) vertically displayed.

In addition, the project display must be limited to the work conducted by the student(s) for the project. The mentor's research, even if it was a precursor to student experimentation (e.g. animal research from which tissue was obtained for the project) is not a part of the student research project and must not be included in the display. Very minimal reference to work done by a mentor or others may be included only for background information or clarification of what the student's research covered and must clearly indicate that it was not part of the student's work.

Maximum Size of Project

- Depth (front to back): 30 inches or 76 centimeters
- Width (side to side): 48 inches or 122 centimeters
- Height (floor to top): 108 inches or 274 centimeters

At the BRHRSF, fair-provided tables will not exceed a height of 36 inches (91 centimeters). Maximum project sizes include all project materials, supports, and demonstrations for public and judges. If a project will be sitting on the floor, then the BRHRSF must be notified when the paperwork is submitted to the science fair..

At the BRHRSF, any project with a component that will be demonstrated by the finalist must be demonstrated only within the confines of the finalist's area. When not being demonstrated, the component plus the project must not exceed the maximum size dimensions for a project.

Position of Project

Forms Required to be Visible and Displayed

The only items that may be displayed on the front of the tables provided are the forms listed below.

All finalists must display vertically the following documents:

- 1) Original of official Abstract and Certification as approved by the BRHRSF Scientific Review Committee.
- 2) Completed BRHRSF Set-up Approval Form (Received on-site at the Fair)

If either of the following documents is required, it must be displayed vertically.

- 1) Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form(1C) — if applicable
- 2) Continuation Projects Form (7) — if applicable

Forms Required at Project but not Displayed

Forms including, but not limited to, Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan and Approval Form (1B) which are required for the project or for Scientific Review Committee approval displayed as part of the project but must be available in the booth in case asked for by a judge or other fair official. A photograph/video release form signed by the subject is required for visual images of humans (other than the finalist) displayed as part of the project.

Informed Consent Forms not to be Displayed

When human participants are involved in a project, consent forms may be required by SRC but should not be displayed as they are confidential documents.

Photograph/Image Display Requirements

Display of photographs other than that of the finalist must have a photo release signed by the subject, and if under 18 years of age, also by the guardian of the subject. Sample consent text: *“I consent to the use of visual images (photos, videos, etc.) involving my participation/my child’s participation in this research.”*

Finalists using audio-visual or multi-media presentations (for example, 35mm slides; videotapes; images, graphics, animations, etc., displayed on computer monitors; or other non-print presentation methods) must be prepared to show the entire presentation to the Display and Safety inspectors before the project is approved.

Any photograph/visual image/chart/table and/or graph is allowed if:

- a. *It is not deemed offensive or inappropriate (which includes images/photographs showing invertebrate or vertebrate animals/humans in surgical, necrotizing or dissection situations) by the Scientific Review Committee, the Display and Safety Committee, or Society for Science & the Public. The decision made by any one of the groups mentioned above is final.*

- b. It has a credit line of origin (“Photograph taken by...,” or “Image taken from...,” or “Graph/Chart/Table taken from. . .”). (If all images, etc. being displayed were taken or created by the finalist or are from the same source, one credit line prominently and vertically displayed on the backboard/poster or tabletop is sufficient.)
- c. It is from the Internet, magazine, newspaper, journal, etc., and a credit line is attached. (If all photographs, etc. are from the same source, one credit prominently and vertically displayed is sufficient.)
- d. It is a photograph or visual depiction of the finalist.
- e. It is a photograph or visual depiction for which a signed consent form is at the project or in the booth.

Note: Images used as backgrounds must also be credited.

Handouts Allowed at Project

Official Abstract

Handouts to judges and to the public must be limited to UNALTERED photocopies of the official abstract.

The Intel ISEF Scientific Review Committee defines the “official abstract and certification” as an original abstract and as approved by the BRHRSF Scientific Review Committee. If the Scientific Review Committee requires a finalist to make changes to the abstract and certification submitted with registration papers, the revised version will replace the earlier version, and will become the finalist’s official abstract and certification.

The only abstract allowed anywhere at a project is the official abstract. The term “abstract” may not be used as a title or reference for any information on a finalist’s display or in a finalist’s materials at the project except as part of displaying the official abstract. An original abstract must appear on the display board or in a vertical position at the project.

Any disks, CDs, printed materials, etc. (including unofficial abstracts) designed to be distributed to judges or the public will be confiscated by the Display and Safety Committee and will be discarded immediately.

Items/Materials Not Allowed at Project

The following is a list of what cannot be displayed at the project:

- 1) Awards, medals, business cards, flags, logos, CDs, DVDs, Flash Drives, brochures, booklets, nor endorsements, give-away items (pens, key chains, etc.), and/or acknowledgments (graphic or written). (Exceptions: Flash drives, CDs, DVDs that are an integral part of the project and used for judging only with prior approval given during inspection; past and present Intel ISEF medals worn by the finalists.)
- 2) Postal addresses, World Wide Web, e-mail and/or social media addresses, QR codes, telephone, and/or fax numbers of a finalist.
- 3) Active Internet or e-mail connections as part of displaying or operating the project at the Intel ISEF
- 4) Prior years’ written material or visual depictions on the vertical display board. [Exception: the project title displayed in the finalist’s booth may mention years or

which year the project is (for example, “Year Two of an Ongoing Study”)]. Continuation projects must have the Continuation Project Form (7) vertically displayed.

Other Display Regulations

- 1) No changes, modifications, or additions to projects may be made after approval by the Display and Safety Committee and the Scientific Review Committee. Finalists who do not adhere to the signed agreement on the SRC Form regarding this regulation will fail to qualify for competition. *A project data book and research paper are not required* but are highly recommended.
- 2) If a project fails to qualify and is not removed by the finalist, the Scientific Review Committee will remove the project in the safest manner possible but is not responsible for damage to the project.

Not Allowed at Project or Booth

- 1) Living organisms, including plants
- 2) Soil, sand, rock, and/or waste samples, even if permanently encased in a slab of acrylic
- 3) Taxidermy specimens or parts
- 4) Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
- 5) Human or animal food
- 6) Human/animal parts or body fluids (for example, blood, urine)
- 7) Plant materials (living, dead, or preserved) that are in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state (Exception: manufactured construction materials used in building the project or display)
- 8) All chemicals including water (Projects may not use water in any form in a demonstration .)
- 9) All hazardous substances or devices [for example, poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, and lasers
- 10) Dry ice or other sublimating solids
- 11) Sharp items (for example, syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
- 12) Flames or highly flammable materials
- 13) Batteries with open-top cells
- 14) Glass or glass objects unless deemed by the Display and Safety Committee to be an integral and necessary part of the project (for example, glass that is an integral part of a commercial product such as a computer screen)
- 15) Any apparatus deemed unsafe by the Scientific Review Committee, the Display and Safety Committee, or the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair (for example, large vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices, empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids or gases, pressurized tanks, etc.)

Electrical Regulations at the BRHRSF

- 1) Due to the lack of electrical outlets in Peters Gym, please plan to have any items that need electricity to run from batteries.
- 2) Any items needing running from batteries must have a distinctive on/off switch.
- 3) Wet cells shall not be used because of the hazardous chemicals involved.

Laser Requirements

Lasers may be used in a finalist's display under the following guidelines. Display and Safety Inspectors may revoke the privilege and require lasers to be removed if careless or indiscriminate use is observed. Serious offenses may result in revoking the right to display.

- 1) Class 1: A class 1 laser is safe under all conditions of normal use. It is allowed provided a finalist avoids indiscriminate exposure to other finalists, judges or visitors.
- 2) Class 1M: A class 1M laser is safe for all conditions of use except when passed through magnifying optics such as microscopes and telescopes. It is allowed provided the finalist avoids indiscriminate exposure to others and does not utilize magnifying optics in the area of the laser.
- 3) Class 2: A class 2 laser is safe because the blink reflex will limit the exposure to no more than 0.25 seconds. This only applies to visible-light lasers (400–700 nm).
- 4) Class 2M: A class 2M laser is safe because of the blink reflex if not viewed through optical instruments. This applies only to visible-light lasers (400–700 nm). It is allowed provided the finalist avoids indiscriminate exposure to others and does not utilize magnifying optics in the area of the laser.
- 5) Class 3R: A class 3R laser has a risk of injury if viewed directly. It cannot be used or displayed.
- 6) Class 3B: A class 3B laser has a risk of injury if viewed directly. It cannot be used or displayed.
- 7) Class 4: A class 4 laser has a risk of injury if viewed directly. It cannot be used or displayed.

Other Safety Regulations

- 1) Any inadequately insulated apparatus producing extreme temperatures that may cause physical burns is not allowed.
- 2) Any apparatus with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points must be for display only.
- 3) The Scientific Review Committee reserves the right to remove any project for safety reasons or to protect the integrity of the Intel ISEF and its rules and regulations.
- 4) Project sounds, lights, odors, or any other display items must not be distracting. Exceptions to this rule may be permitted for judging demonstrations. Approval must be given prior to judging.