

TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Forming an Scientific Review Committee (SRC)

(taken from ISEF)

A Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is a group of qualified individuals that is responsible for evaluation of student research, certifications, research plans and exhibits for compliance with the Rules and pertinent laws and regulations. Local SRCs may be formed to assist the ISEF Affiliated Fair SRC in reviewing and approving projects. The operation and composition of the local and ISEF-Affiliated Fair SRCs must full comply with the International Rules.

Any proposed research in the following areas must be reviewed and approved **BEFORE** experimentation:

- **Projects involving vertebrates**
- **Projects involving potentially hazardous biological agents**

Human studies reviewed and approved by a properly constituted Institutional Review Board (IRB) do not have to be viewed by the SRC until the Fair competition.

All projects must be reviewed and approved by the SRC after experimentation and shortly before competition in an ISEF-affiliated fair competition. Projects requiring preapproval which were conducted at a regulated research institution and which were reviewed and approved by the proper institution must also be reviewed by the Fair SRC for rules compliance.

An SRC committee must consist of a minimum of **three** persons. The committee must include:

- a biomedical scientist
- a science teacher
- at least one other person

(I suggest that the adult advisor not serve on the SRC reviewing that project. I also suggest that the principal of your school be aware of any questionable projects.)

SRC Committee examines projects for the following:

- Evidence of literature research
- Evidence of proper supervision
- Use of accepted and appropriate research techniques
- Completed forms, signatures and dates showing maximum one year duration of research and preapproval dates (when needed)
- Evidence of search for alternative to animal use
- Humane treatment of animals
- Compliance with rules and laws governing human and animal research
- Compliance with rules regarding potentially hazardous biological agents
- Documentation of substantial expansion for continuation projects
- Compliance with the ISEF ethics statement

Forming an Institutional Review Board (IRB)

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) is a committee that must evaluate the potential physical and/or psychological risk of research involving human subjects. All proposed research human research must be reviewed and approved by an IRB before experimentation begins. **This includes any surveys or questionnaires to be used in a project.**

This committee should be established at the school level and consist of **three** members. The IRB must include:

- A science teacher
- A school administrator, preferably a principal
- A person who is knowledgeable and capable of evaluating physical and/or psychological risk involved in a given study such as a physician, a registered nurse, a psychiatrist, or a social worker.



Registration Data Form for a Local SRC/IRB

Send to: Tri-State Science & Engineering Fair Scientific Review Committee
c/o Shelly Blunt, Co-Director
University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, IN 47712

From: School Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PART A

Our school does NOT plan to form a local SRC/IRB this year and will instead submit all required plans and required certificates to the Tri-State Science & Engineering Fair’s SRC at least 2 weeks prior to the start of research for review and approval.

Name of Local School Science Fair Coordinator Signature

(please print)

OR

PART B

Our school has formed a combined local school SRC/IRB and the following individuals have agreed to review applicable projects to assure compliance with the Tri-State Science & Engineering Fair and ISEF rules:

1. Science Teacher (not participating in the Tri-State Science & Engineering Fair):
Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

2. School Administrator:
Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

3. Social Scientist (psychology/nursing/social work):

Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

4A. Medical Doctor:

Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

OR

4B. Biomedical Scientist (Ph.D., DVM, DDS, DO):

Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

AND

Registered Nurse:

Name _____ Position _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature: _____ SRC/IRB Chair? Yes No

TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

SRC Protocol Approval Form

Project Number _____

_____ Correctable Violation

A. May be conditionally approved upon proper submission of the following essential items (see “ESSENTIAL CERTIFICATIONS” below).

B. Correction must be made and resubmitted prior to project set up.

_____ Non-correctable Violation – due to ISEF Rules and/or the following reason(s):

ESSENTIAL CERTIFICATIONS:

_____ Abstraction (International Rules, p. 32)

_____ (1) Checklist for Adult Sponsor

_____ (1A) Research Plan

_____ (1B) Approval Form

_____ (1C) Registered Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form

_____ (2) Qualified Scientist Form

_____ (3) Designated Supervisor Form

_____ (4A) Human Subjects Form

_____ (4B) Informed Consent Form

_____ (5) Nonhuman Vertebrate Animal Form

_____ (6) Human/Animal Tissue Form

COMMON ERRORS:

_____ Research Plan (1A) requires a TYPED SECTION (See p.34 #9). A Biography, too!

_____ IRB approval is required PRIOR to beginning some experimentation (Rules – pp 11).

_____ SRC or IRB approval PRIOR to experimentation is required ONLY for some projects.
(See Form (1A) Item #8, p.34 to determine if your project requires PRIOR approval.)

_____ ALL PROJECTS require FINAL SRC APPROVAL just PRIOR to completion.
(This can be done immediately prior to set up on the date of the fair judging.)

_____ Be sure that all requested DATES are indicated, all required SIGNATURES are inserted on the proper lines and that dates are PRIOR to experimentation when needed.

COMMENTS:

Allison Grabert, Chairperson
Scientific Review Committee
Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair