

*State Science and  
Engineering Fair of Florida*

**2008-2009  
RULES  
SUPPLEMENT**

*To the  
International Science &  
Engineering Fair  
Rules*

# 2008-2009 FSSEF OFFICIAL RULES SUPPLEMENT

The intent of this supplement is to reduce the chance of a student *failing to qualify* for either the *State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida, (SSEF)*, or the *International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)*. In some cases these *SSEF Rules* are more restrictive than the *ISEF Rules*.

It is the responsibility of the **Regional Science & Engineering Fair Directors, Scientific Review Committees, and Institutional Review Boards** to develop a complete knowledge and understanding of the *ISEF & SSEF Rules*. The **Regional Director** *MUST* make every effort to insure that each person and committee involved in science research or intending to participate in an affiliated science fair receive copies of both *ISEF & SSEF Rules Supplement* documents and *follow ALL the rules* outlined within them.

All of the RULES, REGULATIONS, and PROCEDURES of the *ISEF* are in effect at each affiliated regional science fair and at the *SSEF of Florida*.

**If anyone at the school or regional fair level needs to consult with someone concerning ISEF Rules or this SSEF Rules Supplement they are encouraged to contact:**

**Nancy Besley, Executive Director  
Florida Foundation for Future Scientists  
University of Central Florida / C.E.C.S  
PO Box 160160  
Orlando, FL 32816  
(407) 207 – 7839 x2502  
[nancy.besley@ocps.net](mailto:nancy.besley@ocps.net)**

Or

**Sharon Suits, Chairperson  
SSEF Scientific Review Committee  
(863) 462-5000 ext#283  
[SuitsS@okee.k12.fl.us](mailto:SuitsS@okee.k12.fl.us) or [ssuits@embarqmail.com](mailto:ssuits@embarqmail.com)**

Or

**Kim Rex, Chairperson  
SSEF Safety and Display Committee  
(863) 291-5320  
[kim.rex@polk.fl.net](mailto:kim.rex@polk.fl.net).**

## **SAFETY AND DISPLAY - Electricity**

There will be *NO* electricity available for display lighting purposes. Electricity will only be available on a pre-paid fee basis and may only be used if it a necessary part of the experimental process.

### Abstract

All abstracts for the 2009 SSEF **MUST** be on the *approved 2009 SSEF Abstract form* which is available at [www.floridassef.net](http://www.floridassef.net).

### Bibliography

- If a student uses procedures taken from a published study, laboratory standards, or equipment manual, a complete citation (see Formatting Guide on [www.floridassef.net](http://www.floridassef.net)) **MUST** be included with the *Research Plan*, or the procedure **MUST** be written in complete detail into the research plan.
- If a student uses humans in their project a reference to the protection of human subjects must be cited in their bibliography.

### Non-Human Vertebrates

- If the project involves use of non-human vertebrates the 2009 SSEF **MORTALITY REPORT MUST** be submitted along with all other required forms to the Regional and State SRCs whether or not any deaths occurred. This form is available from the FFFS website at [www.floridassef.net](http://www.floridassef.net) or [www.fff@ucf.edu](mailto:www.fff@ucf.edu).
- For all projects using vertebrates the bibliography **MUST** include an animal care reference (see Formatting Guide on [www.floridassef.net](http://www.floridassef.net)).

### Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents

- For **ALL** projects involving potentially hazardous biological agents, a detailed description of *aseptic techniques* utilized and *disposal methods for media and cultures MUST be included in the Research Plan*. The only acceptable methods of disposal are those outlined on page 21(PHBA #10) of the 2009 ISEF rules or the following 2 options:
  - a) the ISEF SRC has approved the use of the CDC method of 10% household bleach concentration in lieu of a 10% concentration of sodium hypochlorite; or
  - b) an approved use of the institutions biohazard disposal procedure with detailed documentation.These procedures must be thoroughly **outlined in the Research Plan or cited in the Bibliography**.
- For all projects using PHBAs the bibliography **MUST** include a **standard procedures reference**.
- A student researcher utilizing any organism classified above BSL1 or procedures requiring facilities above a BSL1 must submit a Facilities and Operations Assessment form ([www.floridassef.net](http://www.floridassef.net)) and may be interviewed by the SSEF SRC prior to qualifying for participation in the SSEF.

### Use of Hazardous Substances, Equipment, or Procedures

- Projects involving the use of *hazardous chemicals, activities, or devices MUST* be reviewed by the local SRC prior to experimentation.
- Contact the related state agency for documented permission and legal requirements.
- When potentially hazardous chemicals are being used in the research corresponding **MSDS** citations **MUST** be made in the Bibliography for any substance classified by OSHA as a potential health or physical hazard (see the FLINN SCIENTIFIC catalog or [www.flinnsci.com](http://www.flinnsci.com)).

### Collection of Organisms or Artifacts

- Any project involving **collection of protected organisms**, whether plants or animals, **MUST** include documentation from appropriate governmental agencies in their paperwork submission to the SRC.
- Projects involving **archeological** or **paleontological** excavations **MUST** be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the state organization or governmental agency responsible for oversight of such procedures. This documentation must be submitted with other required paperwork to the SRC.
- Precautions must be taken and documented when collecting plants due to potential toxicity. An explanation of precautions to be taken and a potential treatment plan must be outlined in the students procedures.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

- Animal specimen collection:*** Melissa Tucker, Fla. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
(386) 758 – 0525 ext. 114 [melissatucker@myfwc.com](mailto:melissatucker@myfwc.com)
- Plant specimen collection:*** Richard Weaver, Division of Plant Industry, (352) 372 -3505 ext 401  
State Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services [weaverr@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:weaverr@doacs.state.fl.us)
- Paleontological collection:*** Florida Fossil Permit <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>
- Archaeological collection:*** Florida's Unmarked Burial Law  
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/archaeology/FS872/> or <http://www.cr.nps.gov/linklaws.htm>