

**State Science and
Engineering Fair of Florida**

2011-12

RULES

SUPPLEMENT

**To the
International Science &
Engineering Fair
Rules**

2011-12 SSEF of Florida OFFICIAL RULES SUPPLEMENT

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 **Intel 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:

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

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

Dan Thomas, Chairperson
SSEF Logistics Committee
(863) 462-5288
Thomasde@okee.k12.fl.us

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

- **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.

- **Abstracts**

All abstracts for the 2012 SSEF *MUST* be on either the *official 2012 ISEF Abstract form* (using only SSEF categories) or on the *approved 2012 SSEF Abstract form* which is available at 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) *MUST* be included with the *Research Plan*, otherwise 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 2012 SSEF *MORTALITY REPORT MUST* be submitted along with all other required forms to the Regional and State SRC whether or not any deaths occurred. This form is available from the FFFS website at www.floridassef.net .
- For all projects using vertebrates the bibliography *MUST* include an animal care reference (see Formatting Guide on www.floridassef.net).

- **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents**

- **PROJECTS INVOLVING BSL2 ORGANISMS MAY NOT BE PERFORMED BY JUNIOR DIVISION RESEARCHERS.**
- For **ALL** projects involving potentially hazardous biological agents, a detailed description of *aseptic techniques* and *disposal methods for media and cultures MUST be included in the Research Plan*. The only acceptable methods of disposal are those outlined in the 2012 ISEF rules or 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 as BSL2 or procedures requiring facilities above a BSL1 **must** submit a Facilities and Operations Assessment form (www.floridassef.net) and BSL2 Safety Checklist 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).

- **Collection of Organisms or Artifacts**

- Any project involving **collection of protected/regulated organisms**, whether plants or animals, *MUST* include documentation from appropriate governmental agencies in their paperwork submission to the SRC. Collection of aquatic animals or marine plants should be made under supervision of a holder of the state's educator's Aquatic Collection Permit.

- Students planning to conduct research involving “listed” invasive plants (any plant found on the chart at <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm> that has ANY letter under the “gov list” column) MUST have or be working under a permit issued by the FDACS Division of Plant Industry. Appropriate disposal methods for these plants MUST be listed in the research plan. Aquatic plants should be frozen for at least 24 hours or dried completely before being disposed of in the household garbage. Other invasive plants should be sealed in plastic bags before being disposed of in the household garbage. **NEVER** compost or dispose of invasive plants with landscaping waste.
- 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 student’s procedures.
- Non-native animals **MUST NOT** be released, even if they were caught in the wild. BEFORE starting a project involving non-native animals (example - Cuban tree frogs), contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for appropriate disposal techniques (remember, student researchers cannot euthanize vertebrates).
- 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.

CONTACT RESOURCES:

Animal specimen collection: Melissa Tucker, Fla. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
(386) 758 – 0525 ext. 114 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

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>

Marine fishing regulations (covers collection of fish, invertebrates, algae and seagrasses):
<http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/regulations/>

Freshwater fishing regulations: <http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/freshwater/regulations/>

Invasive plant list: <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>

NOTE: Any plant on this list that has ANY letter under the “gov list” column may not be possessed, transported, cultured etc. without a permit from the FDACS Division of Plant Industry (see contact under “Plant specimen collection”.)

Non-native animal lists: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/invasive-species/>

Educator Aquatic Specimen Collecting permit: <http://www.fmsea.org/events/default.html#workshops>