

OSSEF Display & Safety Regulations

General Requirements

The OSSEF Display and Safety Committee is the final authority on display and safety issues for projects approved by the SRC to compete in the OSSEF. Occasionally, the OSSEF Display and Safety Committee may require students to make revisions in their display to conform to display and safety regulations. 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 Regulations

The following regulations must be adhered to when a student exhibits a project at OSSEF.

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 in or 76 cm

Width (side to side): 48 in or 122 cm

Height (floor to top): 108 in or 274 cm

At the OSSEF, 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 provided base is used, it becomes part of the project and must not itself exceed the allowed dimensions nor may the table plus any part of the project exceed the allowed dimensions.

At the OSSEF, any project with a component that will be demonstrated must be demonstrated only within the confines of the Finalist's booth. When not being demonstrated, the component plus the project must not exceed allowed dimensions.

DO NOT STAND ON TABLES!

Position of Project

Display boards are to be placed toward the back of the table. Freestanding displays are to be positioned against a designated wall.

Required to Be Visible and Displayed at the OSSEF

1. Completed Safety and Display Set-up Approval Form) — Received on-site at the Fair
2. Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form(1C) — if applicable
3. Continuation Projects Form (7) — if applicable

Required to Be at the Project But Not on Displayed at the OSSEF

All forms required for Scientific Review Committee approval including, but not limited to Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Human Subjects (4), do not have to be displayed as part of the project but must be available in the booth to be viewed by a judge or other OSSEF officials. In addition, the Display & Safety committee requires a photograph/video release form signed by the human subject for visual images of humans (other than the Finalist) displayed as part of the project. These forms and any informed consents forms should not be displayed.

Informed Consent Forms are 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.

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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."

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

1. 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 Display and Safety Committee or fair director. The decision made is final.
2. It has a credit line of origin ("Photograph taken by...", "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.)
3. 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.)
4. It is a photograph or visual depiction of the finalist
5. It is a photograph or visual depiction for which a signed consent form is at the project or in the booth.
6. Note: Images used as backgrounds must also be credited.

Handouts/Official Abstract at the OSSEF

The OSSEF Scientific Review Committee defines the "official abstract" as an UNALTERED original abstract submitted to the OSSEF Review Committee.

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.

Handouts for judges are limited to UNALTERED photocopies of the OSSEF/ISEF official abstract.

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 for Display at Project

1. Awards, medals, business cards, flags, logos, CDs, endorsements, and/or acknowledgments (graphic or written) unless the item(s) are an integral part of the project
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 OSSEF
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").]
5. An item in front of the provided tables.
6. Any apparatus deemed unsafe by the Scientific Review Committee, the Display and Safety Committee, or OSSEF (for example, large vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices, empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids or gases, pressurized tanks, etc.)

Other Display Regulations

No changes, modifications, or additions to projects may be made after approval by the Display and Safety Committee. Finalists who do not adhere to the signed agreement on the SRC/DS2 Form regarding this regulation will fail to qualify for competition.

A project data book and research paper are not required but are highly recommended.

If a project fails to qualify and is not removed by the finalist, Fair Director will remove the project in the safest manner possible but is not responsible for damage to the project.

Safety Regulations

The following regulations must be adhered to when a student exhibits a project at the OSSEF.

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

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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 Society for Science & the Public (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 OSSEF

1. Finalists requiring 120 Volt A.C. electrical circuits must provide a UL-listed 3-wire extension cord which is appropriate for the load and equipment.
2. Electrical power supplied to projects and, therefore, the maximums allowed for projects is 120 Volt, A.C., single phase, 60 cycle. Maximum circuit amperage/wattage available is determined by the electrical circuit capacities of the exhibit hall and may be adjusted on-site by the Display and Safety Committee. For all electrical regulations, "120 Volt A.C." is intended to encompass the corresponding range of voltage as supplied by the facility in which the ECOSEF is being held.
3. All electrical work must conform to the National Electrical Code or exhibit hall regulations. The guidelines presented here are general ones, and other rules may apply to specific configurations. The ECU electrician may review electrical work on any project.
4. All electrical connectors, wiring, switches, extension cords, fuses, etc. must be UL-listed and must be appropriate for the load and equipment. Connections must be soldered or made with UL-listed connectors. Wiring, switches, and metal parts must have adequate insulation and over-current safety devices (such as fuses) and must be inaccessible to anyone other than the Finalist. Exposed electrical equipment or metal that possibly may be energized must be shielded with a non-conducting material or with a grounded metal box to prevent accidental contact.
5. Wiring not part of a commercially available UL-listed appliance or piece of equipment must have a clearly visible fuse or circuit breaker on the supply side of the power source and prior to any project equipment.
6. There must be an accessible, clearly visible on/off switch or other means of disconnect from the 120 Volt power source.
7. Any lighting that generates considerable and excessive amounts of heat (high-intensity lamps, halogen lights, etc.) must be turned off when the student is not present.

Laser Requirements

Class 1 and 2 lasers may be used in a finalist's display for demonstration purposes only. Display and Safety Inspectors may revoke these privileges and require lasers to be removed if careless or indiscriminate use is observed. Class 3 and 4 are not permitted to be 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 OSSEF Director and/or the Display and Safety Committee reserve the right to remove any project for safety reasons or to protect the integrity of OSSEF 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.

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Other OSSEF Information and Requirements

1. Finalists or their adult sponsor must be present at their projects for the Display and Safety inspection.
2. No food or drinks are allowed in the Exhibit room.

Ethics Statement

Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. This includes plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own, and fabrication of data. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition in affiliated fairs and the Intel ISEF. OSSEF reserves the right to revoke recognition of a project subsequently found to have been fraudulent.

OSSEF 2014 Rules & Regulations modified from Intel ISEF 2014 International Rules,
www.societyforscience.org/isef*