

**2026 INTERNATIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR**

**Regeneron ISEF
(In Person)**

May 9 - 15, 2026

Phoenix, Arizona

USA



The International Rules for Pre-college Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs:

The *International Rules for Pre-college Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs* are published annually to support students doing independent research safely. The International Rules are the official rules of the Regeneron ISEF and students competing at Society-affiliated science fairs.

The purpose of these rules is to:

- protect the rights and welfare of the student researcher
- protect the rights and welfare of the human participant
- ensure adherence to federal regulations
- ensure use of safe laboratory practices
- protect the environment
- determine eligibility for competition in the Regeneron ISEF

Helpful Related Links

<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/2026/Rules/Book.pdf>

<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/2026/Forms/All.pdf>

<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/2026/Rules/FINAL-Rule-Modifications-for-2025-26.pdf>

<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/2026/Forms/2026-22-Categories.pdf>

https://ruleswizard.societyforscience.org/?_gl=1*k369xq*_ga*MjA0ODA3MTA1OS4xNzU5NzYxOTg5*_ga_BM0C2309P1*czE3NTk3NjIwMDAkbnzEkZzEkdDE3NTk3NjIzMzlkajYwJGwwJGgw

Helpful Related Links (continued)

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/categories-and-subcategories/>

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules/>

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/faq/>

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/overview-of-forms-and-dates/>

ELIGIBILITY

- Students from grades 9 to 12.
- High quality projects – keep an eye on your best projects and encourage the student(s) to consider ISEF.
- Experimentation and design projects only can be considered for ISEF (no study projects).

GET INVOLVED!

The ISEF is a great experience for participants to:

- Meet other international students (about 1800 finalists from 80 countries)
- present their projects in what can be considered as the “Science Fair Olympiad”.
- be judged by high profile Scientists and Nobel Laureates!
- win numerous awards.....more than \$4 million worth of awards for ISEF in total!

Certain projects, such as those involving:

- human subjects,
- vertebrate animals,
- PHBA's (potentially hazardous pathogenic agents) including microorganisms,
- recombinant DNA, and
- human or animal tissue
- that are done in research labs and other institutions, require the approval of a supervising scientist *before the experimentation starts.*

This “approval before experimentation” information must be sent to the MRSTF SRC using the ISEF forms. raffaata@sciencetech.ca

Sunday, December 15, 2025 is the first deadline for submitting ISEF proposals and required forms to the **MRSTF SRC** (raffaata@sciencetech.ca) for projects that require approval before experimentation begins.

What to submit to the MRSTF SRC:

- a research plan with experimental details and procedures
- risk assessment form (MRSTF)
- the forms that need to be signed by the research supervisor (mentor/scientist), the Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), the Student Checklist (1A), the Approval Form (1B) and the Risk Assessment Form (3)
- a draft of the abstract.

Sunday, February 15, 2026 is the second and final deadline for submitting ISEF proposals to SRC for projects that require approval before experimentation begins.

- This 2nd deadline may be needed in case the research scientist is away or the project started early in 2026.
- **Potential ISEF projects, *that need approval before experimentation begins*, cannot be considered for ISEF if they do not meet the final Sunday, Feb 15, 2026 deadline.**

Risk Assessment Form

- A project that is done at home or at school must have a supervising adult (teacher) and the risks involved must be assessed.
- To help with this procedure, a *Risk Assessment Form*
<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/Apps/Forms/3-Risk-Assessment.pdf> is provided. Concern for the students' safety is the priority. Safety protocol of the recognized institution has to be provided, too.
- If a teacher recognizes an ISEF level project then, based on the risk assessment form, have the students fill out the appropriate ISEF FORMS in case the project is chosen for ISEF at the MRSTF.
- In fact, it is recommended that ALL projects fill out this form so that you do not miss out on those “really good projects” that may become eligible for the ISEF at the MRSTF but can't go because the necessary forms have not been filled out.

- At the risk of repeating what was said before, it is of utmost importance that participants know that *final MRSTF SRC Approval is needed for ISEF participation*. **This happens after the project wins at the MRSTF in March and ranks among the top 15 projects.**
- The MRSTF SRC has the obligation to sign off on all projects that win at the MRSTF and are chosen to go on to ISEF 2026.
- This means that ALL required FORMS must have been completed according to [The 2026 International Rules for Pre-college Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs](#), properly dated and signed.

- For any questions and inquiries about the application process, forms, etc., please email raffaata@sciencetech.ca

Important Notice

- Please share with your students and encourage them to participate.

Get SRC feedback even if you have a design project that does not require pre-approval. This will help you prepare well for both MRSTF & ISEF

- We are there and always ready to help