



LOUISVILLE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIRS, Inc.

# **Louisville Regional Science Fairs News Update: August 2008**

Janine R. Mura, Newsletter Editor

Visit LRSF on the Web at [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org)

## **Another annual Fair Cycle begins!**

**Louisville Regional Science Fairs – March 14, 2009**

*Swain Activities Center, University of Louisville, Belknap Campus*

**Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair – March 28, 2009**

*Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY*

**59th Annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**

*Reno, Nevada – May 10-15, 2009*

### **Inside This Issue**

<i>Welcome from the Fair Director</i>	1	<i>Rule Changes and Modifications for 2009</i>	2
<i>Results from the 2008 Intel ISEF in Atlanta</i>	1	<i>Additional Guidance from the Fair Director</i>	3-4

### **Welcome from the Fair Director**

Hello to all, and welcome to our August issue of the LRSF Newsletter. This issue is tailored to our valued teachers who have participated in the LRSF in 2007 and/or 2008.

TEAM KENTUCKY Finalists did well at this year's ISEF in Atlanta, GA. The 35 students, representing 6 regional fairs across the state and the Kentucky state fair, earned 8 awards.

Chenguang Mu from Ballard High School, whose project won first place in the LRSF Life Sciences Fair, Senior Division, won a Fourth Award in the Medicine and Health Science category at ISEF.

We thank all of the folks that helped us put on the Louisville Regional Science Fairs (LRSF) in March and those who accompanied the LRSF Finalists with us to the ISEF in Atlanta.

As our new Fair Cycle begins for 2009, there are a few changes and some information I want to share with you. I'll just jump right in on the following three pages.

Items of special note that are new for 2009 include adopting the **ISEF project categories**, **online project entry**, and a **"5 minute rule"** for formal project presentations.

Our Web site at [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org) will be revised and improved during the upcoming months. We'll keep you posted as new functions and updated content are in place. Please bear with us during this process.

I look forward to working with you this year and seeing you and your students at the 2009 LRSF.

Joel Gittelson (502) 454-4457

**To find out about ISEF Rule Changes for 2009, check out page 2.**

## ***Rule Changes and Modifications for 2009***

The ISEF Project Categories have not changed this year. **Note: The Project Categories at the 2009 LRSF will be the same as the ISEF categories, plus the Team Projects category.**

This year again there are a few changes in the ISEF Rules [copied here from the Society for Science and the Public (SSP) website]. The complete Rules and Guidelines can be found at the following link:

[http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/about/rules\\_regulations.asp](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/about/rules_regulations.asp)

We urge you to read and carefully study these rules. LRSF, and other Affiliated Fairs, will continue to operate by the ISEF Rules and Guidelines.

---

### **Changes and Modifications for 2008 – May 2009**

#### **Human Subjects:**

- Ingestion, tasting, smelling, application of a substance or exposure to any potentially hazardous materials is an example of an activity containing more than minimal risk for studies involving human subjects. See page 14.

#### **Vertebrate Animals:**

- Certain studies involving behavioral observations of animals are exempt from prior SRC review. See page 17, #11.
- Research conducted at a regulated research institution involving nutritional deficiency, ingestion, inoculation or exposure to unknown or potentially hazardous materials or drugs is permitted to proceed only to the point where the first sign of the deficiency or effect appear. See page 19, #4.

#### **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents:**

- Frozen tissue is to be treated the same as fresh tissue.
- Form 3 is no longer required for studies involving certain microorganisms. See page 21, #12.

#### **Hazardous Chemicals, Activities or Devices:**

- Clarification of rules regarding firearms and explosives. See page 26, #1.

#### **Form and Other Changes:**

- The name of Form 6A has been expanded to include the term “Risk Assessment.”
- “Science educator” replaces “science teacher” for membership on IRB’s and SRC’s.

Source: [http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/about/rules\\_regulations.asp](http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/about/rules_regulations.asp)

***For additional points of guidance from the Fair Director, see pages 3 and 4.***

## Additional Guidance from the Fair Director

- 1) New LRSF “5 Minute Rule” for Project Presentations.** Beginning with the 2009 fair, students competing in the Louisville Regional Science Fairs must complete their formal project presentations within 5 minutes.

Teachers need to stress this with their students so the students will know to develop and practice 5 minute project presentations. After 5 minutes judges may begin asking the student questions that they may have.

Judges will also be instructed to limit formal project presentations to no more than five minutes. Do not let your student get cut off before she/he has a chance to be heard. Your school science fair competition is not too early to expose your students to this requirement.

This rule is being implemented to be sure that each student and project is given equal time "at bat". We have only 2 ½ hours of judging time available and some categories will have many projects. Judges must move on if they have many projects to review.

- 2) Rules Wizard.** Last year we suggested that each student include a printout of the ISEF Rules Wizard results with their LRSF application materials. Our SRC found this very helpful.

**This year, it is MANDATORY that a Rules Wizard printout be provided.** Applications without the Rules Wizard printout could potentially be held up because of this.

- 3) Research Plan.** The most critical error encountered in submitted paperwork for our 2008 fair was the apparent misunderstanding of the difference between an “ABSTRACT” and a “RESEARCH PLAN”.

Please help your students with this. Also, an actual student written Research Plan must be submitted with any required Pre-Application as well as application for the fair early in 2009.

A well written research plan will help the student focus their thoughts on their project details. It also tells our SRC what you intend to do. Without this, approval to proceed cannot be given.

The Rules and Guidelines include a “Research Plan” document intended to describe a proper research plan. Our SRC wants to see your written plan and NOT the ISEF document.

The ISEF Web site has some educational information about both Abstracts and Research Plans.

- 4) Online Entry.** LRSF is intending to have an online entry system available for the 2009 LRSF application process. The plan is to have each student go on-line to fill in the Application Form and submit it. This has the potential of eliminating data entry errors by our people.

The details and instructions will be available by mid-January 2009. Paper copies of all documents will still be required. This includes required original approval signatures as well as other critical and ISEF required information.

In addition, the Teacher’s Tally Form will have a place for the responsible lead teacher at each school to provide a “non-school” email address and phone number. While we’re not expecting to have another snow event in 2009, we did learn a lesson when we tried contacting teachers on Friday evening after our fair was postponed. Fortunately, most of you picked this up from the TV news media.

*(continued on page 4)*

## ***Additional Guidance from the Fair Director (cont'd)***

- 5) ISEF Rules.** For entry of projects into the LRSF in March 2009, the ISEF Rules and Requirements will be enforced. It is suggested that local school science fairs adopt and follow the same ISEF rules. This will help assure that projects gain easy LRSF SRC approval.

In particular, attention should be given to the prohibition of various substances at the exhibit stations and the need for a printed abstract on display.

- 6) Project Application.** All projects being entered in the 2009 LRSF from each school must be submitted by **the sponsoring teacher** from that school and be accompanied by a single Teacher's Tally form submittal.

Each project application must include a 2009 LRSF Application Form (available at [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org)) AND all of the appropriate forms for entry into the ISEF (available at <http://www.sciserv.org/isef/document/form2009.pdf>).

The ISEF forms can be filled out online and then printed. This is the preferred way and will allow for better legibility. More info will be available on our Web site later in the year.

- 7) SRC (Scientific Research Committee) and IRB Institutional Review Board).** The Rules and Guidelines define the terms SRC and IRB, their functions and member qualifications and requirements. Participating schools are strongly encouraged to have their own active SRC (& IRB if projects requiring an IRB approval are to be done at the school).

This is for the purpose of reviewing projects to be exhibited at school science fairs. We are aware of several area schools that already have these groups or are now forming them.

For those who are not able to have their own SRC, the LRSF can help. We are currently in the process of supplementing information on our Web site at [www.LRSF.org](http://www.LRSF.org) to explain our process and provide the required form/s. Essentially, we can provide SRC approvals.

IRB approvals will still be required from the institution at which the research work is to be conducted. For help or additional information, please contact me.

- 8) Pre-Approval.** *For projects requiring pre-approval, it is strongly suggested that the research proposal and the submittal forms be written in the "future" tense. SRC's have great concern when verbiage suggests that pre-approval was actually obtained after the project research had already been started. The LRSF SRC can be of help with such pre-approvals.*

You can contact us if you have questions and we will work to get answers. In addition, Page 3 of the Rules and Guidelines give the contact information for the good people at the ISEF SRC who work hard to adopt and maintain rules for Science Fairs. They are also available for help with the tougher issues.