Display & Safety Regulations

The following is a summary of common display and safety issues. For any situation not addressed here, refer to the Official ISEF Rules and Regulations: https://student.societyforscience.org/international-rules-pre-college-science-research

### Maximum Size of Project

- **Depth** (front to back): 30 inches
- **Width** (side to side): 48 inches
- **Height** (tabletop to top): 72 inches

GSEF projects **must** be exhibited on the tabletop. No floor exhibits. No part of a GSEF exhibit may be placed on the floor or under the table. All project materials, supports, equipment, and demonstrations must be contained on the tabletop. Displays do not have to be trifold boards; pull-ups and pop-ups are allowed if within allowed dimensions.

### Abstract

The complete, unaltered 8.5x11 Official Abstract Form is the only abstract that may be exhibited. It must be displayed vertically, preferably by taping it to hang from the front edge of the table. It is acceptable, but not preferred, to incorporate the form on the display board or to stand it in a document frame (no glass). GSEF Official Abstract Forms do not need to be stamped or embossed. **You may not have a section titled “Abstract” on your board unless the section contains only the Official Abstract Form (not just the paragraph from the form).**

### Other Forms to Tape to Table

If your research required the following forms, they should be taped to the front of your table:

- Form 1C Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting
- Form 7 Continuation Project

### Binder

Arrange **photocopies** of all other required forms in numeric order in a three-ring binder placed on the table. Required forms include, but are not limited to, Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan and Approval Form (1B), etc. Optional items such as a research paper may be included if desired. **Do not bring originals to GSEF** – keep them in a safe place.

### Log Book

Although ISEF regulations no longer require a bound logbook, judges like to see this item and it is highly recommended. Your logbook should be on your table.

### Human Subject Consent Form 4

When human participants are involved in a project, their consents (Form 4, part 2) should be obtained but **not displayed**, as they are confidential. Place a note in your binder stating where these forms are being kept.

### Handouts: Only Official Abstract Allowed

The only handout allowed is an **UNALTERED** photocopy of the complete 8.5x11 Official Abstract Form. You are permitted (but not required) to bring up to 20 unaltered photocopies of your Official Abstract form to GSEF to distribute to judges. GSEF will **not** make these copies for you. You may not distribute any other items or forms of information.

### Continuations

A project that is a continuation of a previous year’s work must be about the student’s new work for this year, with only minimal reference to the previous research. The project title or subtitle may mention which year the project is; e.g., “Year 2.” Longitudinal studies may present only conclusionary data from prior years. Continuation projects must have Form 7 taped to front of table.

### Other Items on Tabletop

Other items on tabletop may include a photo album of the work, previous logbooks for Continuation projects, and items that are necessary to demonstrate the science if the board and binder are not sufficient.
DISPLAY & SAFETY REGULATIONS  PG. 2

Photographs, Images, Charts

Credits: You must cite the source of every photo, graph, chart or other image used, including those made by the student and those taken from the internet, journals and books. Citation examples: “All photographs by Jon Kim,” or “Image from www.wherever.com.” Put the info right by the photo/item, or, if all images were taken or created by the exhibitor or are from the same source, one clearly visible credit line on the poster or on a “tent” on the table is sufficient.

Content: Photos or images on board must not be deemed insensitive, offensive or inappropriate (e.g., no surgery, necrosis or dissection) by any member of the SRC, the Display and Safety Committee or GSEF staff. The decision made by any one of these groups is final.

Who can be in photos: Photos/videos of people other than the finalist are not allowed unless a signed photograph release form is available at the project (see below).

Photograph/Image Release Form

A photograph or video release form must be signed by each person (other than the finalist) shown in any photo or video. If the person is under 18, parent or guardian signature is required. Sample text: “I consent to the use of this visual image involving my participation/my child’s participation in this research.” Keep these releases in your binder. Note: There is no specific official form for this purpose.

Mentor’s Work / Acknowledgements

The mentor’s name and institution must not appear anywhere on the display but can be mentioned at the end of the optional research paper in the binder. A mentor’s research 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 as background to clarify what the student’s own research did and didn’t cover and must clearly indicate that it was not part of the student’s work.

Replacement of Disqualified Items

If any GSEF representative requests that an object or item be removed from a display and that item is returned to the exhibit without specific permission from the GSEF Director, the project may be disqualified.

Audio-Visual or Multi-Media

At GSEF, electronic displays, e.g., PowerPoints or videos, are discouraged unless they are necessary to demonstrate the science. Judges are not required to view them, and equipment theft is always a possibility. Displays must be under 30 seconds, with 15 seconds preferred. This limitation does not refer to actual content of programs in the Computer Science category.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Electricity at Project

If you want electricity at your table, you must submit the Electricity Request Form and fee with your registration. Electricity will be approved only for projects that require it to demonstrate the research (e.g., some Computer Science and Engineering projects). If electricity is approved, an outlet will be provided within nine feet of the exhibit. The exhibitor must bring an approved extension cord.

Bulb and fixture must not pose risk of injury if touched. Cool LED light is preferred. Incandescent, halogen and other warm light sources must be caged, encased, or otherwise protected so that 1) it is not possible to burn any person or item with any part of the apparatus, bulb, fixture, or casing, and 2) no glass can escape if the bulb is accidentally broken.

Lasers

Lasers may be used only when they follow the Official ISEF Rules and Regulations. Display and Safety Inspectors may revoke the privilege and require lasers to be removed if any careless or indiscriminate use is observed. Offenses may result in revoking the right to participate.

Stability

All parts of the exhibit must be stable. Particular care must be taken with tall or heavy displays to ensure that they cannot tip over onto participants, judges, or guests.

Other Safety Policies

GSEF staff, and/or the Display and Safety Committee reserve the right to remove any item or entire project at their discretion for safety reasons or to protect the integrity of the GSEF and its rules and regulations.

Laptop/Tablet Suggestion (not a regulation)

If you are bringing a laptop or other valuable electronic device, consider investing in a security device such as a locking cable system to secure your item at the exhibit. GSEF is not responsible for theft or damage to any exhibits or parts of exhibits, including electronic devices.
## PER SAFETY REGULATIONS

The following items **cannot** be displayed at a GSEF project:

- Living or dead organisms, including fungi, animals, plants and microorganisms
- Taxidermy specimens, parts, pelts
- Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals or animal parts, including cells
- Human or animal food of any kind
- Human or animal parts or body fluids (including bones, urine, bloodstains)
- Plant materials including potpourri, grain, bird-seed, spices, leaves, flowers, logs, branches, etc. Plastic or other inorganic replicas or photographs should be used instead. (Exception: manufactured construction materials used in building the project or display)
- Soil, sand, rock, minerals, or waste samples, even if fully encased in acrylic
- All chemicals, including water.
- All liquids, gels, powders, and creams, such as shampoo, sunscreen, salt, soap, agar, etc.
- Dry ice or other sublimating solids
- Hazardous substances or devices, including poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, martial arts weapons, ammunition, etc.
- Sharp items, including syringes, needles, pipettes, nails, knives
- Flames or highly flammable materials
- Glass or glass objects unless deemed by the Display and Safety Committee to be an integral and necessary part of the project (e.g., glass that is an integral part of a computer screen
- Hammering, pinching, or pounding devices that are not fully immobilized, pulleys or hinges with pinch points, etc.
- Batteries with open-top cells
- Any apparatus or item deemed unsafe by any member of the SRC, the Display and Safety Committee, judges, or the GSEF staff, (e.g., vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices, pressured or empty tanks that previously contained combustibles, etc.

## PER DISPLAY REGULATIONS

The following items **cannot** be displayed at a GSEF project:

- Acknowledgments, endorsements, thanks.
- Awards, medals, flags, logos (including school and university logos).
- Give-away items such as flyers, pens, postcards, CDs, business cards, etc. You may give out unaltered copies of your Official Abstract Form.
- Contact information of any finalist or their school: email or postal address, social media address, QR code, telephone, business card, fax number, or contact URL (URLs used solely to cite the sources of photos are permitted).
- Active Internet or email connections.
- For Continuation projects, no prior years’ written material or visual depictions on the display board. However, previous years’ logbooks and binders may be on the table if desired and if clearly marked, e.g. “Year I.” The project title should mention which year the project is, e.g., “Year Two”.

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