



## Use of Human Subjects in Science Project Research

Does your Regional Science Fair have projects involving the participation of human subjects? If you do, then it is important that you understand the YSF Canada policies governing this type of research by elementary and high school students and the responsibilities of Regional Science Fairs to review projects for compliance with these rules.

### Use of Human Subjects

All human participants or subjects in scientific research must give Informed Consent, which comprises consent, confidentiality and the right to withdraw. Class surveys of attitudes, beliefs or skill tests, such as "Do my classmates remember better if they read listening to jazz or hip hop may be termed Low Risk, and completion of the simple Approval of Low Risk Projects form (Form 4.1A) by the student's adult supervisor is usually sufficient to ensure that the appropriate ethical issues have been addressed. Be aware, however, that not all such surveys are low risk. For example, a survey to measure the Body Mass Index of class members could impact participants' self-esteem, and is therefore classified as High Risk.

All projects involving human subjects, other than survey and skill tests are High Risk and the more detailed forms (Forms 4.1B and 4.1C) must be completed and the indicated approval procedures must be followed.

For more information, including copies of the forms, a PDF version of the YSF Canada policy document 4.1.1 Use of Human Participants in Research is available for download from the web site at:

[www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/pdirectory4.aspx](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/pdirectory4.aspx)

A detailed presentation of the rules for the use of animals and the participation of humans was given at the CWSF 2004, and you can download the PowerPoint document on the Region Resources page at:

[www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/regionresources.aspx](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/regionresources.aspx)

Please distribute the YSF Canada rules on the use of human participants in science projects as widely as you can. You are encouraged to link your Regional Science Fair web site to the YSF Policy Directory or to the specific document. Help us to encourage Canada's young scientists to conduct ethical and sound research.

### A Reminder...

Each YSF-affiliated region is expected to set up a Regional Science Fair Ethics Committee – even if it is a Committee of one person – who will undertake to become knowledgeable in the rules and ethical issues surrounding student research. For more information, a PDF version of the YSF Canada policy document 3.1.1.3 Regional Science Fair Ethics Committees is available for download from the web site at:

[www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/pdirectory3.aspx](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca/Members/pdirectory3.aspx)

[www.ysf-fsj.ca](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca)

### Canada-Wide Science Fair 2005 British Columbia

A West Coast Experience  
15 - 22 May, 2005

[http://www.ysf-fsj.ca/Competitions/  
CWSF/Current/](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca/Competitions/CWSF/Current/)



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