1. All entries to the District Science Fair must come from sixth - twelfth grade students attending a school in the Irvine Unified School District. Entries must follow all Science Fair rules.

2. Each local school will select a specific number of projects to enter the District Science Fair.

3. Each entry for grade 6 must come from one individual student or a group of 2 students. For grades 7-12, individual projects or group projects are allowed. Group projects for students in Grades 7-12 are accepted for groups of 2 to 3 students. Any group project requires that each student in the group must be responsible for significant contributions to the project. Group projects for middle school students may be from students in grades 7 and/or 8. For high school, the students in the groups may be either all from a single grade, or from any combination of students in grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12.

4. Exhibits must include a project notebook. It should be neat, well-organized and displayed within the exhibit. The project notebook must include rough drafts. If work is done directly on the computer, all versions of each page must be included.

5. The work on the project should be done by the student. If any outside help or assistance is given, it must be described in the project notebook (example: advice from a local scientist, parental typing of the project notebook, help with building or setting up equipment, etc).

6. All measurements must use the metric system of measure when applicable. Use of standard units (inch, feet, etc.) will eliminate the student from being selected for the IUSD Science Fair.

7. For INQUIRY projects: Only one space will be provided for each exhibit. Exhibits must have outside measurements no greater than 3 feet wide by 1½ feet deep and 5 feet high.

8. For 6th grade RUBE GOLDBERG projects: Only one space will be provided for each exhibit. Exhibits must have outside measurements no greater than 3 feet wide by 1½ feet deep and 5 feet high.

9. Exhibits must be free-standing and constructed of durable material such as peg-board or heavy cardboard. If electrical hook-ups are needed, arrangements must be made at least one week before the Science Fair.

10. Certification Forms are required before beginning your project if the data includes experiments involving human subjects, hazardous materials, live vertebrate animals and/or vertebrate tissue sources.

11. No live animals may be displayed. Consider using photographs or drawings instead. If live animals are used in experiments, humane practices must be observed. A Certification of Humane Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animals is required.

12. Student safety is paramount. Any dangerous chemicals, drugs, machinery, or highly flammable materials or open flames may not be displayed at the Science Fair. All electrical equipment must conform to standard electrical safety laws. The district reserves the right to reject projects which are unsafe or unsuitable for display.
13. Students entering projects in the District Fair should be aware that although care will be taken, damage could possibly occur to projects during the time they are on display. The district will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

-OVER-

14. Projects may be entered in one of four categories:

**Scientific Inquiry: Biological Sciences:** Botany, agriculture, forestry, hydroponics, algae, plant genetics, photosynthesis. Zoology, animal genetics, animal ecology, physiology, animal physiology, anatomy, studies of invertebrates, birds, snakes, bacteriology, health, psychology, etc.

**Scientific Inquiry: Physical Sciences:** Physics, electronics, mathematics, computers, lasers, communications, optics, solid state. Chemistry, physical, organic, inorganic, materials, plastics, fuel, soil chemistry. Earth Science, space science, geology, geophysics, oceanography, geography, astronomy, astrophysics, etc.

**Group Projects:** 6th Grade Group Projects; 7th and 8th Grade Group Projects; 9th through 12th Grade Group Projects

**Rube Goldberg Machines (6th Grade Only)**

15. Scientific Inquiry Projects (individual and group) will be judged separately by grade level and by category; for example, 6th Grade Physical Science, 11th Grade Biological Science, etc. Group projects will be judged in three separate categories: Grade 6, Grade 7-8, and Grades 9-12.

16. Rube Goldberg Machines for grade 6 will be judged. **Rube Goldberg Machines are not eligible for the Orange County Science Fair.**

17. Students will be responsible for the set up and take down of their projects at **Irvine High School as follows: set up - Monday, February 22, 2016, 3:00 – 6:30 PM; take down - Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 8:00 PM (after the Awards Ceremonies.)**

18. Judging will take place on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Each student must be present for an oral interview with the judges – there are no assigned interview times! **Each student involved in a group project must also be present for the judging.**

19. No one may be in attendance during the judging except the student entering the project and the judges.

20. All decisions of the judges will be final. Entries will be judged in the following areas: knowledge of exhibit and related areas; accuracy displayed by the student; evidence of problem-solving through experimentation; and neatness and attractiveness of exhibit. **At the high school level the judges will give special attention to determining the degree of student involvement in projects performed as part of ongoing sponsored research in University or other laboratories.**

21. District Science Fair winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremonies scheduled for February 23, 2016 at the Irvine High School gym:

- **1st Awards Ceremony - 6:00-6:45pm:** All Biological Science Projects Grades 6-12. Also, all Group Projects Grades 7 – 12 regardless of topic.
- **2nd Awards Ceremony - 7:15-8:00pm:** All Physical Science Projects Grades 6 -12 and 6th Grade Rube Goldberg Machines.

22. **Orange County Science and Engineering Fair Information (OCSEF):**
Rube Goldberg Machines are not eligible to participate in the OCSEF!
This information is SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

If you plan on entering OCSEF, you must tell your science teacher. Your science teacher must approve your entry! Be sure to check OCSEF Rules & Regulations before beginning your project.

To be eligible for the Orange County Science & Engineering Fair (OCSEF), students must have participated in the IUSD Science Fair.

Students may enter OCSEF as an individual project, or they may enter as part of a team project with 2 or 3 members total.

- Team projects will be placed in the same categories as individual projects. Judges will have higher expectations for the originality, scientific value, and completeness of team projects done by 2 or 3 authors working together in comparison with the work done by one student.
- All work on team projects must be acknowledged; all team members must be present at the judging interview to be considered for category awards.
- We (IUSD) will limit 6th Grade Group Projects only to 2 students (not 2 or 3 as stated above).

OCSEF limits IUSD to 125 entrants. Projects selected to enter OCSEF will be determined based on the following criteria:

- Interest by the student in participating in OCSEF.
- Ribbon awarded at the IUSD District Science Fair.
  - Not ALL Blue Ribbon winners at the IUSD Science Fair will be selected to participate in OCSEF.
  - Red Ribbon winners at the IUSD Science Fair may be selected to participate in OCSEF.
  - Honorable Mention winners will NOT be eligible to be selected to participate in OCSEF unless we are unable to fill our 125 allocated entries from the Blue and Red Ribbon winners.
- Input from the student’s science teacher.

Registration for OCSEF takes place on-line. For rules, details and deadlines, please visit their website at: www.ocsef.org.