

**Platte Area
Chamber of Commerce
Sept. 30th 2023**



**Box Car Derby
& Car Show
Rules & Regulations**

Cars

OVERVIEW: First off, cars do NOT have to be official Soap Box Derby Racers or other kit-type car to compete. The top priority is SAFETY, but we want as many youth to participate as there is interest - we don't want this to get too expensive for the kids, teams, and parents.

With that said, here are the rules and requirements for all downhill racing CARS. See rules for DRIVERS on a separate page.

SIZE:

These are the minimum and maximum size requirements for a Soap Box Derby Race Car at this event:

- MAXIMUM Overall Length - 78 inches
- MAXIMUM Wheel Base - 63 inches
- Minimum Wheel Track Width - 30 inches
- MAXIMUM Wheel Track Width - 36 inches
- MAXIMUM Overall Width - 36 inches

A car must be appropriately sized for ALL drivers on the team, so that all drivers can sit in, steer, and brake safely, without too much stretching, or without cramping up.

BUMPER

Carts front bumpers need to be about 4 inches from the ground in order to be held by the ramp's launch pin.

SEAT AND SEAT BELT

All cars are required to have both a seat and a seat belt.

Each car must have an attached or incorporated seat and fixed backrest allowing driver to sit upright with feet forward (no head-first or laying-down driving positions)

The definition of a seat belt is any belt or strap that will secure the driver to the seat with little to no extra room. It must be securely attached to the car frame.

BRAKING

All cars are required to have a brake. It must be easily operated while steering the car – brakes that drag on the road surface MUST be faced with rubber (old tire tread works great)

Braking mechanism must be repeatable by the driver. No weight-based or “anchor-type” single-use braking systems are allowed. If you are not sure about your braking system, please ask before race day.

STEERING

All cars are required to have a means to steer and a means to limit steering. Steering shall be done with the feet and/or with the hands holding a rope or a mechanical steering device attached securely to the front axle support.

To safely limit turning radius, the maximum axle swing allowed is 2 5/8" measured from the center of the axle (straight line racing requires only minor steering correction).

AXLES

All cars are required to have axles that are fastened securely to an axle support - axles must be fixed and must not turn or rotate.

All Cars : Any bearings in the wheels MUST be replaced by bushings (or run direct on the axle).

WHEELS

All cars are required to have 4 steel-centered wheels that have bearings or bushings. Wheel size needs to be 4 to 12 inches tall and max of 4 inches wide.

RACING

General Rules about Racing:

- Gravity racing only. No pushing off. No power/drive/assist devices allowed.
- Cars are deemed to have crossed the finish line when the front nose / responder tag crosses the line.

DECORATION

Teams are encouraged to decorate their cars. Decorations cannot interfere with proper operation of the car or of the race and must fit within the size limits, specified above.

ADDED WEIGHT

Added weight to a car is strictly prohibited.

All components of the car must contribute to the frame, function, or safety features of the car.

Superfluous or decorative elements will be allowed at the discretion of Race Officials. Any components of the car deemed to be "Added Weight" by Race Officials must be removed in order for the car to pass inspection and race.

"BUILD"

It is strongly encouraged that Teams work together to build and decorate their cars.

Inherited cars and legacy cars (from previous races, soap box derbies) ARE allowed, as long as the above requirements have been met.

"Parent-built" cars are allowed, but come on, this is for the kids - have them help as much as they can to help make the car. That is part of the fun!

Drivers And Teams Rules and Regulations

Overview

Our first priority at the Soap Box Derby is that all racers are SAFE. These rules are in place for the safety of the drivers. In many cases, we have learned a number of best practices from other races, and are requiring them here our first year in an abundance of caution.

Teams

Ages: 7 - 12. Families can use the same car. Each team must have a minimum of one adult and one person over the age of 12 or a second adult.

Crew Members (adult and person over 12 or 2nd adult)

Two registered crew members must be present every time your team races (one at the start line, one at the finish line) in order for the team to race

Only registered crew members will be allowed into the starting gate, finish line, and race staging areas

FORMS

A completed and signed Talent Release Form and Permission Slip / Medical Release Form must be filed (in advance or at registration) for EACH driver on the team.

HELMETS

All drivers must wear a helmet (bike, ski, motorcycle helmets, football helmet). Not approved are: cosplay/anime homemade helmets, and trash can lids.

Drivers on the SAME team may share a helmet, provided it fits well for all drivers.

GLOVES

All drivers must wear gloves to race. Cars have been known to tip over, hands are the first to hit the pavement. It is strongly encouraged that the gloves are made of leather and are full-fingered, but all gloves will be accepted. NO knitted mittens.

All drivers must wear closed toed shoes to race. No flip-flops or other loosely worn shoes that may result in something being caught in the car while racing, or contribute to feet slipping off the axle / steering, or could result in a barefoot being dragged.

LONG PANTS

All drivers racing must wear long pants to race. If your car is enclosed or has a fairing covering most of your legs, pants are not a requirement. In addition to hands, a lot of skin scraping is on the legs. Denim jeans and other strong fabrics are encouraged. Stretchy fabrics are not. .

GLASSES

Safety and sunglasses are suggested for all racers. As it gets later in the day, sun can get in the eyes and make it difficult to see. Glasses are great because they also make your face more aerodynamic and look cool anyway. Goggles and helmet visors are also allowed.

Car Show

Entries of the car show do not have to be entered to race or meet the requirements for racing.

Racecars can be registered to race as well as in the car show.

Awards (for car show)

Most Creative

Coollest Paint Job

Best Detail

Strangest Shape

Funniest Car

