



RA SOAP BOX DERBY

Soap Box Derbies began in Dayton, Ohio when a news photographer was asked to cover a race of boy-built cars in his home community. The newsman liked the idea so well that he promoted it throughout the country.

The goals for the Soap Box Derby are to teach youngsters some of the basic skills of workmanship, the spirit of “doing your best” and the perseverance of continuing the project to its end.

Alabama RAs began Soap Box Derbies in the year 2000 as an outreach tool, a method of interesting boys in the Royal Ambassador program and to achieve the previous mentioned goals.

To make this event one that most anyone can enter, participants cannot spend more than \$200 on their car the first year. Hopefully, most of the cars will be from recycled parts. If anyone purchases wheels, plywood, etc., and donates it to the cause, that amount is still considered in the \$200. If items donated have been lying around (leftover from other uses), they can be considered as recycled and not included in the \$200. Another \$100 can be invested in the car after the first year, making the maximum investment up to \$300.



CAR AND RACE SPECIFICATIONS

1. Cars must have four wheels. The outside of the left wheel to outside of the right wheel must be 40 inches or less. Maximum wheel base is 6 feet. This is so it will fit on the ramp.
2. Braking system is **ESSENTIAL**. Braking must be to both rear wheels simultaneously – independent braking is dangerous in the speed event. Break must be foot controlled. Hand brakes are dangerous in that the driver may take both hands from the steering wheel to apply the brake.
3. **IMPORTANT RULE:** Car Height - for every inch of lower body height, the width from outside of one wheel to outside of the opposite wheel must be at least 4 X that height.

TO CHECK YOUR CAR: Measure from the ground to the lowest part of the frame. Multiply the number by 4. This gives you the minimum outside to outside width of the wheels.

EXAMPLE: The car has a 14 inch wheel and measures 7 inches from the lowest part of the frame to the ground. $7 \text{ inches} \times 4 \text{ inches} = 28 \text{ inches}$. The car must be at least 28 inches from the outside of the right wheel to the outside of the left wheel. (If the distance between the wheels is 36 inches wide, the car is well within the requirements.)

This rule will greatly reduce the chance of a rollover.

Maximum width of wheels is 40 inches. This is due to the width of the starting ramp.

4. The car must be able to start only by the force of gravity from an eight-foot ramp (sheet of plywood) elevated 16 inches (two concrete blocks) on one end. Make sure your car clears the ground enough to do this.
5. All cars must have bodywork without loose, sharp, or dangerous parts. The car must be enclosed to the point that the driver cannot fall out.
6. Occupants should wear: Helmets and shoes (no sandals). Motorcycle or batters helmets are better than bike or skating helmets because those have a tendency to slip down over the driver's eyes.

7. Steering must be done by driver's hands. Foot steering is dangerous in the speed event.
8. Once the race begins, all ballast (weight) must be permanently secured to the car. Weights may be removed for the push car race.
9. No motors, etc., allowed. The car must start and continue to roll only by the force of gravity.
10. Build your car with most any wheels, (except "Official Soapbox Derby" wheels) steering and body. For a winning car, work on style and weight distribution. Cars will be grouped by wheel size 10 inches and under, over 10 inches to 14 inches, over 14 inches. *SPECIAL NOTE: In the 2011 race we noticed the number of cars using the expensive "official soapbox derby" was growing. We researched the race results and noticed that those wheels gave an unfair advantage. To be fair to all, cars can no longer use those wheels.*
11. Expenditures per car must not exceed \$200 the first year. An additional \$100 may be invested in the car the second year. Thereafter, the total amount invested in the car must be less than \$300. Recycled parts are encouraged. Documentation of where parts were obtained and cost should be available to the race officials on day of registration, if requested.

PROCEDURE FOR THE TROPHY RACE AT A SOAPBOX DERBY

- The race officials have no way of knowing which cars should be in line under each category, so please be alert to the announcement by megaphone and sign.

HAVE YOUR CAR AND DRIVER IN PLACE AND READY TO GO!

- The “**OPEN RACE**” will run and then the “**TROPHY RACE**”.
- The **trophy race** will be decided by “best time”. Each run will be on a different lane.
- The car will run twice (you can change drivers); one on each lane. The best time of the two runs will count. As soon as the car is returned to the top, it should be placed in line (opposite lane).
- After the speed race, the car may proceed to the **obstacle course** and race. Each boy will run only one time in the obstacle course.
- Number of Runs:

Open Race – As many as needed and the time allows. Every boy gets one run.

Trophy Race – Two runs, one on each lane. Per age group, per car.

Obstacle Course – Wheel size is not considered.

Each car can be run by two people per age/grade classification. Run by 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc., not by Lad, Crusader, Challenger.

RA SOAPBOX DERBY

PERMISSION & MEDICAL HEALTH FORM

Before a boy can register and participate in the Soapbox Derby, this form must be read and signed by his parent or legal guardian.

SOAPBOX DERBY RACING IS AN ACTIVITY THAT CARRIES WITH IT THE RISK OF INJURY.

Parent or Guardian: Though every volunteer involved does not intend to do anything that will cause harm, sometimes accidents occur. With this in mind, it is YOUR responsibility to ask the questions and look over the equipment used in the derby to the point that YOU are willing to give YOUR son permission to participate.

This permission means you will not hold any Derby volunteer and official responsible beyond what they would do for their own child. Please complete the form below.

I (parent or legal guardian) of _____
(Boy's Name)

understand the risk involved in Soapbox Derby Racing and give

_____ permission to participate in the event

(Boy's Name)

at the Soapbox Derby Race, _____

(Event Date)

(Signed by Parent or Legal Guardian)

He has my permission to participate as:

Driver of a soapbox car and spectator

Spectator only

Furthermore, should medical attention be needed for my son, I give permission to the church leaders, who chaperon the boys to this event, to obtain medical service needed for my son, _____ .

My Insurance Carrier _____

My Insurance Policy Number or Group _____