

Pack 537

Pinewood Derby Rules

The following set of rules will apply for our annual pinewood derby. All entries must conform to these rules. The rules are not meant to be overly restrictive but to simply clarify what is expected and allowed.

1. **Spirit of the event**-This is a learning event designed to be fun for all. Please remember the spirit of friendly competition and fair play when building and racing. Comments or actions of a derogatory nature or against the ideals of Scouting are not to be tolerated either by Scouts, siblings, or parents. No offensive displays, wording, or themes are allowed on a car.
2. **Scout Participation** The car must be newly built for the current year's event. Parental supervision in the construction is encouraged, but the car should be substantially built by the scout. Scouts are encouraged to use excessively vivid imagination in design of the car while keeping with the race rules. Adult participation is strongly recommended when power tools are used. Judges may question the Scout to determine the amount of help they received in building the car and may take this into consideration. Pre-made cars are available at hobby stores. The use of these is discouraged, but may be allowed if approved in advance by the race committee on a case by case basis.
3. **Attendance**-The Scout must be present to race.
4. **Vehicle Body**-The body of the car must be made from the block of wood provided in the official BSA kit. This block of wood must be the base for the remainder of the car. More than one block may be used if desired. The front of the car must not be designed to gain an unfair advantage with the starting mechanism.
5. **Propulsion**-No type of propulsion system is allowed. Car must move by gravity only. This exclusion applies to any type of mechanism that moves or helps to move the car, whether by design or accident.
6. **Wheels**-Cars must use official BSA wheels included in the kit. They may not be modified in size or shape. Minimum width is .33 of an inch. Wheels may not be machined. Light sanding is allowed to remove excess plastic from the molding process. Wheels must have BSA markings on them. Please note that hobby stores sell other wheels from different manufactures (Pine-Car). These wheels are not allowed. Use only official BSA wheels. Cars must use at least four wheels that are designed to contact the surface of the track. No wheel may ride upon the center guide strip.
7. **Axles**-The wheels must use the axles provided in the BSA kit. They may be lightly sanded to remove imperfections. No solid axles or flexible suspensions are allowed. No bearings, washers, or spacers may be used. Axles must be firmly attached to the car.

8. **Lubrication**- Only graphite may be used as a lubricant. All cars will be lubricated by race official prior to the race. The use of liquid type lubricants is not allowed. These may drip onto the track and cause damage. No vehicle will be allowed with any lubricant other than graphite.
9. **Weight**-The maximum weight of the entire car must not exceed 5.0 ounces. The scale provided by the pack at registration is the final determination of weight. It is recommended that provisions be made to adjust weight slightly at registration if needed. Weights must be securely attached to the vehicle body. Please be careful when working with lead weights due to it's potentialy toxic effects. No movable weights or parts are allowed other than purely decorative items. The movable part must not interfere with any other vehicle or provide an advantage in speed.
10. **Size**-car must not exceed 7.00 inches in length and 2.75 inches in width. This includes any accessories. Minimum ground clearance is 3/8 inch. The height should not exceed 4 inches. Car must fit into official jig (box) to measure size. The block of wood provided in the kit may not be the exact size needed. Measure it to make sure of its size.
11. **Wheel Mounting**-New wheel mounting cuts may be made to place wheels are any point desired. There is no minimum or maximum wheel base as long as vehicle is less than 7.00 inches total length.
12. **Breakdown** In the event of a breakdown of a car during a race the participant will be given 5 minutes to repair the car. Only the damaged portion of the car may be worked on. Work must be done by scout with assistance from parent. Race officials will re-inspect car after repairs are complete.
13. **Registration** Cars must be inspected and registered on Friday night. If Scout is unable to attend the car may be registered by other person. However, remember, the Scout must be present to race on Saturday. Cars will be inspected to determine if they meet required specification. If a car does not pass inspection the Scout will be allowed to make modifications to the vehicle. After a car passes inspection it will be held overnight until the race. No modifications are allowed after they have been inspected and registered. Cars will be on display. Please do not touch any of the cars. Spectators are asked to stand away from the display tables.
14. **Race Day**- racing will begin on Saturday morning. Scouts must be present to race.
15. **Race Categories**- competition will be divided into Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos. Additional categories will be for siblings and adults.
16. **Volunteers**- Both adults and Scouts are encourage to volunteer to help out at registration and on race day. Thank you for your help!
17. **Pinewood Derby Workshop**-We will hold a workshop to help scouts work on their car on a Saturday in early December. This is a good time to learn how to build a car. If you have wood working tools and knowledge we ask that you bring them and help others in crafting their cars.