

SOAPBOX DERBY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Friday August 8, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. (Participants report by 6:30 P.M.)

This event has expanded to TWO age brackets for 2025: Group 1: Ages 6-14 Group 2: Ages 14+

There are five basic requirements for derby cars and participants:

1. Gotta Go!

- ☑ Each derby car must be gravity powered. No motors or engines. There is no limitation on weight, materials or designs. Cars must be between 4 ft. to 6 ft. long and 2 ft. to 3 ft. wide. Cars are generally made of wood. When using wood it is suggested that you use screws rather than nails and be sure to use plenty of wood glue. Installing an eye bolt on the front of your car will also be helpful when needing a tow back to the starting line.

2. Gotta Turn!

- ☑ Simple pivot steering is the most basic and common steering system. Basically, the front axle is a solid piece that rotates about a single pivot in the center. This system is the most simple to construct and is quite adequate since you will not need a big turning radius.
- ☑ Four bar linkage is like a steering mechanism that you might find in your automobile. It is more complex and harder to construct and thus it is seldom recommended. Whatever method of steering you use, it is not wise to limit it to the range of your car. The derby will be run on a straight course so that there will be little need for sharp turns. Please do not design your car to turn on a dime, it is not safe and may cause your car to flip.

3. Gotta Stop!

- ☑ Skid pad on the wheels is a very basic, yet very effective braking method. In this method, you set up a pad or brake shoe that rubs against the wheels to stop the car. This is the most preferred method for cars made from scratch because of its effectiveness and simplicity.
- ☑ A skid pad on the ground is similar to the first option, but instead of a pad contacting the wheels, it contacts the ground. This method is a little more complex to construct and probably less effective than the pad on the wheels method. However, this is the method that was first used in soap box races.
- ☑ Caliper brakes on the wheels are like your basic bicycle brakes. This method works great although the construction needs to be fairly precise for the brakes to be effective.
- ☑ Anchor or parachute could be used – but *just for fun!* Regardless of the braking system that you choose the most important thing is that the car must be able to stop. Good brakes will go a long way in preventing crashes.

4. Gotta wear a Helmet!

- ☑ Helmets are a must! Please do not alter helmets in any way that would change their effectiveness. Cars will not be allowed on the track unless the driver is wearing a helmet. Elbow pads are also strongly encouraged.

5. Gotta have Permission!

- ☑ All drivers must have the release waiver on the entry form signed by their parent/guardian (or by themselves if 18+) to participate in the derby.

SOAPBOX DERBY ENTRY FORM & WAIVER

Day-of sign ups are welcome, but pre-registration is appreciated.

Drop off at Rolston Hardware or Mail to: SOFD, Attn: Soapbox Derby, PO Box 1, Stanton MI 48888

Name of Participant	Age on the Day of Event
Address	Telephone number
Please list identifying information on your car such as color, name or number:	
Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (Minor Participants)	Telephone number
Please check each box as you have reviewed the information: <input type="checkbox"/> I have read and understand the rules and regulations of the derby and agree to comply. <input type="checkbox"/> My car has been constructed as outlined (has working steering and brakes) and is considered to be eligible to drive. <input type="checkbox"/> I agree to conduct myself appropriately, demonstrating good sportsmanship and refraining from inappropriate conduct.	
Permission & Waiver A signature that the following has been read, understood, & accepted is required for participation: I / My child, _____, will participate in the Soapbox Derby event. I hereby absolve and indemnify Stanton Old Fashioned Days, Inc., the City of Stanton, and Rolston Hardware, including any members, representatives, or employees affiliated with these organizations/agencies, along with all Soapbox Derby directors, staff, volunteers, and organizers, from all claims of liability, injury, loss, or damage of any kind to myself or any minor child I am responsible for, arising from participation in this event. I fully assume all risks that may occur as a result of my child's participation in this event. I certify that my son or daughter is adequately prepared to participate in the Soapbox Derby event, taking place on August 8, 2025. _____ Signature of Participant (18+) or Parent/Guardian of Minor Participant _____ Date	