



PINEWOOD DERBY RULES



The purpose of the rules is to provide a reasonable and level racing field for all contestants, without sacrificing the fun.

Construction of the race car

Dimensions

Width: Maximum 2 ¾" (including wheels and axles)

Width between the wheels: Minimum 1 ¾" – so the car will clear the center strip

Clearance under the car: Minimum 3/8" – so the car will clear the center strip

Length: Maximum 7"

Height: Maximum 2 ¾" – to pass under the finish line timer

Wheels, axles, and lubrication

Only the wheels and axles from the official pinewood derby kit may be used. Beveling, rounding, tapering, thinning, perforating, or any other significant altering of the shape or performance of the axles or axle heads is prohibited.

Axles may be lightly filed, sanded and polished. This light filing, sanding, and polishing is the only axle modification allowed.

Wheels may be lightly sanded and polished. The light sanding and polishing is the only wheel modification allowed. Beveling, rounding, tapering, thinning, perforating, or any other significant altering of the shape or performance of the wheels is prohibited. Modification of the cylindrical inner wall of the wheel, which contacts the axle, is prohibited.

Only dry powdered lubricants, such as graphite or white powder Pinewood Derby Car Lubricant, may be used. Oils and silicone sprays are prohibited.

Wheel bearings, washers, or bushings are prohibited. This includes "wheel covers" which serve to keep the wheel hubs from contacting the car body. It also includes "hub caps", or anything else that might serve as a lubrication "well" or "tap". The car shall not ride on any type of springs.

The car must be freewheeling with no starting devices or other propulsion, such as adhesives, magnets, rubber bands, motors, jets, etc. Details such as steering wheel, driver, spoiler, decals, painting, and interior details are allowed as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width, height, and weight. Metal frames and metal axle supports are prohibited. Axles must be mounted into the wood.

Weight and Appearance

Weight shall not exceed 5.0 ounces. The readings of the Official Race Scale will be considered final.

The car may be carved, sculpted, and/or sanded in order to enhance performance and/or appearance.

Indented noses are prohibited. These cars will “stage” further down the track, and thus are not traversing the same course as other cars.

No loose materials of any kind are permitted on/or inside the car.

Additional materials may be added for the appearance purposes only.

Weights may be added to increase the weight and/or alter the weight distribution of the car.

Paints/decals/decorations may be added to alter the appearance and/or aerodynamics of the car. Cars with wet paint or glue will not be accepted to race.

Glue may be used adhere the axles to the car body.

Wood putty, or a similar wood-like substance, may be used to repair minor damage to a car.

Race Methods, Judging, and Interference

Cars will be generally raced on an “as-registered” basis in the order in which they are brought to the inspection area

Cars will be raced on each track.

If a car (or part of a car) leaves it’s lane and interferes with another car the heat will be re-run.

If a car experiences mechanical problems the owner will be given the opportunity to repair the car. The car will be re-inspected before the car is raced again.

