

OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE 2009 PINEWOOD DERBY

The official car of the Pinewood Derby is the Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Racing Car. The car is available singly or in 8-packs and can be purchased at any distributor of Official Boy Scout supplies.

Each car must pass inspection by the Official Inspection Committee before it may compete. The inspection committee has the right to disqualify any car which does not meet specifications. In the event of a disagreement over qualifications of any car, the Chief Inspector will settle the dispute and his/her decision will be final. Lack of knowledge of the official rules will not be considered a valid argument for non-compliance. All entrants must comply with all of the rules, or they will be disqualified. Cars not meeting the specifications will be allowed to modify the car to meet the qualifications prior to registration. In the event a car is discovered to be in violation of a rule after racing begins, the car will not be allowed to continue racing, and will be disqualified.

1. **GENERAL**

- A. The rules in effect for the 2009 Grand Championship Pinewood Derby are intended to maintain the competition at a level at which most boys are capable of achieving with minimal adult intervention
- B. In order to qualify for racing, car must be made with the entire Official Pinewood Derby Kit as supplied, including wheels, axles, and wood block. BSA imprint must be visible on wheels.
- D. Car must not have been made before June 1st of the prior year.

2. **WEIGHT AND APPEARANCE**

- A. Total weight of car may not exceed 5 ounces. The car may be hollowed out and built up to the maximum weight by the addition of wood or metal only, provided that it is securely built into the body of the car or firmly affixed to it.
- B. No loose materials of any kind are permitted in or on the car. No mercury-weighted cars will be allowed.
- C. Details such as steering wheel, driver, decals, or painting are allowed, as long as these details do not cause the car to exceed the maximum weight, length and width.
- D. **All cars may be re-weighed and/or re-inspected at any time for cause, which shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief Judge.**

3. **LENGTH AND WIDTH**

- A. Overall width shall not exceed 2 3/4 inches at the furthest horizontal protrusion, whether it is the body of the car, or the wheels. The area where the axles are inserted should be approximately 1 3/4 inches wide to ensure that the wheels will fit over the guide strip on the track.
- B. Overall length of the car (measured from the furthest point forward to the furthest point rearward) shall not exceed 7 inches.
- C. The wheelbase (distance between the centers of the front and rear axles) must measure between 4 1/4 and 4 5/8 inches.
- D. The position of the axles is not regulated, provided that the wheelbase measurement complies with rule 3C above. It is not required to place the axles (nails) into the slots which have been pre-cut in the wood block
- E. The underside of the front of the car may not be undercut to allow the car's nose to hang out over the top of the starting gate. If the nose protrudes over the starting gate and the official starter is not able to adjust for a fair start, the protruding car will not be allowed to race

4. **WHEELS AND AXLES**

- A. **No alteration, narrowing, lathe cutting, or re-shaping of wheels (inside or outside) is allowed.** Light sanding of wheel treads to remove irregularities is permissible. Minimum wheel diameter allowable is 1.180 inches. (most wheels measure between 1.195 to 1.200 inches) No covers, stickers, or hubcaps will be allowed over the wheels or axles. The axle head must be visible. The serrated edges of the wheel treads must remain visible.
- B. Only the official wheels and axles as provided in the official car kits or the official wheel and axle kits may be used.
- C. Wheel bearings, spacers, and washers are prohibited.
- D. The car shall not ride upon any type of springs.
- E. All cars must have four wheels. Three of the wheels must be touching the track surface at all times.
- F. The car must be free-wheeling with no starting or launching devices.
- G. In order for the car to avoid scraping bottom against the guide strip of the track, it should have 3/8" clearance underneath.

5. **LUBRICATION**

- A. Cars will be lubricated before registration and qualification. Cars may not be lubricated thereafter. Violation will result in ejection from the race. Re-lubrication will be permitted just prior to re-registration for the OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP.
- B. Any type of dry lubricant is permitted. Graphite is highly recommended.

6. **GENERAL RULES**

- A. Numbers will be assigned and affixed at registration. The official number shall be clearly marked and visible at all times.
- B. No one will be allowed beyond the registration area and into the area immediately surrounding the track except the officials and the boys racing. Those areas will be designated as "restricted"
- C. Each heat will be announced. Drivers will report to the starting line and give their cars to the Official Starter who will place the cars carefully upon the track. All other persons will remain behind the barrier and will not obstruct the view of other spectators.
- D. The Official Starter will make sure that the cars are on the track properly, and then will start the race. He/she will be the judge of whether the cars are properly aligned on the track, which cars are to race, and in which lane, and of all matters in the starting area.

He/she will also be the judge of "false starts".

- E. Only two cars will race at a time. Each race will be judged by a minimum of two Finish Line Judges. Two judges must agree on the winner of each race or it will be run again in the same lanes. The winner of the heat will be that racer whose car crosses the Finish Line first, as determined by the Finish Line Judges.
- F. Volunteer judges may be used. Volunteer judges shall not judge any race in which they have a family member racing.
- G. When the result of each heat is recorded, the drivers will take their cars back to their designated seating positions to await their next race.
- H. If during a race, a car leaves the track, runs out of its lane, interferes with the other car, or loses an axle, etc., the race may be run again. There will be only one repeat race for this reason in any heat. If the same car has a problem again, the results of such race will stand, unless the problem car clearly interferes with the opposing car. In this case the interfering car will be declared the loser.
- I. The Districts may choose to run any style that is expedient for the District.
- J. One competition each for Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears, and two for Webelos (first and second years). Eligibility will be determined according to rules established by each district for their district event. For units not utilizing a two-year Webelos program, fourth graders will compete as first-year Webelos, and fifth graders will compete as second-year Webelos.
- K. For racers arriving late, (after the start of the last flight of their age group) the Chief Judge may decide to allow participation by placing the racer in the next round of that age group, provided that the car makes an equivalent number of supervised dry runs down a track, to cause an equivalent amount of wear and graphite depletion to occur on the wheels and axles.

7. **REPAIRS**

- A. There will be an official Pit Area for repairs and alterations. If the car does not qualify at Registration, alterations may be made by the racer and the adult(s) with whom he came
- B. Repairs will be permitted after racing begins, but shall take place in the official pit area under the direct supervision of the Chief Judge or his/her designee. It is highly recommended that racers bring their own spare parts.
- C. official in charge of the pit area will be the judge of what repairs are necessary and allowable. If wheels or axles are replaced, only those wheels or axles actually replaced may be lubricated.
- D. If a racer requires repairs, his races will be delayed until such time that his car is repaired, or he withdraws. Other races within the same "flight" will continue while repairs are made. In no case will the racing be delayed more than 15 minutes awaiting repairs. If after the general racing has been delayed for 15 minutes, and no other races are possible, the racer will be called to race, and upon his failure to report to the starting line at this time, he will forfeit. Again, it is highly recommended that each racer bring his own spare parts and materials for repairs.
- E. The Chairman accepts no responsibility for the dissemination of these rules or the lack of knowledge thereof. Every attempt is made to publish the rules and distribute them at round tables and have them available at the Phoenix Council Service Center. Any problems regarding lack of understanding or knowledge of the rules will be disregarded and will have no bearing upon any decisions of the Chief Judge or the Chairman.

8. **AWARDS**

- A. Trophies will be awarded to the first four place winners of each age group.
- B. The first four place winners of all age groups will race again together to determine the overall champions.
- C. There will be no competition to determine best design, or appearance.
- D. Other prizes and awards will be given depending upon availability. Such awards will be made at the discretion of the Pinewood Derby Committee Chairman or his/her designee.

PINEWOOD DERBY CARS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THEIR OWNERS TO KEEP UNTIL THE NEXT RACING EVENT

