



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. 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 denoted have been laying around (leftover from other uses), they can be considered as recycled and not included in the \$200.

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.
2. Braking system is ESSENTIAL. Braking must be to both rear wheels simultaneously – independent braking seems to be dangerous in the speed event.
3. **NEW RULE:** Car Height - for every inch of axle height, the width from outside of wheel to outside of opposite wheel must be 4 inches.

TO CHECK YOUR CAR: Measure from the ground to the center of the axle. 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 which measures 7 inches from the center of the axle 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 wheels are 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.
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.
9. No motors, etc., allowed. The car must start and continue to roll only by the force of gravity.
10. Build your car with any wheels, brake system, steering and body. For a winning car, work on style and weight distribution. Cars will be grouped by wheel size 10" and under, over 10" to 14", over 14".
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.

15. A "PERMISSION & MEDICAL HEALTH FORM" must be completed. Each driver must have this form when he registers at the derby.

16. **ALL DERBY DRIVERS MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE DRIVING THE CAR BEFORE ENTERING THE CONGRESS OR STATE RACE.**