

Three Rivers District Pinewood Derby Rules



What Scouting goals does the pinewood derby help a Cub Scout achieve?

- **Sportsmanship and good citizenship** is taught by following the derby rules and cheering on friends and den partners as they race against others in the Pack, District, and Council.
- **Personal achievement** comes to any boy who picks up a woodworking tool and shapes raw wood into a sleek design. And, by learning woodworking, he prepares himself to more easily serve in the Boy Scouting's service projects.
- **Family understanding** is enhanced because building a pinewood derby car puts the boy and his mom, dad, or other adult partner into a close and sometimes intense learning experience over, potentially, many hours.

How we act at the Pinewood Derby is very important and we want the boys to learn and understand good sportsmanship. At all times during the Three Rivers District Pinewood Derby event we need to have all Scouts, leaders, and parents practice good sportsmanship. The District Pinewood Derby Committee congratulates the selected competitors and appreciates you working with us to put on a great District Pinewood Derby.

These rules are approved and in agreement with Tidewater Council Pinewood Derby Officials.

1) Car Specifications:

- a) Maximum Width - $2 \frac{3}{4}$ inches.
- b) Maximum Length - 7 inches.
- c) Maximum gross weight - 5 ounces.
- d) Minimum Width between wheels (inside to inside of wheel rim) - $1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches
- e) Minimum bottom clearance between car and track - $\frac{3}{8}$ inch.
- f) Maximum Height - 3 inches (finish line gate will obstruct a taller car).

2) Car and Race Rules - Simple Version:

- a) Build your car using the materials and instructions that come in the box.
- b) Build the car together and let the boys do as much work as possible.
- c) Do your best, be creative, come out and have fun!

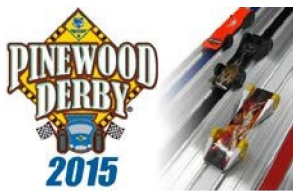


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3) Car Rules - The Fine Print Version:

- a) This is a Cub Scout Event. Boys should be as large a part of the building process of these cars as possible.
- b) Only cars built this program year may enter this event. Any construction of the car should be of a method and ability level of a boy between the ages of six and eleven years of age.
- c) Kit Cars, purchased pre-assemble cars, cars purchased from third party resellers or any other car not made with assistance from the Cub Scout may not enter this event.
- d) Car Body:
 - i) Only the wood body from the Official BSA Pinewood Derby Kit is permitted to be used as the car body structure.
 - ii) Metals, plastics, composites or any other materials are not allowed as a structural part of the car body.
 - iii) This section does not prohibit metal weights, wood fillers, paint or decorations as long as they are not a structural component of the car.
 - iv) The entire car, including wheels, must line up behind the starting post. (The track starting post is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and approximately 1" tall).
 - v) Weights and decorations must be fastened securely. No loose parts are allowed to be on or in the car.
- e) The car shall be freewheeling with no starting device(s).
 - i) This section prohibits the use of magnets, springs, "sticky" front surfaces or any other condition deemed by the Race Officials to be a starting aid or device.
 - ii) The pre-cut axle slots are not required to be used; however the axles must be installed directly into the wood car body, not another material on or in the car body.
- f) Paint shall be dry.
- g) Axles
 - i) Only Official BSA Pinewood Derby axles are permitted. No other axles are allowed. Straight, one piece solid axles (one axle for two wheels) are not allowed.
 - ii) Removal of imperfections and polishing of axles is permitted.
 - iii) Axles may not be modified or altered. This section prohibits the following:
 - (1) Any modification or alteration that changes the shape of the axle or axle head including:
 - (a) Cutting, beveling or grooving of the axle shaft.
 - (b) Cutting, slotting or beveling of the axle head.
 - (c) Any clad, coated, treated or other exotic finished axles (This includes Official BSA made axles altered or modified in the same manner and resold by third parties).
 - iv) Springs, washers or bearings (Graphite pads or other components on the side of the car body where the wheel touches the car are considered bearings and are not allowed).
- h) Wheels
 - i) Only Official BSA Pinewood Derby wheels are permitted. No other wheels are allowed.



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ii) Wheels may be lightly sanded and polished to remove tread surface imperfections. After polishing the following conditions must exist:

- (1) All lettering, on the outside and inside of the wheel must be visible and untouched.
 - (2) Tire ridges along the outside of the tread must be visible.
 - (3) Wheels may not be altered. This section prohibits the following:
 - (a) Cutting, beveling, grooving, drilling or lathing of any part of the wheel.
 - (b) Any modification or alteration that changes the size or shape of the wheel.
 - (4) Removal of any material from the inside of the wheel.
 - (5) Any change to the width or size of the tread area including rounding, cupping, slotting or railing the wheel.
 - (6) Wheel coverings (hubcaps) are not permitted.
 - (7) Dry lubricant (i.e. graphite) only. Liquid lubricants are not allowed.
 - (8) All cars must have four wheels and they must be aligned with the direction of travel and installed as to run outside the lane center strip on the track. Wheels must be installed in pairs opposite of each other with no staggering of the alignment.
- i) All decisions of the Race Officials shall be final.
- j) The Council or District will not mediate any protest.

4) Race Rules - Fine Print Version:

- a) This is a Cub Scout Event. All participants and spectators are expected to display Scout like behavior.
- b) Proxy racing is not allowed. Cars must be presented for inspection and raced by the registered Cub Scout.
- c) Cars will be weighed-in on the official race scale. The official scale will be the final determination of the weight of the car. The Race Officials will be the final authority as to the method and procedure for weighing the cars.
- d) Cars will be inspected to determine if all of the specifications have been met. Close attention will be paid to the wheels and axles. The Race Officials will be the final authority as to whether the car has been built within the rules of this event.
- e) A box template will be used to determine if the car was built to the specifications defined in Section I above. The car must fit into the template box or it will not be entered into the race.
- f) Cars will be impounded after inspection and weigh-in. The cars will be placed in the impound area and no further adjustments will be allowed.
- g) Only Event Officials and authorized Cub Scout Racers are permitted inside the impound area or track area.
- h) When directed by the Race Official(s), the boys will pick up their cars from the impound area and proceed to the track as directed.
- i) Races will be run by Rank - Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light and an overall final.



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- j) Race times and positions, if displayed, are to be used for reference only. Scoring shall be determined by the District Pinewood Derby Committee. The top three finishers from each rank will advance to the finals Grand competition.
- k) In the event of a tie for any of the top three positions an extra set of runs may be used to break it, and this will be determined by the race Official(s).
- l) If a low number of Cubs are entered for a particular Rank the racing format may be changed from one format to another. This change will be at the discretion of the race Official(s).
- m) Cars that jump the track two times will be disqualified.
- n) In the event of a car's breakdown up to five minutes of "pit time" may be allotted for repairs. The "pit time" will be at the discretion, and under the supervision, of a Race Official(s).
- o) Protests should be brought to the attention of the Race Officials immediately. No protests will be considered after the start of the ensuing race.
- p) All decisions of the Race Officials shall be final.
- q) The Council will not mediate protests. This includes protests after the fact to the Council via email, telephone or other method of contact.

Good luck Scouts and... Start Your Engines!

- Just because something is not explicitly included or excluded in the above list of rules, do not assume it is permitted. If you have any question or uncertainty of the rules, please contact the current district derby chair listed in the event guide.
- The Race Officials will be the final authority as to whether the intent of these rules have been followed and will make the final determination as to the eligibility of the car to be entered into the event.

Our apologies to those that agree the above rules are long, complex and redundant. For the vast majority of the boys competing, the simple version of the rules is all we need to have a competitive and fun event.