



PONOKA DOWNHILL DERBY

The following rules have been set to ensure the safety of all participants and spectators. Cars will be limited to gravity power only and will include no propelling devices of any kind.

Important Information:

- The race will be held on 42 Avenue, from 43 Street to the park on **September 9, 2017**.
- Race is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 years old. Racing age divisions will be set based on the ages of those who register.
- Race format will be decided after the registration deadline to ensure the best format for the number of registered racers.
- Official rules for building your derby car are included in this handout and are available on the Ponoka Downhill Derby Facebook Page as well as the website www.ponokalive.ca.
- A starting ramp will be used to launch the derby cars.
- A concession and portable toilets will be on site.
- Registration forms & fees may be submitted at the following location:
Alberta Flares 6706 -44 Avenue Ponoka, AB T4J 1J8
- **Registration deadline is September 1, 2017. No registration will be accepted after this date.**
- Make cheques payable to **Community Lifestyles** or **Ponoka Downhill Derby**.
- An official Ponoka Downhill Derby Souvenir will be handed out race day along with a coupon for lunch and a drink. One coupon per registrant.

General Rules:

The Ponoka Downhill Derby is designed as a parent/child program. A parent/guardian is expected to help in the construction of the car. This program is meant to be an enjoyable learning experience for both adult and child, and provide them with the opportunity to develop mutual respect, trust and demonstrate the importance of individual pride and sportsmanship.

1. **A parent or guardian must accompany all entrants on race day. NO EXCEPTIONS**
2. **Maximum Number of Entrants:** There will be a maximum of 60 entrants in the Soap Box Derby or at the discretion of the committee. Entrants will be registered on a first come first served basis.

Disqualification may result from any of the following:

- Use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or drugs by a driver at the Derby (except those prescribed by a physician). Any violation of these prohibitions will result in an immediate disqualification of any involved driver.
- Vulgarity, verbal or physical abuse, and/or unsportsmanlike actions directed towards officials, spectators, or other participants.
- Actions of a driver, in officials' opinions, that endanger the driver, other drivers, or spectators, and include interfering with other drivers.

Construction Rules:

1. Each car must have a working **foot** brake that will not wear out after several heats. Drivers must be able to stop their cars within a reasonable distance using the brake. The brakes will be tested the morning of the race to see if adequate.
2. The car must be constructed such that the driver can maintain a line of sight that assures safe navigation from starting gate to finish line.
3. Glass is not an allowed construction material, even for decorative purposes.
4. The **minimum** car length is 46 inches, from the front of the car to the back of the back wheels. The **maximum** length is 66 inches.
5. The maximum width of the car is 36 inches including wheels.
6. The car must have a **maximum** of 8 inch (20 cm) wheels. Maximum width of wheels is 2 inches. e.g. utility steel lawnmower **Min. tread width on ground=1"**.
7. **Wheels must be a hard rubber wheel.**
8. **Steering:** Cars must possess rack & pinion or mechanical steering. (Example included). Steering must be controlled by a fixed mechanical means. **No other form of steering will be allowed. No foot or hand held line will be permitted.** All steering must be limited to prevent loss of control. Wheels must turn in same direction as steering wheel.
9. The seating area is to be **enclosed** on both sides and bottom of floor to protect the driver.
10. Cars must run on 4 (four) wheels.
11. Axles must not rotate.
12. **Axles must be a minimum of 1/2" diameter solid, cold rolled steel.** 13. Wheel Spread/Axle: Minimum 24 inches and Maximum 36 inches
14. Feet must be foremost when the driver is in the facing position.
15. There is no maximum weight for the car. No added weight will be allowed in the cars. (ie sand bags)

ALL CARS MUST PASS A SAFETY INSPECTION. ONCE PASSED THE CAR WILL BE CERTIFIED READY TO RACE.

Safety Inspection: Inspection will be held at 8:30 am on the day of the race at 42 Ave & 43 St.

THE INSPECTORS DECISION WILL BE FINAL!

Safety Rules:

1. **Protective Gear for Driver:** The driver must wear a protective helmet, preferably with a face shield (**no bicycle helmets**), long pants and a long sleeved shirt. Adequate foot protection with rigid sole (no sandals). It is also preferable to have the driver wear gloves, elbow pads and shin pads, but not mandatory. It is important to remember that speeds reach up to 40 km/hour – this should be taken into consideration when choosing safety gear!
2. **Safety Committee:** A safety committee will perform safety inspections on race day to assure that the above rules are strictly complied with. Race officials reserve the right to disqualify any car that does not meet construction rules and/or is deemed to be unsafe from the Derby.
3. **Check If Unsure:** Should you require advance advice as to what is acceptable and what is not, please call Peter Oakes at 403.350.7100 or Tim Jackson at 403-597-6056. Opinions/comments provided by these committee members will not override the safety committee's decisions.

4. **Stay in lanes during race:** During the race each racer is required to stay in his/her lanes. If any racer crosses over they will be disqualified. This is for the safety of all racers.

Race Day Details

1. **Time:** The SoapBox Derby races will be held on Saturday starting at 10:15 am. Awards will be presented at the end of the runs.
2. **Safety Inspection:** Each car must be presented to the safety committee from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for the compulsory inspection and registration with the starter. **Do Not Wait Until The Last Moment To Get Your Car Inspected!!**
3. **Trial Runs:** Trial Runs can be taken from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., but **only after** your car has passed its safety inspection and has been registered with the starter.
4. **Cars Ready:** All cars must report to the staging area by the starting ramps, fully inspected and registered with the Starter no later than 9:45 a.m.
5. **The Heats & Scoring:** Each car will run heats in each of two lanes. **Racers must remain in their cars at all times while at the bottom of the hill.** Upon completion of the heats, the final scores will be calculated by totaling the racer's points from each heat to determine 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Ties for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd will result in one race to break the tie.
6. **Missing A Heat:** If your car breaks down, you should advise the starter that you might be out of your heat. You may make repairs in the pit area and report back to the starter. You will then be allowed to take your missed run later in the race.
7. **Help Available:** If you have any questions or concerns, the Derby Officials will be available to answer your questions.

**Organized by the Downhill Derby Committee committed
to the promotion of the Town of Ponoka**

Peter Oakes, Greg Rowland, Kenny Groot, Tim Jackson, Rebecca Jensen



Fig. 1 – Here is an example of the rack & pinion steering.

Car Kits are available for purchase for \$100.00 which includes a metal frame, steering and braking system. Please contact Peter Oakes at 403-783-3900 for purchasing details.

The Kits do not include: plywood to enclose frame, wheels, or steering wheel.