

# Placer District - Pinewood Derby 2023 Rules

Placer District Derby Participants:

The following rules must be followed for your Pinewood Derby cars to be eligible.

## VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS:

- 1) **WIDTH:** Overall width, including wheels, shall not exceed 2 3/4". Minimum width measured between wheels shall be 1 3/4" (this is so the car will fit in the track lane).
- 2) **LENGTH:** Overall length shall not exceed 7".
- 3) **HEIGHT:** Car must fit under the timer. There is 4 3/4" of clearance from the wheels to the bottom of the timer at the finish line.
- 4) **UNDER-CLEARANCE:** Under-clearance shall not be less than 3/8" between bottom of the vehicle and a flat surface. It would possibly rub on the track.

**No part of the car may extend in front of the starting dowel when the car is in the starting position. The starting dowel is 2 1/4" tall.**

6) **WEIGHT: Only the weight as determined by the scale at the Official Derby Registration Table will be considered official and final.** Weight shall not exceed 5 oz. (141.75 gm). The vehicle may be hollowed out and built up to maximum weight by the addition of weights, provided the weights are securely attached to the vehicle. Postal Scales may or may not be accurate. All racers should come prepared to increase/decrease the weight of their vehicle if so required. NOTE: Mercury may not be used to provide additional weight due to its potential health hazard. **NOTE: Your car should be as close to 5 oz as you can get it for best performance!**

7) **WHEEL BEARINGS, AXLES AND WHEELS:** Wheel bearings, washers, and/or bushings of any sort are strictly prohibited. OFFICIAL Wheels and axles (nails) may be polished and deburred as long as there is no modification to size and shape. Colored wheels may be substituted for original black wheels as long as they are official BSA approved wheels purchased from scout store or other BSA approved retailer. **Wheel tread surface may not be narrowed or crowned.** If other modifications have been made, it will be up to the Inspection Officials (by virtue of vote) to allow or disallow the vehicle to be entered in competition. This ruling is final. Axles must maintain a wheelbase of 4 1/2", as with the two body slots from the OFFICIAL car block of wood. Hubcaps over axles are not permitted. **DO NOT MODIFY THE WHEELS OR AXLES, EXCEPT FOR FACTORY BURRS – OTHERWISE THE CAR WILL GET DISQUALIFIED.** Rail riding or riding on three wheels is permitted.

**NOTE: No substitution of the basic materials received in the Official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit (wheels, nails and wood) may be used. Colored wheels are the only exception to this rule and they are allowed as long as they are official BSA approved equipment. Cosmetic detailing accessories may be used as described in "DETAILS" section below. "High Tech" wheels and axles are STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.**

8) **SPRINGS:** The vehicle shall not ride on any type of springs.

9) **DETAILS:** Details such as steering wheel, driver, decals, painting, and interior detail are permissible and encouraged as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width, height, under-clearance and weight specifications. All details must be a permanent part of the vehicle. All cars must be constructed using the approved Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Car Kit to be eligible for Win, Place or Show awards.

10) **ATTACHMENTS:** The vehicles must be free-wheeling with no starting devices.

11) **INSPECTION:** Each vehicle must pass inspection by the Official Inspection Committee before it can be registered and competed. The Inspection Committee has the right to disqualify vehicles not conforming to the rules and specifications.

12) **LUBRICATION:** Any form of dry lubricant may be used to make your pinewood derby car race faster. Take care when applying lubricant to your car so that it doesn't transfer onto the racetrack – it's messy and difficult to clean off. At the time of registration, any excess lubrication will be blown off using a can of compressed air. Once the car is registered, it will be placed on the Official Race Table and no additional lubrication will be allowed at any time before or during the races.

13) Each car must stay in its own lane of travel and not inhibit any other cars racing as it travels along the track. If your car interferes with others on the track at the same time, it will be disqualified from competition.

14) In the spirit of fairness and competition, please do not race any car from previous years' competitions (especially previous winners). The spirit of the derby is for everyone to try their best and have a fair chance at winning. If the judges determine that a car has an unfair advantage due to being run in a previous year's race, it will be disqualified from competition.

#### **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:**

Only the winner of the Pack's derby may be submitted to race. Your Cubmaster will secure the car until district race day. At this same time a number will be assigned to the vehicle and the Cub who represents it. This number will be the official number of the vehicle for the duration of the race. Once placed on the table, it will not be allowed to leave the table except to race. Any vehicle that leaves the Official Race Table without the expressed consent of a Race Official will be disqualified.

Judges cannot be bribed but we encourage you to try. You never know...

If you have any questions, please ask

These rules were derived as a compilation of rules from the following sources:

Official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit

Cub Scout Leader How to Book - No. 3831

Cub Scout Activity Book - No. 3837

Pinewood Derby Race Officials

Your Placer District Leaders