

PONOKA DOWNHILL DERBY CLASSIC

The spirit of the rules will be to ensure the following:

- *event must be safe for contestants 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 12, 2010.
- Race is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 17 years old. Racing age categories are divided as follows: 6-8, 9-12 and 13-17.
- 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 Derby webpage www.ponoka.org
- A starting ramp will be used to launch the derby cars.
- A concession and portable toilet will be on site.
- Registration forms & fees may be submitted at the following locations:
 - Town of Ponoka
 - Ponoka Community Golf Course- Pro Shop
 - Alberta Flares.
- **Registration deadline is August 31, 2010. No registration will be accepted after this date.**
- Make cheques payable to **Community Lifestyles.**
- An official Ponoka Downhill Derby Souvenir will be handed out race day along with a coupon for 1 hotdog and pop per registrant.

General Rules:

Ponoka Downhill Derby Classic 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.

A single car may be used by multiple members of the same family provided that the family members fall in different age categories: Age Groups 6 to 8, 9 to 12 & 13 to 17.

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. 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 or during Pre-inspection.
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 front of the back wheels the maximum length is 68 inches.** The total maximum length of the car is 84 inches.
5. The maximum wide of the car is 36 inches including wheels.
6. The car must have a maximum of 8 inch (20 cm) wheels. e.g. utility steel lawnmower **Min. tread width on ground=1"**. **No spokes or air filled tires will be allowed in any class.**
7. **Steering:** Cars must possess rack & pinion 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.
8. The seating area is to be **enclosed** on all sides and bottom of floor to protect the driver. Bodies of cars must be fully enclosed.
9. Cars must run on 4 (four) wheels.
10. Axles must not rotate.
11. **Axles must be a minimum of ½" Diameter Solid, cold rolled steel.**
12. Wheel Spread/Axle: Minimum 24 inches Maximum 36 inches
13. Feet must be foremost when the driver is in the facing position.
14. 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. THIS WILL INCLUDE A RUN DOWN THE HILL TO VERIFY STEERING AND PROPER BRAKING. ONCE PASSED THE CAR WILL BE CERTIFIED READY TO RACE.

Pre-race Inspection: A pre-race inspection will be available for each car on Sept. 1, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Stampede Grounds. A certificate will be issued verifying completion of inspection. For those who are unable to attend the pre-race inspection an additional inspection will be at 9:00 am the day of the race.

THE INPECTORS DECISION WILL BE FINAL!

Safety Rules:

1. **Protective Gear For Driver:** The Driver must wear a protective helmet, preferably with a face shield, long pants and a long sleeved shirt. **No Bicycle Helmets.** 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.
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 telephone:

Peter Oakes	403.350.7100
Barry Neath	403.783.7410

They will give their opinion. These comments however, 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 Sunday starting at 10:00 am. Awards will be presented at the end of the runs.
2. **Safety Inspection:** Each car must be presented to the Safety Committee between the hours of 8:30 am. to 9:30 am. 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 8:30 am to 9:45 am, but **only after** your car has passed it's 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 am.
5. **The Heats & Scoring:** Each car will run heats in each of three 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 times from each heat to determine 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Ties for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd will result in one race to break the tie.
6. **King of The Hill:** The first place finishers from each of the three categories will participate in the King of the Hill race. ***Drivers will draw for the lane they will race in.*** The winner of this race will be **King of the Hill.** Cars will also be judged for best overall decorated car.
7. **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.

8. Help Available: If you have any questions or concerns, the Derby Officials are available to answer your questions.

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

(Rob MacPherson, Warren Hart, Peter Oakes, Greg Rowland, Kenny Groot, Karen Williams, & Barry Neath)

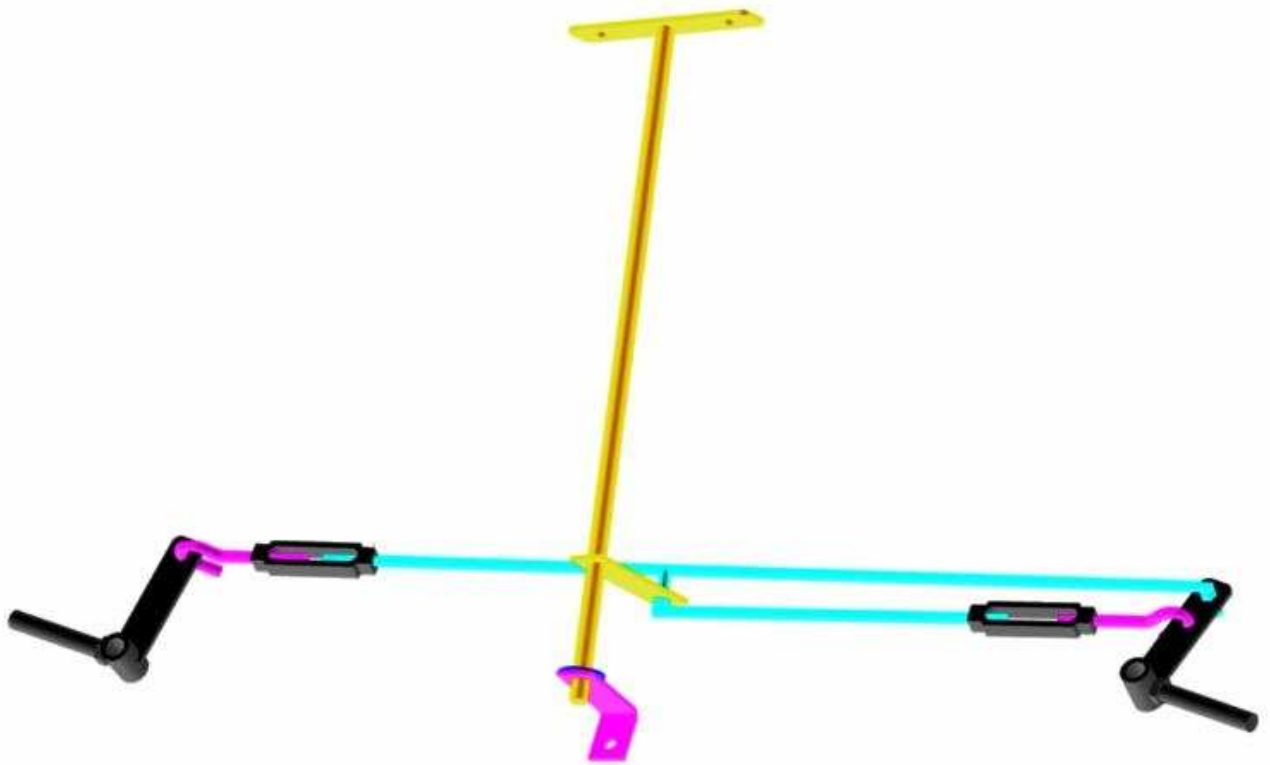


Figure 1 – Here is an example of the rack & pinion steering. The Rack & Pinion Kit with back axle can be purchased at Alberta Flares for \$30.00. There are only 12 kits available for sale.