

FAYETTEVILLE FREEDOM 250

SOAPBOX DERBY RACE

Cars:

- Constructing your own racer is open to all ages.
- Loaner cars MIGHT be available for use in the Jr and senior class

Drivers:

- Driving a racer is open to ages **8** to **99**, as long as they are able to steer and that all rules can be followed.
 - Drivers under 16, must have a Crew Chief that is an active member of their Pit Crew .
 - Ages 3 to 7+ may ride as a passenger, BUT...
 - ONLY in a car built as a double seater.
 - ONLY with parent/guardian or older sibling as the driver.
 - ALL car occupants must have their own seat and safety equipment.
 - Must sign a waiver, or if under 18, have a parent/guardian sign the waiver, before racing down the hill.
 - All rules apply to all drivers, and Pit Crew, whether in the Competitive or Open Classes.
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COMPETITION CATEGORIES & AWARDS

Racing Classes:

- **Competitive Class** – Ages 16 and up with obstacles on course .
 - **Junior Class** – Ages 8 to 15
 - **Senior Class** – Ages 16 and up

Awards:

- **Competitive Class** – Awards based on race results + judge vote
 - **Junior Class** – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
 - **Senior Class** – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
 - **Paint & Polish Award** - People's Choice: Voted on by crowd or mayor .
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CAR SPECIFICATIONS

Construction:

Soapbox cars can be homemade of original design or from a kit. New and used soapbox cars of any age are welcome. Any use of materials is welcome but must be strong and secure, and no sharp protrusions. The car should be built to last the entire morning of racing without continuous breakdowns or repairs.

Car size:

- Width 4 feet from widest part across
- Length from most forward part of car to most rear cant be longer than 6 feet
- Car cant be taller than 4 feet to tallest point

Wheels:

- Must have 4 wheels, or more.
- Wheels can be different sizes, but adjacent/parallel wheels must be the same diameter (e.g., rear wheels 7" and front 6").
- Minimum diameter: 6 inches.

- Maximum diameter: 24 inches.
- Maximum width: 6 inches.

Ground Clearance:

- Minimum: 3 inches.
- Maximum: 12 inches.

This range allows smooth clearances, maintains a lower center of gravity to reduce the risk of rollovers, and elevates the overall safety standards of the race.

Brakes:

- Functioning hand or foot-controlled brake is required.
- Drivers may not use their feet on the pavement or tire to stop the car.
- Brake pads must not have protruding hardware that could damage the racing surface.

Steering:

- Steering wheel, bars, or yoke designs allowed.
- Use of steering limiters strongly suggested.
- Rope steering and aviation joysticks are allowed
- Rear wheel steering is prohibited.

Enclosures and Hatches:

- Must be operable by the driver without assistance.
- No open-bottom cars allowed. A floorboard is required to prevent legs or feet from falling out.

Turnbuckles and Fasteners:

- Secure turnbuckles with safety wire, jam nuts, or equivalent methods.
- Fasteners must use lock washers, lock nuts, cotter pins, or other devices to prevent loosening.

Weight:

- Max Car Weight: **200 lbs.** This is before the driver's weight is added.
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SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Helmets:

- Helmets are mandatory. Helmets must come with a functional chin strap (e.g., bicycle, motocross, hockey) for everyone in the car.

Gloves, Suits, and Goggles:

- Optional, but must not impair the ability to drive safely.
- Long sleeves and pants recommended if the car does not have a protective body.

Shoes:

- Closed-toe shoes required.

Seat belts :

- Cars must have a functioning seatbelt for EACH rider in the car.
- Can not use ropes , strings , or cables.
- Have to be able to hold driver and passengers in car.

INSPECTION AND DISQUALIFICATION

To run cars down the track, all participants must complete parental/guardian and/or personal liability waivers. Inspections are required for any cars that will be used on the track to ensure the safety of both participants and spectators.

We require you to have your car inspected before race day. Inspections can be coordinated through the Derby Committee Chair, Joshua Davis fayettecarclinic@gmail.com. This will help the event run smoothly and prevent any disappointment on race day. We would hate for your car to be disqualified at check-in for being out of compliance.

After inspection, any vehicles found to be out of compliance, may be repaired or modified. If your car's issues are not corrected before race day, the car will be disqualified. In such cases, if the team can find a different car to use on the day of the race, that is complying with all requirements, then drivers will have the option to use it for the race.

If you need to make any last-minute adjustments to the steering or brakes, please do so before proceeding to the starting line. If your car isn't ready when your its called to the starting line, you forfeit that heat.

Practice runs are permitted only until 20 minutes prior to the main event. Additionally, you and your car must be checked in and with your waiver on file before taking practice runs.

During the Heats

Safety is our top priority at the Soapbox Derby. All racers and pit crews must follow the instructions of race officials at all times, with special attention to guidance from the Course Safety Marshals. These marshals are stationed along the track to monitor race conditions, respond to incidents, and ensure the well-being of all participants and spectators. Their directions are final and must be followed immediately to keep the event safe and enjoyable for everyone.

- **Pre-Heat:** Pit Crews are to assist competitors during the staging process, ensuring that the soapbox car is positioned correctly and that all safety equipment (such as helmets) is properly secured.
- **Race:**
 - A quick safety inspection will be conducted at the starting line. Cars that do not meet requirements will be removed until corrected, then may rejoin the queue.
 - Race.....
 - The Checkered Flag Officials will declare a heat winner. Their decision is final.
- **Post-Heat:** After completing a race heat, Pit Crews should assist the driver in exiting the vehicle, and assist with removing the soapbox car from the finish line area. This allows for the smooth progression of the event.
- **Next Heat:** Pit Crews load and unload the car from the transport vehicle for its return to the starting line. The Transport Marshals will only transport the cars, no people. Once unloaded, the competitor returns to the staging area, or follows starting line officials' instructions for their next run.

• Definitions

- **Competitor:** An individual participating in the soapbox derby, also referred to as the racer or driver. A competitor is anyone operating a soapbox car during the event.
- **Pit Crew:** One or more individuals designated to assist a competitor with compliance, safety, and event logistics. The pit crew must include at least one responsible adult.
- **Crew Chief:** A responsible adult team member who is accountable for the racer and pit crew. The Crew Chief must accompany the competitor and oversee safety and conduct throughout the course.

- **Race Marshals:** Appointed by the Soapbox Derby Race Committee to ensure the event is safe, fair, and enjoyable for all participants. Race Marshals are authorized to officiate and enforce race rules.
- **Competitive Class:** This is the official racing class for competitors who build their own soapbox cars. Competitors are required to design and construct their own vehicle. Each car must be capable of safely traveling over 12-inch-tall jumps and maneuvering around designated obstacles on the course. Performance in this class is judged on two components: 50% based on race performance (speed and successful completion of the course) and 50% based on creativity, originality, and overall style of the car. Cars must be structurally sound, safe, and uniquely designed, as style and presentation are a major component of scoring.