



Pack 55 Pinewood Derby Rules



The most important rule of the Pinewood Derby is to HAVE FUN! The second most important rule is to show GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP to all racers.

Derby Car Dimensions

1. The overall length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
2. The overall width of the car shall not exceed $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
3. The car must have $1\frac{3}{4}$ " clearance between the wheels.
4. The car must have $\frac{3}{8}$ " clearance underneath the body so it does not rub on the track.

Derby Car Weight

1. The car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces.
2. The official race scale that is used at car check-in shall be considered final.

Derby Car Modifications

1. The official pine wood block must be used. The block may be shaped in any way that is desired.
2. Official BSA wheels must be used. The wheels may not be cut, drilled, beveled or rounded. You may remove the seams and imperfections from the wheels.
3. The axles which came with the kit must be used; they may be polished and lubricated.

Race Day Rules

1. Once a car passes inspection and is entered into the race, only race committee members may touch it.
2. If the car loses a wheel, or is otherwise damaged, the racer shall have 5 minutes to make repairs.
3. Each car must pass inspection by the official inspection committee before it will be allowed to compete.
4. The Inspection Committee has the responsibility to disqualify those cars that do not meet these rules.



Pinewood Derby Car 101



You just received a block of wood, four wheels, axles and stickers...Now what? I always start by asking my son "So, what are we building this year?" Let the brainstorming begin! The ideas come fast and furious, and I merely need to guide his ideas into something that we can actually build. One year we sat down and the computer and looked at all of the car ideas at various web sites. Doing this helped him to combine three or four ideas into a unique car of his own.

The most important thing to remember is to let the boys do as much as possible in the design, creation and "tuning" of their car. The more they do, the more they enjoy the Pinewood Derby. It is amazing how much energy, enthusiasm and pride can go into a small block of wood!

The following are a few helpful hints to remember when designing your derby car.

How long does it take?

While it is possible to complete a derby car in just a few days, we recommend that you do a little bit each weekend over the course of several weeks. The following is a sample three week car building schedule:

Week One:

- measure, drill and cut block into car shape
- sand car
- paint car

Week Two:

- prepare and install wheels and axles
- add weight
- glue axles in place and lubricate wheels

Do I need Special Tools?

The wood used for Pinewood Derby cars is a soft pine, and can be easily cut using a coping saw, while more complex designs using curves and angles may require the use of a scroll saw or band saw. Once the car has been cut all the remaining work can be done using sandpaper, paint and imagination.

Each Den will be holding a derby workshop where the boys can work on their cars. A number of the parents already have some of the tools needed for construction, and are happy to volunteer their time and tools to help the boys build their cars. Contact your Den leader for dates and times.

Where do I get design ideas?

With this year's derby packet we have included a number of sample car designs. You can also find many design ideas by simply performing an internet search on "Pinewood Derby Car Designs".

To help with your design we have also included a car design template. This can be used to sketch the outline of the derby car you plan to build – both top and side views. You can then cut the template out and use it as a guide to cut the car.

You can also find additional derby car plans – available for purchase – at various web sites, such as:

www.PinewoodPro.com

www.abc-pinewood-derby.com

www.maximum-velocity.com

www.abc-pinewood-derby.com

What else should I know?

Derby car races are extremely exciting for the boys. Some are speed freaks, some are master craftsmen, but all of them create amazing cars! They all cheer for their cars, hope that they win, and love the excitement of derby day.

Hopefully, this information has been helpful. Good luck and happy racing!

Pack 55 Pinewood Derby Committee