

# BROWNSBURG

## **Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce Pinewood Derby Rules**

*(Revised 3/24/2008)*

*"The Pinewood Derby was started to promote learning, competition, and sportsmanship."*

*- Second Place finisher*

**A Pinewood Derby is about having FUN! It's about race competition, braggin' rights for the winner and crafting something you are proud of. But, it is also about mastering such concepts as friction and gravity and bettering your vehicle each time it is raced. There is an amazing amount of thought and craftsmanship that goes into a top notch Pinewood Derby car.**

**In an ADULTS Pinewood Derby race, competing is also about making your company look good and having a chance to cheer on your friends. And, this is a chance for you to "sponsor" a real race car and look good doing it!**

**In any competition, there is always a winner and a loser. Competition drives us to do our best. The goal of this event is FUN and recognition. So, if you don't win, hey, there's always next year! Remember that the appearance of your car is very important too at this event. So, even if you aren't fast, you can still be COOL!**

**Sportsmanship involves both following the rules and how you compete in our Pinewood Derby. No matter how your car performs, you want to compete in a manner that will allow you to feel good in the days to follow. Why is it important to follow the rules at the Pinewood Derby? It makes winning fair and square.**

**BTW, If you have a chance, rent the movie, "*Down and Derby*" sometime. It's a funny movie and you'll see just how bad the derby racing itch can get!**

### **The OFFICIAL Brownsburg Chamber 2008 Pinewood Derby Rules & Regulations**

The purpose of the rules and regulations is to provide a reasonable and level playing field for all racing contestants. Please read and heed the rules!

The notes at the end of these rules might help clarify any confusion you have. If you still have uncertainty about what is allowed, please contact the Race Director via the Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce.

## Eligibility of Contestants and Cars

The Brownsburg Chamber Pinewood Derby is open to ALL businesses, groups, organizations and individuals in the Brownsburg Community. Registered members of the Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce are highly encouraged to participate. In case of illness or a valid conflict, an authorized agent may represent an absent competitor.

**Only cars created and built from the Official BSA Pinewood Derby kit distributed by the Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce will be allowed!** The Chamber of Commerce is providing these identical kits so that all competitors will start with the same materials and baseline (similar to an IROC race).

ALL CARS are encouraged to have a SPONSOR or organization's name and/or logo visible on the exterior of the car. This suggestion exists for ease of identification and also for media coverage and marketing of your company during and after the event! This may not hold true if you are competing in the Design Award categories (see listing last page). Remember this is a chance to promote your self!

Pinewood Derby Cars may be used from the previous year's event. However, any car that has won a trophy or award in a previous year's event may not be re-entered. That winning car is considered to be retired. Parts of cars such as wheels or axles, from previous years winners may not be used.

Prior to racing, all cars will be checked in with a inspection that includes certification of weight, length, height and rules compliance. Once a car has cleared technical inspection, it will be impounded for racing. Once impounded, you may not add lubricate to the axles/wheels.

## Length, Width & Clearance

Maximum overall width (including wheels and axles) shall not exceed 2-3/4".

Minimum width between wheels shall be 1-3/4" so car will clear the center guide strip.

Minimum clearance between the bottom of the car and track shall be 3/8" so the car will clear the center guide strip.

Maximum length (including wheels) shall not exceed 7-1/4".

The wheelbase (distance between the front and rear axles, center to center) may not be changed from the kit body distance of 4-3/8". You must use the existing axle slots provided by the manufacturer. **(See Note 2)**

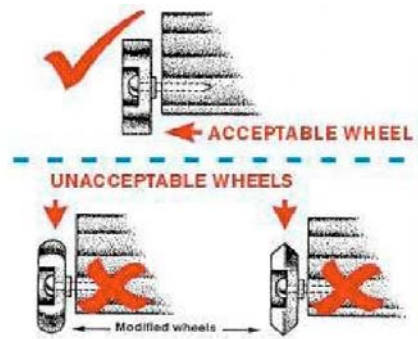
Maximum height shall not exceed 4". **(See Note 3)**

## Wheels and Axles

Only the wheels and axles from the official BSA Pinewood Derby kit (shown) may be used. **(See Note 4)**

Axles may be lightly filed, sanded and polished. This light filing, sanding and polishing to remove burrs is the only axle modification allowed. **(See Note 5)**

Wheels may be lightly sanded and polished. This light sanding and polishing is the only wheel modification allowed. **(See Note 6)**



## Weight and Appearance

Weight shall not exceed 5 ounces or 141.747 grams. The readings of the Official Race Scale at the event will be considered FINAL. If you wish to check the weight of your car prior to the event, The Brownsburg Post Office has a scale in their lobby that is certified and accessible 24 hours a day.

The car may be carved, sculpted, and/or sanded in order to enhance performance and/or appearance.

However, no loose materials of any kind are permitted on or inside the car.

Additional materials may be added to the car for the following purposes only (**See Note 7**):

- a. Weights may be added to increase the weight and/or alter the weight distribution of a car.
- b. Paints/decals/decorations may be added to alter the appearance and/or aerodynamics of a car.
- c. Glue may be used to adhere the axles to the car body.
- d. Wood putty, or a similar wood-like substance, may be used to repair minor damage to a car.

Indented noses are *prohibited*. Cars like the one pictured below will "stage" further down the track, and thus are not traversing the same course as other cars.



## Lubrication

Only dry powdered lubricants, such as graphite or white powder Pinewood Derby Car Lubricant, may be used. Oils and silicone sprays are prohibited.

A car must be lubricated prior to passing technical inspection and before being impounded in the pit area. Cars may not be lubricated after being impounded.

## Ground Rules

If a car jumps off the track, the heat will be run again. If the same car jumps off the track a second time, it will automatically lose the heat.

If a car leaves its lane and interferes with another car, the heat will be run again. If the same car leaves its lane a second time and interferes with another car, the heat will be run again without the interfering car. The interfering car will automatically lose the heat.

If a car suffers a mechanical problem (**SEE NOTE 8**) during the race, and a repair and re-inspection can be accomplished within 5 minutes, the heat will be run again. If not, the car will automatically lose the heat.

Any car that is repaired due to a mechanical problem (**SEE NOTE 8**) during the race will be subject to a re-inspection by a Race Official. If the car does not pass the re-inspection within the allotted 5 minutes allowed for the repair, the car will automatically lose the heat. If the car successfully passes re-inspection prior to its' next scheduled heat, it will be allowed to re-enter the race without penalty.

## **Inspections and Disputes**

Each car must pass inspection by the Official Inspection Team before it may compete. The Inspection Team has the right to disqualify those cars that do not meet the rules. Car owners will be informed of the violations and given an opportunity to modify the car to meet these rules.

## **Unsportsmanlike conduct by any participant or member of the audience will be grounds for expulsion from the competition and/or race area!**

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. All Chamber of Commerce business members are encouraged to participate. Other businesses, groups or organizations are also encouraged to attend. NOTE: This is an Adults race. Children are not allowed due to the nature of the event. Please note that the Chamber of Commerce can do little about those who choose to act like children.
2. The official kit block has pre-cut slots which are correctly spaced. Yes, the actual use of the pre-cut slots is required!
3. 4" is the maximum height for cars competing in the Corporate Pinewood Derby. This is due to the height restriction of the Laser Finish Line System. Check with the Race Director if you have questions.
4. Any wheels and axles not from the official BSA (Boy Scouts of America) kits are prohibited. Wheels and axles that have been modified by third parties also are prohibited, even if they are from the official kit. (You can look on *ebay*, but just don't buy anything!)
5. Beveling, rounding, tapering, thinning, perforating, or any other significant altering of the shape or performance of the axles or axles heads is prohibited.
6. Beveling, rounding, tapering, thinning, and perforating, or any other significant altering of the shape or performance of the wheels or wheel hubs is prohibited. Modification of the cylindrical inner wall of the wheel that contacts the axle is prohibited.
7. Wheel bearings, washers, or bushings are prohibited. This includes "wheel covers" which serve to keep the wheel hubs from contacting the car body. It also includes "hub caps", or anything else that might serve as lubrication "well" or "tap". The car shall not ride on any type of springs. The car must

be free-wheeling with no starting device. Other propulsion sources such as adhesives, magnets, rubber bands, motors, jet turbines, nuclear fusion and voodoo curses are prohibited.

8. Details such as steering wheel, driver, spoiler, decals, painting and interior details are allowed as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width, height, and weight. Metal frames and metal axle supports are prohibited. Yes, axles must be mounted into the wood in the precut grooves provided. That's why its called a "PINWOOD" Derby folks.
9. Legitimate mechanical problems will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Race Officials. In general, a wheel or body part falling off the car will qualify for repair during the race. Wanting to apply additional lubrication to the wheels during the race IS NOT a legitimate mechanical problem. If you can't fix your car during the race, well, as they say, "That's Racing!" Whiners will be ridiculed.

## Pinewood Derby Scoring

1. Each car will race a minimum of eight (8) times, once on each lane. Lanes will be assigned randomly. To the best of our ability, cars will not race against the same car in more than one heat. Race Director may choose to run an "elimination" style race if necessary in the interests of time due to large turnout.
2. Scoring is based upon cumulative time from all heats. The car with the lowest cumulative time will be judged the fastest car.
3. Awards
  - a. There will be three (3) racing awards presented to the fastest cars, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - b. There will be three (3) "People's Choice" design awards presented: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - c. Certificates will be awarded to cars for the following judged categories. Judging is to be done by a panel selected on race day. Note, not all categories may be awarded, and not all certificates in each category may be awarded. Additional certificates may be awarded for special circumstances:

- a. Best Overall Company Image
- b. Fastest Car Standing Still
- c. Best Engineered Car
- d. Best Support/Cheer Team
- e. Most Unique Design
- f. Most Realistic Design
- g. Dog Ugliest Car
- h. Best Sport Theme Car
- i. Most Feminine Car
- k. Most Flashing Lights (or Most Lights if no flashing lights)
- l. Best Brownsburg (Bulldog / Purplest) Theme
- r. Best Resemblance to a NASCAR
- s. Best Resemblance to an INDY Car
- t. Best Top Fuel Dragster Resemblance
- u. Best Funny Car Resemblance
- v. Best Non-car Car
- w. Unlimited!\*

\*Note: Cars that do not meet the rules, or racers who choose to build a car that is purposefully beyond the rules, will be run in an "Unlimited" race purely for exhibition purposes.

**\*THESE OFFICIAL RULES WERE REVISED ON MARCH 24, 2008**

**The  
Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce  
Pinewood Derby  
is sponsored by:**

**BIG O TIRES™**

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