Old Dominion District

2024 Pinewood Derby

Speed Registration Rules

**NOTE**: We have an inspection crew who know exactly what to look for – they will find internet purchased wheels and axles that have been modified, milled, grinded, or polished for speed advantage – it is embarrassing to have to disqualify your car at the District race and raises questions of your standing in any Pack results when you bring a car with illegal parts to our event.  Please do not let our staff be the first to tell a parent in your pack about these rules!

1. Cars shall be made from the ***current official BSA Pinewood Derby*** kit – pre-cut dies available at many local stores are allowable as a “start,” however the wheelbase MUST remain at the specified 4-3/8 inches. Axles for your car must be the axles that came with current official BSA Pinewood Derby kit.  Wheels must be the wheels that came from your official BSA Pinewood Derby kit, but may be colored wheels which are available at the Scout Store as long as they have the **official BSA mold imprint**.  Wheels that are not BSA mold generated will not be allowed to compete in the speed category.

2. The following specifications will be checked at registration and any car not meeting them will not be allowed to compete in the speed division.

* Weight not to exceed 5 ounces.
* Width not to exceed 2-3/4 inches (including wheels.) Also, any cutting or shaping of the car that would reduce the width of the block at the axle slots is not allowed.
* Length not to exceed 7 inches.
* Height not to exceed 6 inches.
* Wheelbase must be 4-3/8 inches.
  + You may drill out the provided slots to widen them for axle placement; but they must be at the specified distance.
* Bottom of car to track clearance must be at least 3/8 inches.

3. Wheel and axle rules:

* Cars must have four BSA Stamped official approved wheels attached.  Stock axles from the official BSA Pinewood Derby production kit must be used.  Wheels from the official kit or colored wheels which are BSA stamped may also be used.  Painting or applying covering products of the wheels is illegal.
* Mold irregularities may be removed by LIGHTLY sanding in the vicinity of the irregularity, but wheels may not be narrowed, ridged, or otherwise changed. Wheel surface must remain flat.  The portion of the wheel surface that contacts the track must remain parallel to the axle.  **The original tread marks on official BSA wheels must be clearly visible. (This is the circle of bumps on the outer edge of the face of the wheel that simulates the side view of tire treads.)**  Raised lettering on the wheels must be untouched.
* Axles must be driven into the official pre-slotted grooves on the block, the grooves may be widened to allow for proper adjustment – this is to preclude the many broken slots we had last year.  Axles may not be intentionally bent.
* Either three or four wheels may touch the track.  However, all four axles must be driven into the official slots.  It is acceptable to intentionally (or unintentionally) create a three-wheel-touching car by using different heights within the slots.  However, it is illegal to create a three-wheeled car by driving the fourth wheel into the body of the car above the slot.
* Drilling pilot holes within the slots (to aid alignment and avoid wood splitting) is allowed if the pilot holes are not larger than the diameter of the axles. The use of hardware to secure axles to the body of the car is illegal.
* Glue may be used for axle/slot repairs or to hold axles in the slots, but no hardened glue may come into contact with the wheel. GLUE MUST DRY CLEAR TO ALLOW INSPECTORS TO SEE ENTIRE AXLE
* The axles must be visible to the inspector all the way to the tip – do not cover the axle slot on the bottom of the car. Notwithstanding the forgoing, Official BSA axle guards are allowed so long as all other rules regarding car axles are adhered to.
* If you buy a kit at Michaels or elsewhere that is not an official BSA Pinewood Derby kit, it will NOT have legal tires – it will have tires that are not official and they will not be allowed to race.
* Axles that are purchased on the internet for a speed advantage are easy to detect by our race inspectors – they will be disqualified from racing. You may polish the axles provided in your Official BSA Pinewood Derby kit, but you may not notch them.  Intentional bending of the axles is not permitted.
* Do not purchase tires or axles from sellers on the internet that promise a speed advantage – these wheels are illegal and will not be allowed to race. We find some of these tires every year, and every year they are, to nobody’s surprise, the fastest cars on the track. We pull them off after the racing is complete and disqualify them when we can see the illegal modifications.
* Do not drill out the outer hub of the wheel to allow the axle head to slip into the wheel
* No washers or bearings may be used on the wheels.
* Axles may be polished to remove burrs.
* Dry powdered lubricants (such as graphite, graphite/moly, or Teflon) are the only lubricants allowed. No liquid lubricants may be used.
* Devices to retain lubricant (hubcaps, wheel coverings, or glue built up to form a reservoir) are illegal and may not be used.

4. Suspension systems are illegal (No sprung suspensions may be used).

5. All weights must be securely fastened to car.  Moving parts (other than stock wheels) that help momentum (such as sliding or liquid-based weights) are not allowed.

6. Any device intended to give a car an unfair advantage (such as an overhang that extends past the starting post) are not allowed.  (If the starting posts on one of the tracks at the District race are shorter than the posts for the scout's Pack, resulting in an unintentional overhang, the Chairman will attempt to temporarily lengthen the post using masking tape or the like.  If the Chairman is unable to reach a fair conclusion, the offending car will be eliminated.)

7. Any car that is eliminated from the speed competition at check-in will automatically be entered in the show competition, if it meets the show registration requirements.

8. In case of close calls, disqualifications, or questions the decision of the Chairman is final.

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Show Registration Rules

1. Latitude within the Show categories allows for variation of design which may depart from the Speed Rules, however, in the spirit of competition, cars should be designed for the show completion with the intent of the car meeting the rules for speed and the cars should be qualified to compete as a race and a show competitor.

* Weight: Each car should participate in their Pack’s race as both a racer and a show competitor.  To meet that spirit, each car should be no greater than 5.0 ounces.  However, to account for differences in Pack scales, any car that is over 5.3 ounces or less will be allowed to enter without removing weight.  (The spirit of this provision is to prevent entrants from having to damage their cars on the day of registration, not to give them an extra 0.3 ounces to work with.)  Any car that is over 5.3 ounces will be required to have weight removed until it is 5.3 ounces or less before it will be placed on the judging table.
* Dimensions – the car must conform to the same standards of length, width, wheelbase, and height as the speed car entrants.  Again, the judges can allow some latitude in this regard.
* Wheels: Wheels should meet the intent of the Speed Registration Rules.  The Chairman reserves the right to interpret the rules differently for show check-in than for speed check-in.  One specific example: if a car is disqualified from the speed category because the wheels have been over-sanded, it will be allowed to enter the show category.

2.  No model stands are allowed.  The car will be judged on its own merit.  It must be hold itself together without props or external aides.

4. In case of close calls, disqualifications, or questions the decision of the Chairman is final.