

# Fayette District Pinewood Derby Rules

## Flint River Council

- To ensure that every Scout competes fairly and understands the expectations of Pinewood Derby (PWD) racing, the following rules are presented defining the competition parameters to avoid disappointment and misunderstandings.
- Racing procedures and rules may have varied from pack to pack to determine their entries to the district competition, but the rules in this document will be the officially used district PWD rules.

Participants: Each Pack may send a total of 18 cars to the district race. 12 cars for speed will be distributed into the following divisions: 2 Lion den racers, 2 Tiger den racers, 2 Wolf den racers, 2 Bear den racers, 2 Webelos den racers, and 2 Arrow of Light den racers. Six cars, one from each of the 6 previously mentioned dens, may be submitted for the Best Design competition. The method of selection of each Pack's entrants for the District PWD is the individual Pack's responsibility.

- If the first or second place race winners or design winners at the pack level are unable to attend the district races, then a scout from the same den may compete in his place. (Scouts are encouraged to attend, but do not need to be present to win. Awards not claimed at the event will be given to the respective Pack leader.)
- Arrow of Light Scouts that have already crossed over to Scouts BSA are still eligible to compete in the district PWD.
- 2026 Entry fee is \$10 for each participant. Please plan to pay for your Pack **before** Race Day. (Fees will be adjusted and assessed on an annual basis)

Authority: The District Pinewood Derby Chair is appointed by the District Committee and is responsible for conducting the district PWD. The Chair is the final authority on any issue.

General: Every car entered must be constructed from the official Pinewood Derby Car Kit. A Cub Scout is required to construct a new car each year that he races and must use the car he raced at the pack races.

Inspection: Every car must pass inspection by the District Derby Committee before competing. Any rules previously used at the pack level to determine competition parameters are superseded by these district PWD rules. If a deficiency is found, the scout and his parents are permitted to correct those problems but must do so before the scheduled turn-in time for his den's race. Once a car has been certified to race, it will be impounded until after each den's races.

Size: The maximum dimensions of the car may not be longer than 7 inches long, 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide, and 5 inches tall. An underside clearance of at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and an inside wheel to wheel clearance of at least 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches is recommended for free running on the track. The front of the car must be at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  wide to insure adequate contact with the starting pin.

Weight: Cars must weigh five ounces or less, to including decorations and weights. The scales at the district race will be the final determinant despite how much the car weighed at the pack races.

Weights and Attachments: Weights may be added to the car and will be considered part of the car for all measurements. All weight must be securely fastened to the car with permanent glue, nails, or screws. Tape and tack spray are not acceptable. Weights must be passive. Movable, magnetic, electric, sticky, or any other variations of weights are not permitted. Decorative items such as paint, stickers, and figurines from non-BSA sources may be added to the car as long as the rest of the rules described in this document are not impeded. All added items must be securely fixed to the car.

Wheels and Axles: The only wheels permitted are Scouting America official wheels. The wheels must be freewheeling on the axle nails provided and completely visible. The axle nails must be firmly affixed to the wood of the car body and into the original slots provided (no extended wheel bases). It must be obvious to the inspector that the wheels and axles are official BSA equipment. Wheel smoothing/polishing must not remove substantial mass or reduce the tread width. The words "B.S.A." and "Pinewood Derby" on the wheels must remain intact and clearly visible to the inspector. Hubcaps, washers, inserts, sleeves, bearings, and similar devices are not permitted on the wheels or axles.

Lubrication: Powered graphite is the only approved lubrication. All lubrication must be applied before a car is registered to race.

Power: The method of PWD racing is gravity power. Motors, magnets, springs, and any other device, technique or substance that interferes with this use of gravity power is not permitted.

Racing: Only designated race personnel are permitted to handle the cars once they have passed inspection and have been impounded. These people are used to move the cars from the check-in and inspection area to the impound area and to move the cars to the race track and to retrieve the cars after each run. The designated race area is off limits to Scouts, children, and non-race committee personnel. Cars will be returned to the owners after each den has competed.

Scoring: The host pack will be using a track with an electronic scoring system run by computer racing software on a laptop. This software determines the lane and car assignment of each race. Every car will race four times, once in each of the four lanes. The average time of each run in every lane will be used to determine the car's overall standings. The highest average will win first place. 2<sup>nd</sup> place will be the next highest average. Same with 3<sup>rd</sup> place. If the electronic scoring software indicates a tie after all races, those

cars that tied will race again until a specific winner is identified. If a lane electronic sensor fails, then that lane will no longer be used. If the software fails in its entirety, three impartial judges assigned by the PWD chair will judge the winners of each race. This visual judging method will be by majority rule and final. If all judges rule for a different winner, then those cars will race again.

Design: All cars entered into the design competition will be judged on the following criteria: Creativity, Quality, Scout-Made. Judges will be appointed by the District Race chair. All cars entered into the design competition will be impounded and must meet car eligibility requirements. Awards for design will be presented during the awards presentation for racing. Cars will be available for return to entrants following the awards ceremony.

Conduct at the Races: The track officials, starters, computer operators and judges are responsible for the proper conduct of the races. Decisions of track officials on questions of rules, interpretations, and procedures can be appealed to the District Race Chair. However, the ultimate decisions of track officials on questions of fact may not be appealed beyond the track officials. Scouts and adults are expected to conduct themselves properly. Anyone can be removed from the race area and host facilities for un-sportsman-like or unruly behavior by themselves, their Scouts, or their children. Adults are expected to keep a watchful eye on their children at all times to ensure children do not go into unauthorized areas of the hosting facility and do not get into or play with any furnishings, phones, furniture, lamps, etc. in the hosting facility.