

2026 COWETA DISTRICT - FLINT RIVER COUNCIL OFFICIAL PINWOOD DERBY RULES

CAR SPECIFICATIONS

All Speed cars and Best in Show cars must meet the following specifications:

Width: Maximum width of car not to exceed 2 3/4 inches

NOTE: A good rule for width is not to have any attachments that stick out past the wheels

Wheelbase Width: Width between the wheels must be 1 3/4 inches.

NOTE: This is the width of the kit block. Therefore, the wheels must be outside of the block.

Length: Maximum length of car not to exceed 7 inches

NOTE: The length of the kit block is 7 inches. If you want to have something on the back or front, you will have to cut the block down

Weight: Maximum weight of car not to exceed 5.0000 ounces

NOTE: The impound scale measures to a ten thousandth of an ounce.

Wheelbase Length: Length between front and rear axles must be 4 1/2 inches(+/-1/8 inch). The wheelbase can not be moved from the original block position.

NOTE: This is the same position as the pre cut axle slots cut into the block. It is a good rule just to use those slots for your wheels

Clearance: Clearance between bottom of car and track must be at least 3/8 inches

NOTE: With Wheels, this amounts to about a penny's width. It is not recommended to put any weights on the bottom of the car without embedding them below the surface.

GENERAL RULES

1. Each race car must pass inspection by the Official Inspection Committee before it may compete. The ruling of the Inspection Committee is final. The Coweta District Committee Race Representative is the authority for interpretation of any specification or rule.
2. If a car does not pass inspection, the owner will be informed of the reason and will be given an opportunity to make adjustments within the remaining official inspection period. The car must be re-inspected before the end of the official inspection period.
3. Every pack will be given a copy of the Official Pinewood Derby Rules and must follow these rules within their pack. Rules and procedures will be posted on the Council website and are available from the District Executive.

4. All cars competing in any category must be built in the year (school year calendar) the car is raced or shown.
5. All District Derby participants may only enter the car that they won with at their Pack PWD in the current year (school year calendar).
6. Car must be built from the official Cub Scout Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit (consisting of the block, wheels and axles).

AXLES AND WHEELS

7. Only the axles and wheels provided in the official Cub Scout Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit or approved BSA wheels will be allowed. The only non-kit approved wheels are the BSA black or colored wheels which have "BSA Pinewood Derby" written in raised letters on the outside of the wheel.
8. Axles may be filed for burrs only, sanded, and/or polished only; no reduction in the diameter of the axles will be allowed.
9. It is permissible to drill holes for the axles as an alternative to the pre-cut grooves. If this option is chosen, the end of the nail must be visible for inspection. **NO SOLID AXLES ARE ALLOWED**
10. Wheels and axles are subject to inspection after the final race in that division. Any car that does not meet the specifications within the rules will be disqualified if the entry is in the speed division.
11. In 2009 there was a design change made to the official BSA wheels. Only wheels manufactured after 2009 may be used. Wheels may NOT be modified:
 - a. Wheels may not be altered in any way. The wheels must have the tread on the outer edge.
 - b. No wheel modification can be made
 1. to the inner diameter or hub diameter;
 2. no lighting holes;
 3. no reduction to the diameter or the width of the wheels.

OTHER GUIDELINES

12. The car must be freewheeling and achieve motion through the effect of gravity only. Any design or device with the intent to transfer weight or induce speed is prohibited (e.g. inertial motors or ball bearings).

13. Enhancing items such as bearings, washers, bushings, springs, and hubcaps are prohibited.
14. Starting devices are not allowed; cars designed with protruding devices intended to provide a "head start" will not be approved.
15. No part of car can extend past the starting pin on the track.
16. Dry lubricants such as teflon powder, graphite, and graphite blends are allowed. No wet lubricants are allowed.

DECORATION GUIDELINES

17. Car decorations and theme must maintain BSA standards. Cars cannot display logos or designs featuring alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or other depictions not in keeping with the Boy Scout spirit.
18. "After market" or homemade details such as steering wheel, driver, fins, or scoops are permissible provided these details keep the car within the specifications listed above and are firmly attached to the car.

PACK PARTICIPATION

19. There will be two categories judged at the District PWD: speed and show. Each Pack may send to the District PWD two scouts per rank in each category up to a maximum of 24 scouts (twelve in speed and twelve in show). The Scout sent does NOT have to be the top winner in your race. If the winner cannot attend you can send an alternate.

Suggestion: If the 1st place winner cannot attend then invite the the 2nd place winner to attend. If they cannot attend then go to the 3rd place and so on until a scout can attend.

20. One Scout can participate in both speed and show competitions.
21. Participation in the PWD cost is \$5 per scout/per category. For example, if 1 car is participating in both speed and show categories, the cost is \$10.
22. Registration and payment will be available on the Flint River Council website.

GENERAL RACE FORMAT

23. The Pinewood Derby will be held in rank race sessions. Individual races in each session are called heats. Four cars will race in each heat.
24. Each scout will be required to place their car on the track and align their car prior to each heat.
25. Random race assignments will be generated by the racing computer program. Each car will race 1 time on each of the 4 lanes of the race track. Each car will race a total of 4 times.
26. At the completion of the heats, the racing computer program will average the times for each car. The overall time and finishing orders will be calculated using the average of the times for each car.
27. Awards for speed are based on cumulative time and not the finishing order of any specific heat.

AWARDS

28. Awards will be presented to the top 2 in each category for each rank (Top 2 Speed and Top 2 Best in Show). The awards for each rank will be awarded at the end of the assigned race session.
29. Two overall awards will be given: The FASTEST in the Coweta District and the BEST in SHOW for the Coweta District. The FASTEST in Coweta County speed trophy is awarded to the fastest car, regardless of rank or session raced. There will be a grand finale race off between the winner of each rank.
30. Scouts are required to attend for the speed race, but do not need to be present for the Best of Show to win. Awards not claimed at the event will be given to the respective Pack leader.