



Katahdin Area Council • Scouting America

2026 Pinewood Derby Rules

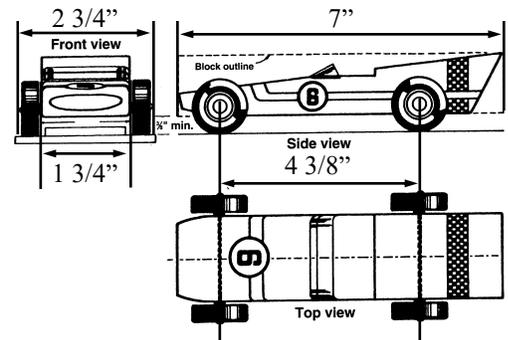
for all Council and District Races



The following Council Pinewood Derby Rules are intended to promote uniformity, fairness, good sportsmanship and fun which meets the aims and proposes of the Cub Scout Program. Race Cars should be designed and built by the Cub Scout with guidance provided by the adult. Please review these rules before beginning building your Pinewood Derby Racer.

Section I. Car Specifications

- A. Width: Shall not exceed 2 3/4 inches / 69.85 mm
- B. Length: Shall not exceed 7 inches / 177.80 mm
- C. Height: Shall not exceed 3 inches / 76.20 mm
- D. Weight: Shall not exceed 5 ounces / 141.75 gm
- E. Wheelbase: Shall not exceed 4 3/8 inches / 112.71 mm
- F. Bottom Clearance: 3/8 inches between track and car
- G. Wheel Clearance: 1 3/4 inches between wheels



Section II. Design and Construction

A. General Design

Only the Official Pinewood Derby Kit supplied by Scouting America can be used. Kits can be purchased from the Council Service Center or a SA authorized distributor. Pine Car and other non-SA kits are not acceptable. Check the kit for compliance of these rules before beginning construction. Accessories can be used as long as the car meets all specifications (see Section I). Cars must be free wheeling with no starting devices. **The front of the car must be constructed so that it does not overhang the starting gate system** (see Figure 3). Each car must pass an inspection for compliance prior to the race and may be disqualified for awards any time during the race.

B. Car Body

The body may be hollowed out and the use of wood or metal may be used to build the car up to the maximum allowed dimensions and weight (see Section I). Details (i.e.: steering wheel, driver, etc.) will be permissible as long as they do not exceed car specifications and are firmly in place. No loose materials will be allowed on the car. **There must be a minimum 3/8 inch clearance between the bottom of the car and the track surface.**

C. Wheels and Axles

Only the wheels and axle nails provided in the kit are to be used. Modifications to the wheels are not permitted (i.e. ground to a fine line, rounded, tapered, grooved or any other kind of modification, see Figure 2). Wheels may be lightly sanded to remove the burrs and mold marks (see Figure 1). Wheels must display the words SA-Pinewood Derby on the side walls. **Only the grooves provided in the block are to be used to place the axle nails. The space between the grooves must not exceed 4 3/8 inches.** If the grooves are not square, damaged or are greater than the maximum allowed space return the kit to the Council Service Center for a replacement kit. The use of washers, bearings, bushings, spacers as well as the use of solid axles, any type of springs or suspension are not allowed to be used on the car. **All four wheels must touch the track surface. Powdered Graphite or SA Axle Lube are the only type of lubricants allowed.** The use of oil, grease, silicone or liquid graphite are not be permitted.

