



## Lenape Trail District Pinewood Derby District Championship 2026 Rules

*The purpose of the rules is to provide a reasonable and level playing field for all contestants. Please read and heed the rules! If you have uncertainty about what is allowed, please contact the 2026 District Pinewood Derby Committee at [paul.rondeau@gmail.com](mailto:paul.rondeau@gmail.com).*

**Race Day: 1PM-4PM Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
**Livingston Senior/Community Center**  
**[204 Hillside Ave, Livingston, NJ 07039](#)**

### Eligibility of Contestants and Cars

The 2026 Lenape Trail District Pinewood Finals are open to all Cub Scout packs within the Lenape Trail District. **Packs may enter up to 12 cars total - 2 for each den, or up to 3 per den if other dens have less than 2 racers.** These are the rank winners from the pack: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos & AOL. **Do not send more than 12 racers, and all rosters (names and dens) must be submitted by April 7, 2026 via email to Paul Rondeau at [paul.rondeau@gmail.com](mailto:paul.rondeau@gmail.com)**

The 6 entry categories include: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and AOL. A racer must have been a registered Cub Scout as of January 1, 2026.

**Participation is by Unit pre-registration only.**

**Registration deadline is 11:59PM, Sunday, April 5, 2026**

**Pre-Race check-in inspection is required:** The pre-race check-in will take place on race day from 1:00-4:00pm. All racers must have been pre-registered by their respective Packs. NO race day registrations are allowed.

Cars in the 2026 Competition must have been made for this race season (September 2025 to race registration dates). Cars or parts of cars such as wheels or axles, from previous years may not be used.

Construction of cars must be done using the block in the official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby kit or authentic BSA approved parts that are purchased at an authorized BSA Scout Shop or authorized BSA retailer.

## Ground Rules

- If a car jumps off the track due to a mis-mount or for any reason, the heat will be run again. If the same car jumps off the track a second time for the same heat and it is determined car engineering was the cause, it will be given a Did Not Finish time.
- If a car leaves its lane & 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.
- If a car suffers a mechanical problem and a repair can be accomplished within 5 minutes, the heat will be run again. Cars can be repaired only under the supervision of the Official Inspection Team.

## Inspections and Disputes

- Each car must pass inspection by the Official Inspection Team before it may compete. All cars will be inspected at check in on race day.
- All cars and racers must be pre-registered by their Pack.
- The car will be impounded once passing inspection and be securely held by the District Derby Race Staff until the race begins. The cars will be displayed in a restricted area and only the Race Staff will have access to the cars until the races are concluded.
- The Inspection Team has the right to disqualify those cars that do not meet the rules. Car owners or their representatives will be informed of the violations and given an opportunity to modify the car to meet these rules.
- It is recommended that tools be brought to the weigh-in for any unforeseen compliance issues with the District Rules in this document.
- Once a car is approved and checked-in, it may not be touched or removed from the impound area.
- Any conduct conflicting with the Scout Law by any participant or member of their racing team will be grounds for expulsion from the weigh in or race day competition.

## 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" to clear the track center rail.
- 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 7-1/8".
- The maximum height is 4" to clear the timer tunnel.

## Wheels and axles

- Only the wheels and axles from the official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby kit may be used. Wheels and axles not from the official kits are prohibited with the exception of official BSA colored wheels available at an authorized BSA retailer such as the Scout Shop.
- Scouts are not required to use the pre-cut axle grooves, and may cut their own grooves at different positions. Remember that the maximum length of the car, including the wheels, cannot exceed 7-1/8".
- Axles may be lightly filed, sanded and polished. Axle bending is also allowed and there is no requirement for all four wheels to touch the track.
- Wheels may be lightly sanded and polished. This light sanding and polishing are the only wheel modifications allowed.
- Wheel bearings, washers, or bushings are prohibited.
- No inner wheel weights, air dams, or any other inner wheel accessories are allowed. No wheel covers, cosmetic or other, translucent or other, are allowed.
- The car shall not ride on any type of springs. The car must be freewheeling with no starting device or other propulsion, such as adhesives, magnets, rubber bands, motors, jets, etc.

## Weight and Appearance

- Weight shall not exceed 5 ounces. The readings of the Official Race Scale will be considered final. A word of caution. We have been advised that some US Postal scales might weigh cars slightly light (approximately .1 ounce). It is advisable to have shedable weights that can be added or removed at weigh-in.
- Glue of any kind may not be used on race day. We do this to preserve the track so any car found to have wet glue at turn-in will be disqualified.
- The car may be carved, sculpted, and/or sanded to enhance performance and/or appearance.
- 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:
  1. Weights may be added to increase the weight and/or alter the weight distribution of a car.
  2. Paints, decals and decorations may be added to alter the appearance and/or aerodynamics of a car, including a driver or similar adornments, provided they are firmly attached. Car body fenders are allowed.
  3. Glue may be used to adhere the axles to the car body, but the glue must be completely dry when it is inspected.
  4. Wood putty, or a similar wood-like substance, may be used to repair minor damage to a car.
  5. Metal frames and metal axle supports are prohibited. Axles must be mounted into the wood.
- Car bumpers or noses cannot extend beyond the start gate pin in any way.

## Lubrication

- Only dry powdered lubricants, such as graphite or white powder Pinewood Derby Car Lubricant, may be used. Oils and silicone sprays are prohibited. Graphite can be applied to cars on race day but note that graphite added to oil creates a gum-like substance and increases friction rather than reducing it.
- A car may be lubricated with graphite before inspection. Once checked in, no further modifications or lubrication will be allowed. Cars may not be lubricated after the start of racing.

## Racing Process

- Cars will be raced by rank, starting with Lions and ending with Arrow of Light, before moving into the Grand Final Round.
- Each car will have an opportunity to race four (4) times, once in each lane of the Official Track. This compensates for any lane performance deviation. A race between four cars is considered a heat. Each racer's three (3) fastest heat times will be accumulated to determine a car's overall time and standing against other racers in that group. Each racer's slowest heat will not be factored into their final score, to help account for any issues with the track or poor staging.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place racer from each rank will be promoted to a Grand Final Round, and each car will again race 4 times, once in each lane. Each racer's three fastest Grand Final heat times will be accumulated to determine a car's overall time and standing against other racers in the Grand Final Round. The fastest car (with the lowest accumulated time total) will be declared the fastest Lenape Trail District Cub Scout for 2026.

## Trophies

Trophies will be awarded to the following:

- Lion 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- Tiger 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- Wolf 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- Bear 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- Webelos 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- AoL 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner
- Overall Grand Final 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Speed Winner