



NORTH STAR DISTRICT

2026 PINEWOOD DERBY RULES Derby

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Registration Open:	January 11, 2026 00:00 AM to February 16, 2026 11:59 PM
Inspection and Weigh-In:	Friday, February 20, 2026 5:30pm-7:30pm (Mall closes at 8pm)
Inspection/Weigh-In Location:	Triangle Town Center mall, center court 5959 Triangle Town Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27616 Google Maps code: VC8F+JQ Raleigh, North Carolina
District Derby Location:	Same as above
Opening Ceremony:	Saturday, February 21, 2026 10:30 AM (Mall opens at 10am)

*****CRAFTSMANSHIP AND ORIGINALITY AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT 10:30 AM. CRAFTSMANSHIP AND ORIGINALITY PARTICIPATES DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT. ALL SPEED PARTICIPATES MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE DERBY.*****

See District website <https://northstar.ocscouts.org/events/pinewood-derby/> for current and future Derby details and for online registration.

DIVISIONS:

Lion	Wolf	Webelos
Tiger	Bear	Arrow of Light*

The District Derby will continue to use Competitions based on rank. Divisions are made up of all Scouts in those rank groupings.

COMPETITIONS: Craftsmanship, Originality & Speed

- Each Competition will have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner for each Division.
- The Speed winners of each Division will compete for an overall Top Speed Trophy.
- Each car may only be entered in one type of Competition.

* Scouts that have bridged over to a Troop are welcome and encouraged to participate if they placed in their Pack races

** It is required by the Derby Committee to have Cub Scouts' cars registered at the primary Inspection and Weigh-In on Friday evening so that race software, judging sheets and participation certificates can be completed before race day, thus eliminating registration bottleneck, technical issues the day of the race and ensuring a quality program for the event. **

** Ultimately, it is the Cubmaster or their designate's duty to ensure that all their Pack's cars are registered online by the registration deadline and that all racers' cars are legally checked in at Weigh-In per the times identified above. **



NORTH STAR DISTRICT 2026 DERBY RULES

1. Length, Height, Width and Clearance (All cars must meet these standards regardless of competition category)



- a) The maximum overall width including wheels and axles shall not exceed 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
- b) The minimum width between the wheels shall be 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches so the car will clear the center guide strip on the track.
- c) The minimum clearance between the bottom of the car and the track surface shall be 3/8 inch so the car will clear the center guide strip on the track.
- d) The maximum overall length shall not exceed 7 inches.
- e) The wheelbase (distance between the front and rear axles) may not be changed from the kit body distance of 4 3/8 inches (some kits may be off between 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch). The pre-cut slots provided on the official BSA kit must be used!
- f) The maximum height shall not exceed 4.5 inches in order to accommodate the electronic timer.

2. Car Body, Weight and Appearance



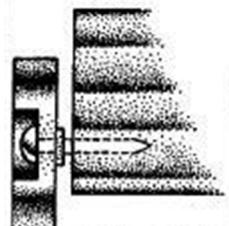
- a) Body wood **shall be only** as provided in the Official BSA Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Kit.
- b) The car must have been built during the current year (the school year in which the Pinewood Derby is held).
- c) The **maximum weight of the car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces**. The reading of the official scale will be final.
- d) **No liquids or loose materials of any kind are permitted in or on the car.** The car may be hollowed out and built up to the maximum weight by the addition of wood or metal only, provided any additional materials are securely built into the body or firmly affixed to it.
- e) Details such as steering wheel, driver, decals, spoiler, painting and interior detail are permissible as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width or weight specifications.
- f) Cars with wet, sticky or tacky paint will not be accepted.
- g) The front end of the car must not extend past the starting post, meaning no notches, grooves, or slots that would give the car an unfair advantage at the start.

Acceptable wheels

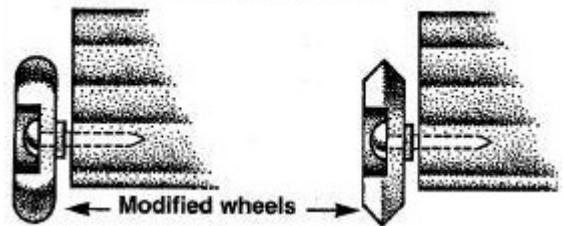
3. Wheels and Axles



- a) **Only BSA approved wheels and axles**, as provided in the Official Pinewood Derby Kit, must be used.
- b) Wheel bearings, washers, bushings and hubcaps are prohibited.
- c) The car shall not ride on any type of springs.
- d) The car must be freewheeling, with no starting devices or other types of propulsion.
- e) Wheels can be sanded to remove surface imperfections, but the treads must be left flat. Beveling, tapering, narrowing, thinning, thin sanding or wafering of the wheels are prohibited.
- f) Axles may be smoothed to remove surface imperfections such as burrs, but may not be altered in any other way except polishing. The head of the axle (nail) shall not be altered other than burr removal and surface polishing.
- g) All 4 wheels of the car must touch the track/surface.



Unacceptable wheels



4. Lubrication



- a) Only graphite or powdered Teflon "white lube" will be allowed for lubricating the wheels. You **MAY NOT** use any other lubricant, especially oil and silicone sprays. (Liquids, grease and sprays create an unfair advantage and can potentially mix with the paint of the car or the plastic wheels and make them tacky which will slow your car considerably over time. Liquid lubricant can also potentially foul the track ruining the racing surface for others).

- b) NO (re-)lubrication will be allowed after your car has completed Final Inspection and Registration.
- c) Due to safety reasons, NO lubrication of your car will be allowed in the race area or within the structure in which the Derby event is being held. (Graphite on the floor creates a hazardous slipping condition where people are walking.)
- d) Cars that are lubricated during the race will be disqualified.

5. Inspection and Registration



- a) To compete in any category of the Pinewood Derby, each car must pass Final Inspection and be registered by the documented deadline.
- b) Any car from any Division being registered for a Speed competition is required to meet **all** criteria from all Sections of this document, **including 3g (i.e., all 4 wheels must touch the track/surface – no 3-wheel cars allowed).**
- c) Any car from any Division being registered for a Craftsmanship or Originality competition must meet all criteria from all Sections of this document but will not be weighed or have their four-wheels-down status verified at Inspection/Weigh-In, to expedite registration of those cars.

NOTE: Individual Packs should continue to adhere to all of the rules in Section 1 through 5 above for any car being raced for any Speed competition in a Unit Derby event.

- d) Inspection and Registration deadline is as defined on the first page of the rules document.
- e) ***The Inspection Committee reserves the right to disqualify cars that, in their findings, do not meet these rules.*** Any Scout may appeal the inspection to the Pinewood Derby Committee Chairperson, whose decision is final.
- f) If a car does not pass inspection, the owner will be informed of the reason his car did not pass (too long, too heavy, altered wheelbase, or the like). Cars that fail the initial inspection may be modified to bring them within specifications and brought back for re-inspection before the Final Inspection Deadline.
- g) No car may be altered in any way after it has passed Final Inspection and Registration. The cars will remain in the holding area (“garage”) and cannot be touched by anyone until time to race.
- h) An inspected car that is found to be in violation on the day of or during the race can still be disqualified except where the car may have fallen out of spec due to damage.

6. Ground Rules and Competition Categories



NOTE: Each car can be entered in only one category. (ex: A car that has entered the Speed competition may not also be entered for Originality or Craftsmanship.)

Speed:

- a) North Star District Pinewood Derby race will begin promptly at the time defined on the first page of this rules document.
- b) Good sportsmanship and good behavior are expected at all times. Pinewood Derby Officials may ask anyone (participant or spectator) not following this rule to leave the competition or race area.
- c) The District Pinewood Derby is open to all Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts registered in North Star District who won First Place in Speed, Originality or Craftsmanship in their respective group at their Pack Pinewood Derby during the current school year.

Note: If the first place winner is not available to participate, it is acceptable to offer to the next highest rank winner to help increase participation in the District race

- d) Each entrant may enter only one car and one competition category in the Derby. Their car must be entered in the same category in which they won at their own Pack Derby.
- e) The Speed Competition will be judged using the Perfect-N Type method by racing heats within each bracket (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light, each competing only within their own bracket). To equalize differences among track lanes, each heat will consist of each car racing at least one time in each lane. Each racer's elapsed time from start to finish will be judged using electronic finishing devices and a computer software program. Winners in each bracket are determined based on cumulative elapsed race time among all heats within a given bracket.
- f) Only Pinewood Derby officials may enter the track area.
- g) Each heat will be announced. The starter will start the race.
- h) Racers will retrieve cars from the finish line and return cars to the “garage”.
- i) Only if a car leaves the track, runs out of its lane, or interferes with another car one time it will still be allowed to re-run that particular race heat. If that same car leaves the track, runs out of its lane or interferes with another car a second time, it will automatically lose that race.
- j) A race car will be counted as last place or DNF (did not finish) in the particular race heat if it cannot make it to the finish line in the specified race lane within the timer-default limit of 10 seconds.

- k) The ONLY repair that will be allowed during the District Derby is for a wheel and axle that has come off the car. **NO glue or other adhesive substance will be used to make the repair.** The car will be disqualified if any wet glue is put upon it during race time. Only the Race Officials and Scouts are allowed to touch the car.
- l) The Pinewood Derby Committee will handle any questions regarding the rules or problems that may arise during the event and their decision(s) will be final.
- m) Questions or clarifications needed regarding the rules should be communicated at the Inspection / Weigh-In event occurring the evening before race day to a Race Official.

Craftsmanship

- a) Cars entered for Craftsmanship will **not** be required to pass the weigh-in or other speed-related checks (all 4 wheels down, weight \leq 5.0 oz., etc.); however, **they must still conform to all other length, height, width and clearance requirements.**
- b) Cars will be judged for Craftsmanship by independent judges that have been chosen by the Pinewood Derby Committee. These judges have been instructed by the Committee and are believed to be unbiased in their judging.
- c) Craftsmanship will be based on the following:
 - **Neatness:** is the overall appearance pleasing and well-executed?
 - **Detail:** how well was the idea carried out?
 - **Colors:** do the colors blend well with the overall design?
 - **Scout Ability:** is it evident that the Cub did the majority of the work?
- d) Votes will be cast on ballot sheets and tallied by members of the Pinewood Derby Committee.

Originality

- a) Cars entered for Originality will **not** be required to pass the weigh-in or other speed-related checks (all 4 wheels down, weight \leq 5.0 oz., etc.); however, **they must still conform to all other length, height, width and clearance requirements.**
- b) Cars will be judged for Originality by independent judges that have been chosen by the Pinewood Derby Committee. These judges have been instructed by the Committee and are believed to be unbiased in their judging.
- c) Originality will be based on the following:
 - **Unique Design:** something other than a “usual” race car design
 - **Unique Colors:** different color scheme that impacts the design
 - **Detail:** how well was the idea carried out?
 - **Scout Ability:** is it evident that the Cub did the majority of the work?
- d) Votes will be cast on ballot sheets and tallied by members of the Pinewood Derby Committee.

7. Awards and Recognition



- a) The most important values in Pinewood Derby competition are parent/scout participation, good sportsmanship and learning how to follow rules. The Awards Committee is responsible for recognizing and encouraging these qualities in addition to traditional racing awards.
- b) Every participating Scout will receive a District Pinewood Derby Certificate and a participation Patch distributed at Inspection / Weigh-In.
- c) First, Second and Third Place trophies will be awarded in each category of Speed, Craftsmanship and Originality. A trophy for overall fastest car will also be awarded.
- d) **Each participant needs to be present in order to receive an award.** If a participant is not present the award will be presented to the next highest scoring car.
- e) **Each unit is expected to send at least one person to volunteer for Friday night check-in or the Saturday race.** Volunteer participation should be identified at unit registration.

Coaching Hints for Parents

- Help your Scout understand the rules and specifications found in the kit and those developed by the District Pinewood Derby Committee. Your Pack may have different rules that do not meet the District rules.
- Spending time with your Scout and helping them “do their best” will be remembered by both of you long after the Derby is finished.
- Remember, the focus of this event is not to win at any cost, but for each Cub Scout to “**DO THEIR BEST**” and **HAVE FUN!!**

