

PINEWOOD DERBY

Pinewood derby contests are here! As your pack plans the races for this year, your committee should consult the Cub Scout Grand Prix booklet (catalog number 33721). Council finals will be held at the Youth Expo on March 29, 2008 (see related articles for more details). Catalina Council has taken rules for its district and council finals from this booklet, with clarifying interpretations. These interpretations/clarifications are in bold face in the following text. The following rules will be enforced strictly. All cars must be made from an official BSA Pinewood Derby kit. Inspectors will be inspecting for modified wheels, speed axles, and modified front and rear axle distance.

Rules:

1. All cars must pass inspection to qualify for the race. The inspection points are as follows:
 - a. The car must have been made during the current school year (the year in which the Derby is held).
 - b. The width of the car shall not exceed 2.75 inches.
 - c. The length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.
 - d. The weight of the car shall not exceed 5 ounces.
 - e. Axles, wheels, and body wood shall be as provided in the kit. **Axles must be the exact ones from the kit. Speed axles will not be allowed. (These are easily identified by their shape, color, and diameter. Wheels will be the unmodified wheels from the kit. Wheels may be lightly sanded so that the surface of the wheel remains flat when contacting a race track. Wheels may not be rounded nor otherwise shaped or molded. The precut axle grooves will be the only axle location and mounting to be used--cars with elongated wheel bases will not be allowed to race.**
 - f. Wheel bearings, washers, and bushings are prohibited.
 - g. The car shall not ride on any kind or type of springs.
 - h. Any details added must be within length, width, and weight limits.
 - I. The car must be freewheeling, with no starting devices.
 - j. No loose materials of any kind (such as lead shot) are allowed in the car.
2. **Lubrication**
 - a. **Only dry powdered lubricants, such as graphite, may be used. (Regular oils and silicone sprays may soften plastic wheels.)**
 - b. **Cars may be lubricated before inspection. Additional lubrication after inspection, registration, and placing the car in the Race Pit is not permitted.**
 - c. **Hubcaps that cover the axle will not be permitted. (This makes it impossible to inspect for official Grand Prix Pinewood Derby axles.)**

If, at registration, a car does not pass inspection, the owner will be informed of the reason for failure, and will be given time within the official weigh-in time period to make adjustments to pass inspection. The judges words are final.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Council office. Remember that good sportsmanship is a big part of the whole Pinewood Derby occasion. Have a great time spending time with your boys when they make their Pinewood Derby cars!