



# Down Hill Derby Rules

1. **Down Hill Derby vehicles must be safe for their drivers, course workers, and spectators. All derby car drivers are required to attend a drivers' meeting one hour prior to the race start.**
2. Down Hill Derby drivers must sufficiently test their vehicles for stability, steering and breaking to ensure driver can maintain proper control down the course and stopping at the end. Driver must not turn over, lose steering or braking control, run off course or into bales, or create any hazardous condition for driver or spectators.
3. Down Hill Derby cars must be fitted with a minimum of a three-point harness (shoulder strap and lap belt) seatbelt attached securely to the frame of the car. Drivers must wear seatbelt at all times during the race.
4. The combined weight of the Down Hill Derby car and its driver must not exceed 250 pounds. Cars with drivers will be weighed prior to practice runs; organizers will rely on an honor system during the heats.
5. Down Hill Derby cars must have a braking mechanism that will adequately slow and stop car and driver without losing steering control. Cars must be able to stop without assistance within 75 feet of finish line during practice runs prior to the race. Any car that hits the hay bales at the end of the course during a race will be disqualified for that run; the car's owner will have the opportunity to fix the car and be included in the next heat.
6. Down Hill Derby drivers must be between the ages of 6 and 17 and must have practiced safe operation of their vehicle.
7. Down Hill Derby drivers must wear helmets and any other necessary equipment to keep the driver safe at all times during the race.
8. Drivers must have an adult available to help them practice, race, and "rescue" them if needed. Each car must have an adult stationed at the finish line during each heat.

## Derby Car Design and Specification Guidelines

The race is a rather unstructured social event designed to encourage participation and family fun with safety as the top priority. The following car design criteria are based primarily on safety and for low cost and ease of entry. This is not an official soap box derby race and kit cars are not encouraged. Handmade cars with children's participation in construction and painting is encouraged. Kit cars are defined as a vehicle with a prefabricated body, and/or a majority of the vehicle being similar to an official soap box derby car (e.g. from [www.soapboxracing.com](http://www.soapboxracing.com) or similar vendors). Classification of kit vs. homemade will be at the discretion of the race managers. Please feel free to contact the race coordinators with any questions. See below a list of specification guidelines.

- Cars should be 3' wide from wheel to wheel and not more than 6' long from nose to tail.
- Wheels should not be bigger than 12" in diameter.
- Cars should provide enclosure for the driver including a solid bottom or pan, solid sides and solid top except in cockpit area to protect driver in the event of collision or roll over.
- Cars should be low enough to provide stability but high enough in nose and tail areas to allow for up to 20 degree ramp at starting area.
- Steering axle pivot bolt should be set as far in front of axle line as possible to aid in straight line travel. Steering axle should be limited in turning radius to prevent over-steer and loss of stability.
- Steering should move easily to allow smooth and slight course correction and must be easily managed without interruption for braking or other activity.
- All bolts and fasteners on wheels, steering, and braking assemblies should employ self-locking washers, nuts, or cotter pins to prevent loosening and be of sufficient size to handle stresses and forces encountered.
- Cars must have a mechanism to stop the driver and vehicle promptly when in motion on course and a brake for parking. Braking mechanism must allow the driver to stop the vehicle at the end of the race or upon encountering any other condition on the course. Plunge-style brakes are strongly encouraged. Cars that cannot stop without assistance within 75 feet of the finish line will not be allowed to race.
- Three-point safety restraints (shoulder and lap belts) and helmets are required.
- The maximum combined weight of the car and the driver may not exceed 250 pounds.



**For more on this event please visit [www.hometownfestival.org](http://www.hometownfestival.org)  
or follow the "Round Hill Hometown Festival" on Facebook.**