

# Fountain Tire ST. ALBERT SOAP BOX DERBY

2024

## ST ALBERT SOAP BOX DERBY OFFICIAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

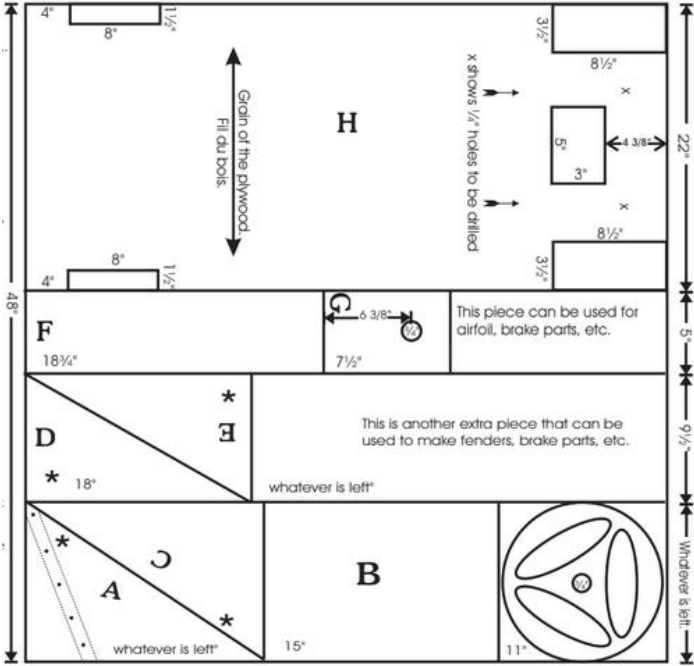
If you should have any questions about the Information contained in this document, please contact the Fountain Tire St Albert Soap Box Derby Committee at [info@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca](mailto:info@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca)

Technical and build information nights, with example cart designs and braking options to see and touch, are planned in in spring each race season. Please check website for locations, dates and times. Your technical Build questions can be directed to [techbuild@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca](mailto:techbuild@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca)

Please subscribe to the Soap Box [Newsletter](#) on the website for St Albert Soap Box Derby updates.

### RULES

1. Gravity is the only form of power allowed.
2. The overriding requirement in any soapbox race is safety. Mishaps do occur, of course; but it's your obligation to build a car which is safe to ride and presents minimal danger to the driver and spectator, if an accident should occur.
3. St Albert Soap Box Derby has standardized on **GoKit®** as the foundation for Soap Box Derby carts. **GoKit® dimensions are shown in the diagram below. St Albert Soap Box Derby will allow the length of the cart length up to 53 inches. Cart base width is 22 inches. Sides can be attached to the base provided the maximum cart width is less than 24 inches.**
4. All parts in the **GoKit®** must be used as purchased to ensure equal chance by all racers competing, with the exception of special allowance on wheels noted in number 5 below. No alterations of mechanical parts are permitted.
5. Wheels must not be altered or exchanged for a different style. No adding of bearings, shaving of tires, covering of wheel hubs, or any alterations whatsoever is permitted. Exception: Lubrication is limited to spray lubrication. Painting of wheels is limited to spray paint.
6. Cars must run on four wheels; two front and two rear. All wheels must have contact with and touch the ground at all times when racing.
7. Axle width, front and rear, must be the same and consistent with kit build design specifications to accommodate the loading process. No deviation from this limitation will be permitted.



8. The base of the car must be constructed of 5/8" plywood as a minimum; neither MDF nor particle board is acceptable. **St Albert Soapbox recommends 3/4 " plywood for carts.**
9. Upon completion of the build, all protruding screws/nails must be cut off flush to the wood or other material surface (protruding screws/nails are a safety hazard for volunteers).
10. No sharp protruding objects or design elements may be attached to any side of the car. It will be inspected before the race and you will be asked to remove any items that do not follow this rule.
11. Keep in mind that safety of others is important and design of the front of the racer should be kept from being too dangerous in a collision.
12. Care must be taken to keep the center of gravity as low as possible to prevent rollovers.
13. Feet must be in forward position with legs extended when driver is in racing position.
14. Seat belts are required. Seat belts must be safely attached to the floorboard or frame member and include two (2) shoulder restraints and a waist restraint.
15. A properly fitting **CSA approved with a valid date** helmet must be worn. Bicycle, motorcycle, football or hockey helmets are acceptable. Full face protection is preferred. **Helmets will be checked at Cart Safety Inspection/Weighing and Driver Orientation Day.**
16. Drivers must wear shoes during competition (Flip flops and sandals are not allowed). Wearing gloves, elbow and/or knee pads are optional but preferred.
17. Brakes must be one of the four designs provided in the kit. Brakes must be capable of stopping the car in a short straight line, with no damage to the road surface. **St Albert recommends a foot tread brake to keep hands on steering wheel and minimize wheel damage when braking.**
18. Steering must be by wheel; circular or other design are acceptable.
19. A roll bar high enough to protect the driver's head while seated in the car in the unlikely event of a roll-over. The Roll Bar must exceed the height of the driver while wearing helmet and seated in the cart. Even with all of the precautions, rollovers do sometimes occur. It is very important to provide protection against potential whiplash. Provide an adequate head rest for the driver.
20. The weight of the cart alone **may not exceed 60lbs (27.2 kg)**. Drivers weight is **not** included in the cart weight. **Combined driver and cart weight is used in race scheduling in age categories.** If the Safety Director, Race Director OR Inspectors deem the weight to be unsafe or improperly secured, you will be requested to remove the weights prior to entering the cart into the race. **Carts are subject to random selection for weighing on race weekend. Soapbox may choose to weigh and inspect any or all carts that qualify for quarter, semi or final races.**

NOTE: Loading weights on the extreme front of the cart will be considered dangerous and at the discretion of the Inspector, you may be requested to relocate or remove these weights.

21. A Tow Ring shall be a securely fixed eye hook at front of cart to attach a towing line from ATV. Tow ring opening to be 1.5" or larger and strong enough to ensure the cart can be pulled up hill.

**Added in 2024.**

**23. Carts can not have additional weights added after Safety Inspection. Racers weight is provided on registration. No additions of ankle weights, vests or any other weights to Racers is allowed. Carts and drivers can be asked for random weigh confirmations on Race Weekend.**

Revised April 2024 (diagram added, with 24 inches width confirmed) and combined driver and cart clarification.

Revised December 2024, Revised January 2023 (cart weight maximum 60 pounds (27.2kg) clarified

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following provides **safety “recommendations”** in building your Derby Cart and outfitting your Racer. These recommendations are provided based on the experience at St Albert Soapbox Derby and from discussions and observing from other Soapbox Derbys.

Please remember that this is an at speed event. Carts will travel at a rate of 20-40km per hour by the time they reach the midpoint of the hill. Impact with any object may cause forward motion of the driver and precautions are recommended.

**HELMET:** Helmets are a required personal safety item. The type of helmet, although at the parent/guardian’s discretion, is recommended to be one that provides full face protection. Helmets such as Hockey Helmets, Motorcycle or BMX Full Face covered are the best options. **Helmets must have a valid Canadian Standards Association (CSA) sticker to be used. Most helmets have a 6.5 year life from date of manufacturer.**

**BRAKES:** You have the choice of several designs included in your kit. **St Albert Soap Box Derby provides a foot activated Tread brake available for purchase.** NOT all designs are suited to all racers. You know your child best. It is **recommended to use a foot pedal brake** to keep racer hands on the steering wheel. Non tread brakes cause wear on the tires which may lead to wheel wear/replacement.

**SEATBELTS:** Seatbelts may be constructed of any material that restrains the driver in their seat for the duration of the race. Based on past performance, it is recommended to use a wide material crossing from shoulder to opposite hip location in each direction. Added protection would be the inclusion of a waist belt. Due to the speed of the event and the chance of a driver sliding forward on the deck of the cart, crotch mounted restraints are to be used cautiously and should be padded if used.

Successfully used materials in the past have included actual retired car “racing” belts; leather belts or suitcase straps cut into two or seatbelts cut out of cars from an auto wreckers. Any of these styles may be secured to the cart with a bolt and washer at each mounting location. ANY belt must be tightly secured around the driver when they are loaded into the chute. Any car to have seatbelts that have deemed to have failed or cannot be secured will NOT be allowed to race. This is at the discretion of the Official Starter or the Race Director.

**SCORING:** Scoring will be based on a finish position ranking. Carts finishing in first place will receive 10 points, carts finishing in second place will receive 5 points and carts finishing in third place or not crossing the finish line will receive 1 point. At the end of regular heats, it will be determined if a Tie Breaker is required. If required, the Scoring and Staging Managers will consult and set a Tie Breaker schedule which will be communicated to the Drivers and their Pit Crews.

## PIT CREW & DRIVER CODE OF CONDUCT

Soapbox organizers would appreciate both drivers and pit crew, including parents, to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Race officials will attempt to make sure that all vehicles are running according to regulation and that all races are run in a fair manner. Race officials’ decisions are final. Race officials have the right to disqualify driver, vehicle or pit crew at any time for inappropriate behavior.

By entering the Fountain Tire St Albert Soapbox Derby, you and your pit crew agree to adhere to this code. Remember, a racers experience is directly related to the role models around them. Finishing the race should be a win for everyone. Embrace the experience and enjoy the day!

Finally, this is a fun event for the Racers. These guidelines and recommendations are for their safety and to ensure that they enjoy the event from start to finish.

The St Albert Soap Box Derby Rules and Regulations are always being reviewed for an improved Race Day experience and safety. Got a suggestion or comment send it to [info@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca](mailto:info@stalbertsoapboxderby.ca)