



SOUP BOX DERBY 2026

September 12, 2026

(Alternative date in case of rain: Sept. 13, 2026)

SOUP BOX DERBY ENTRY GUIDELINES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides you, the prospective vehicle designer/builder, with some of the guidance you need to prepare your entry into the fabulous Soup Box Derby. It includes all the guidelines, rules and regulations that must be met in order to participate in this event. Please read it carefully. You will not be allowed to participate if your vehicle does not meet these guidelines.

THE DERBY OBJECTIVE

The Soup Box Derby has one, and only one, purpose: Fun. This is not a speed or performance competition. It is not, in fact, a competition at all. In the proud tradition of Soup Box Derbies beginning in the 1970's, the sole reason for the event is to meet your friends, be as creative as you want to be, celebrate, and enjoy life. Community volunteers who supported the Langley Soup Coop, which fed the hungry, created the "Soup" Box Derby for these reasons. If you want to build a vehicle that goes fast—great! If you want to build a vehicle that barely goes at all but looks wonderful—great! If you want to build an ugly vehicle that barely moves--great! The goal of the event is fun for everyone; let your imagination run wild—as long as you follow the rules.

You will notice the guidelines are very brief. That is intentional. The goal is to have only enough rules to ensure the safety of the participants and the spectators. We do not want to limit people's imagination any more than we have to, to make the event a safe one. Read through the rules and regulations. Their basic thrust is safety-SAFETY-safety. As you build, use your *own* common sense to ensure the spirit of safety is embodied in your fabulous creation. As you race, remember injury is not fun and definitely not part of the plan.

We have intentionally omitted specifics regarding the appearance—except for the dimensions of the racers. Vehicles may be sponsored by any business.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OFFICIALS WILL INSPECT EVERY ENTRY. THE RULINGS OF THE OFFICIALS ARE FINAL

1. No vehicle that the event officials consider unsafe will be allowed to race.
2. No weapons or explosive devices are allowed on any vehicle, driver, or rider.
3. Every vehicle must have sufficient braking power to stop itself in 100 feet (from Finish Line to Line of Death (straw bales)).
4. Every vehicle must be easy to steer.
5. Every driver/rider must wear a hard-shell helmet and closed-toe shoes.
6. The vehicle can be propelled by gravity only--no pushes to start, no pedals or rockets.
7. Each vehicle must complete the safety check, judging, parade, and safety run prior to the race.

8. Each vehicle must be pushed or pulled from the registration area to the top of First Street by driver and/or team (Pit Crew, Groupies, etc.). Golf cart or ATV assistance may be provided after race heats by designated SBD Crew members.
9. All rulings by the race officials are final.

ADULT SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum total weight, including driver/riders:	600 pounds
Maximum height	8 feet
Maximum width	6 feet
Maximum length	12 feet
Minimum number of wheels	2

Consider very carefully the steering and the stopping power required for your vehicle . If your vehicle nears the maximum allowable of 600 pounds, it will take substantial brakes *and* good steering to race safely. BE SAFE.

CHILD SPECIFICATIONS (Minimum age: 7 years of age)

Maximum total weight, including driver/riders:	300 pounds
Maximum height	6 feet
Maximum width	3 feet
Maximum length	8 feet
Minimum number of wheels	2

Even more caution must be exercised in the children's vehicles A mature 12-year old may be able to handle the maximum total weight of 300 pounds but the same vehicle driven by a smaller child may place both the child and the spectators in danger.

The officials will judge each entry in the context of the driver(s). Thus, an entry may meet all the guidelines and still be barred from racing. Entries must comply with all Rules and Regulations *and* sign release of Liability and Hold Harmless form for each rider/driver.

GENERAL NOTES

There are many types of potentially effective braking systems. The two most-used may be caliper brakes (like ten-speed or auto disk brakes) and drum brakes (like your '55 Chevy - *kids - ask a handy adult to explain that one*). For a very light vehicle with a light rider even simpler brakes may be possible. Use your good sense with the goal of complete safety foremost in your plans.

The same applies to steering systems. There are many types, each appropriate to particular applications, weights, driver skills, etc. Again, design and build with the goal of complete safety foremost in your plans.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Safety of all racers, volunteers and attendees is the #1 priority. If pavement is wet or inclement weather is a factor, cancellation may occur at the discretion of Race Officials. Rescheduling is subject to weather, crew, and resources.

DAY-OF-RACE SCHEDULE:

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Registration (2nd and Anthes)
9:00 AM – Safety Meeting and Inspections
10:00 – Race Begins on First Hill

We'd love to hear from you! To RSVP that you are planning to race, to brag about your speedy racer or if you have any questions, please email soupboxderby@whidbey.com.

SEE YOU AT THE DERBY!