

ALABAMA BAPTIST

RA PINEWOOD DERBY GUIDELINES

RA Racecar racing is offered for boys as a fun activity. Keep it as fun and don't let competition mar the fun.

Sometimes the big race obscures one of the primary purposes of the derby, that of bringing a boy and his parents or another adult together in a creative, shared and meaningful activity of building a car. Occasions for such shared activities are all too rare. In years to come will the boy remember this race or the experience and time with his parents or a caring adult? Likely, he will have fond memories of his dad (mom, uncle, or leader) teaching him to use woodworking tools. If this process includes casual conversations, laughter and warm feelings, perhaps winning (or losing) the race is not very important in the long run.

The race should teach boys something about the nature of competition in a Christian manner. This means being gracious in winning (this needs to be taught), and at the same time having pride in doing ones best.

BUILDING

GUIDELINES

Make copies of these guidelines for parents and others who may help a boy make a car.

To qualify for the association and state/congress race, build according to the follow guidelines.

- * **NUMBER ONE RULE** – If in doubt as to what you can do to your car, a general rule to follow is to do only what the majority of builders will do. Change only the shape, weight, and distribution of weight.
- * Car must be made of wood. Wheels and axles are to be those sold for the RA Racecar or Royal Racers, under the sanction of the RA Program, or exactly like them. Scout or hobby store wheels are acceptable if they are the same as the RA Racecar or Royal Racer wheels. Wide wheels 3/8 inch and ¼ inch tapered wheels are approved. Wafer wheels are not acceptable.
- * Overall width of car, wheels and axles shall not exceed 2 3/4", length 7". Weight should be 5 ounces or less. Distance between wheels (width) must not be narrower than 2". Distance between axles (length) must remain as they are on the standard RA Racecar (4 1/8" ± 1/8").
- * **The car must be built within the church year that the car is raced.** THE MONTH AND YEAR must be PERMANENTLY placed on the bottom of the car by marker, paint, carving or stamped.
- * Weight may be added using most any material you desire. Make sure it is securely attached to the car. Please don't expect race officials to hold up a race while you re-attach weights.



- * The RA EMBLEM or some form of identifying the car **as a RA RACE CAR** must be visible on the car.
- * Any reduction to any wheel, other than sanding to remove casting marks, is not allowed.
- * Only dry powder lubricants, such as graphite, may be used. Lubrication is to be done before presenting the car to the race officials.
- * Washers, solid axles, running on three wheels or any other additions, which the majority of participants throughout the state do not do, are illegal.
- * THE FIRST AND LAST RULE OF BUILDING A RA PINEWOOD DERBY CAR IS...
DO NOT DO ANYTHING TO YOUR CAR THAT THE MAJORITY OF BUILDERS/RACERS DO NOT DO!

RACE INSPECTION AND RULES (Race Officials)

1. Each car must pass inspection by the Race Officials before it may compete. Car owner will be informed of the violations of the set rules and given an opportunity to modify the car to meet these rules prior to the race.
2. If there are any questions of the rules, please ask a member of the Race Officials for an interpretation of these rules prior to the race.

RACE PROCEDURES

1. Heats - All races will be run on a system of elimination by heats or by time averaging.
2. Starting - Cars must start by gravity from a standstill, at a starting line on the track, without any help. No pushing will be allowed.
3. Leaving the Track - If any car leaves the track on first run, there is no contest. Race will be re-run. If the same car leaves the track on second run, the car is eliminated from the race.
4. Mechanical Problems - If the car suffers a mechanical problem, loses an axle, breaks a wheel, etc., and a repair can be accomplished in a reasonable time, (5-10 minutes), the heat will be run again. If not, the car will automatically lose the heat.

RACE OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH RACE – Usually held the first or second week of February.

ASSOCIATION RACE – Usually held within the last two weeks of February or no later than the first weekend of March.

STATE RACE – Held the second weekend of March at the **RA Congress**.

All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place LAD division and CRUSADER division association winners are eligible to enter the STATE RA PINEWOOD DERBY. This derby is held at the RA Congress. Winners of the state race are the *fastest* Lad or Crusader RA Racers in the state.

CONGRESS RACE – Held in conjunction with the state race at the RA Congress, the second weekend of March.

All RAs (except those who placed in the association derby) may enter in the Congress Race. This race is by grade. Winners will be the fastest first grader, second grader, etc. at the congress.

AWARD CATAGORIES AT THE RA CONGRESS

STATE WINNERS – Lad Division

Crusader Division

Best Looking (chosen from “all” cars at the RA Congress)

Most Unique (chosen from “all” cars at the RA Congress)

Counselors Race (for counselors, parents, and other adults)

Almost Anything Goes Race (For the cars that are 5 ounces or less, fit within the race lane, but have been modified in some way different from what the majority of builders/racers have done.)

CONGRESS WINNERS – 1st Grade
2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade
6th Grade

Pinewood derby car kits can be obtained from:

www.royalracers.com or
www.maketrackscompany.com

931-935-8201