

# Greater Washington Soap Box Derby 2009 Race Day Rules

The following rules will be enforced to ensure fairness to all competitors. All competitors will be expected to comply with these rules. Our wish is for everyone to have fun and leave the event having had a great experience.

1. ARRIVAL: Racers can be placed on Louisiana Avenue beginning at 5:30 AM, but must check-in no later than 7:00 AM. **No motor vehicles will be allowed in the pit area after unloading the racers.** All automobiles, vans and trucks must be parked away from the pits, car return pathway and racetrack. I recommend parking area on New Jersey Ave.
2. APPARAL: All competitors **must** wear an official AASBD helmet, the GWSBD issued official tee shirt, and shoes or other footwear that comply with the AASBD rules to compete in the race. Goggles may be worn at the driver's discretion. Nothing can be worn under the helmet. The AASBD helmet shall remain totally unaltered.
3. PITS: We will be impounding the cars between heats in a controlled staging area. "All" cars must be presented to the staging area for it's particular division immediately after the practice runs for rookie drivers and immediately after the Stock Division is called. The only items allowed in the controlled staging area are: the driver, the car handler, the derby car, the helmet, and car stands (12"high max, no saw horses), one waterproof car cover/tarp, one terrycloth towel and extra weights. No food or drink is permitted in the staging area. The driver and car handler only will be permitted in this control area to watch their car between heats. No work will be permitted on the car. This includes waxing the body, adjusting weights, lubrication and alignment. If a car is involved in an accident or some other incident that may present a safety hazard, the Pit Boss, at his own discretion, may perform the repairs necessary to ensure safety or allow the driver and/or car handler to perform the repairs. You should bring a basic tool kit, extra brake pads and spare parts. Upon completion of each heat, non-eliminated cars must be immediately returned to the controlled staging area. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Eliminated cars may be removed from the pits.
4. ALLOWABLE WORK: Your car should be ready to race before inspection. No work is to be done during the week after inspection. Cars will be re-inspected during the day to assure compliance with AASBD rules. You will be allowed to lubricate your wheels with WD-40, lighter fluid or similar approved lubricant, on race day morning before the cars are presented for staging in the control area. **Once the car is in the controlled staging area, absolutely no lubricants will be allowed around the cars or in the pits.** If one of your wheel bearings becomes fowled you must report to the Pit Boss where he may clean and lubricate your wheel if he deems it necessary. You will be permitted to wipe your racer with a dry, wax free terrycloth towel just before you swap wheels with your opponents though out the day.
5. CALLED RACERS: You must be ready to race when called. You will have 5 minutes when called to report to your car and get to the wheel swap area. Drivers should stay near their cars during the race, so that they will be ready for their next heat when called. If a driver cannot be found in less than five minutes, he/she may have to forfeit the heat. Once you have been called you must report to the wheel swapping area with-in five minutes. Once there, you will draw for the 2 wheels to be swapped (See note 10 for wheel swapping procedures). **Once you have swapped wheels there will be no touching or spinning of wheels allowed. There will be no rocking or rolling of cars while waiting to go onto the scales and the trailers.**
6. WEIGHING-IN: The driver and car will be weighed before each heat to assure that the maximum weight of 255 lbs. (Masters Car with Z-Glass wheels), 230 lbs. (Super Stock Car) and 200 lbs. (Stock Car) is maintained. Please note that all cars are required to have ten (10) pounds of adjustable weight, placed on the long front or rear weight bolts, in the car. Each entrant should bring his/her own extra weights to the race. To avoid delays, please bring your extra weights and leave them near the scales. All contestants must be able to adjust their weight with-in a reasonable time limit. The only weight that may be adjusted is the weight on the long front or rear weight bolts. **Delays will not be tolerated on the scales. The extra weights will not be allowed beyond the scales. There will be no food or liquids consumed by the contestant or allowed in or around the car once it has been weighed.** When adjusting weight care should be taken to keep your car within the allowable 15-pound front to rear weight differential or 7.5 pounds over/under a balanced tail weight. The Pit Boss may check any car during the day, at his discretion, to insure this rule is enforced. If you have any concern about your tail weight, please check it between heats before being called for your next heat. A tail weight scale will be provided for this purpose. A chart will be posted at the tail scale showing your allowable **empty car** tail weight.

<u>Stock:</u>	200lbs	Minimum tail weight, 92.5lbs	Maximum tail weight, 107.5lbs
<u>Super Stock:</u>	230lbs	Minimum tail weight, 107.5lbs	Maximum tail weight, 122.5lbs
<u>Masters:</u>	255lbs	Minimum tail weight, 120lbs	Maximum tail weight, 135lbs

7. TAIL WEIGHT COMPLIANCE: Upon completion of a heat the losing car has the right to ask for the winning car to be checked for tail weight. This should not be misinterpreted as the losing car is accusing the winning car of cheating, but rather the right of all losing drivers. If a driver wishes to call for a tail weight check it will be done at the bottom of the hill immediately after the heat. If the winning car is not within its allowable posted empty tail weight latitude, the losing car will be weighed. If the losing car is in compliance, it will be declared the winner of the heat. If both cars do not comply, the heat will stand as run. If any one car fails to be within its posted empty tail weight limits twice, it will be disqualified from further competition.
8. DOUBLE ELIMINATION FORMAT: The "Double elimination/ timer swap" system will be employed to run the race. Under this system, in "each" heat you will race twice (2 phases), against your opponent, first in one lane, then in lane two. An electronic timer placed at the finish line will capture the time differential of each phase. The time difference from both phases will be compared to determine the winner. When cars go back to Topside after the first phase of a heat they will swap all four wheels and then go directly to the ramps. If other cars are in line for the first phase of a heat they must allow the second phase cars to go ahead of them. This is so that both phases of each heat may be run as close together as possible. Each contestant will stay in the competition until he or she has lost two heats. It is very possible to lose a heat and still win the championship.
9. HANDLERS AND RAMPS: Each entrant must have one adult car handler (capable of picking up the derby car with one other helper), at the top of the hill to assist the entrant in swapping wheels, removing the car from the trailer and positioning the car on the ramp. **Handlers may not touch or wipe the wheels while on the ramps.** Please notify the starter if any debris is noted on the ramps or wheels or road surface in front of the ramps. Drivers must be in their car and ready to race in sixty seconds or less. Drivers and handlers must obey the starter's commands at all times. No rocking or movement will be allowed on the ramps or during the race. No delays will be tolerated at the ramps, especially between phases. When lanes are "clear", the cars will be released.
10. DRIVING RULES: **The driver must remain in a "still" racing position with eyes above the cowling at all times during the race. "Ducking" will result in immediate disqualification from the race. If a car has all 4 wheels out of its designated lane, the heat will be forfeited regardless of the phase. If a car knocks cone/s into the path of the opponent's car and causes the opponent to alter their drive the heat may be rerun or forfeited at the judge's discretion. If a driver runs into the timer they will forfeit the heat, whether the timer was damaged or not, no exceptions.**
11. WHEEL SWAP: Each car must its own set of Z-Glass wheels. The wheels used must be the set that was approved at inspection. Prior to weighing-in, two wheels will be swapped at the scale, (chosen by the luck of the draw), between the two contestants in the heat. Prior to the second phase of the heat, all four wheels will be swapped. The four-wheel swap in between phases 1 and 2 will be done at Topside while the cars are still on the trailers. This is done to ensure fair competition by having both racers run the same set of wheels in the same lane. While performing the four-wheel swap, all contestants and handlers should quickly perform the swap but must use common **courtesy and respect** for their competitor and his/her car at all times. **Any attempt to gain an unfair advantage through delays or deliberate tampering with wheels will not be tolerated. During the swapping of wheels there will be no time when wheels shall be set down on the wheel's bearing.** When removing wheels for swapping, they must go directly from the spindle of car A to the corresponding spindle of car B. Care must be taken to insure that you get the right wheel on the proper spindle by checking the stickers which were placed on the wheels at inspection. **It is each driver's responsibility to make sure their opponent's wheels are mounted on the proper spindle with all stickers facing away from the racer. No heats will be re-run due to incorrect wheel placement.** After the completion of the heat, all wheels must be returned to their owner and must be properly placed on the correct spindle until the next heat.
12. AWARDS: Prizes and trophies will be awarded to place winners of the Stock, Super-Stock and Masters Divisions. Trophies will also be given for best design in the Masters Division and for originality in decoration in the Stock and Super-Stock Divisions. Every contestant will receive a participation trophy. We will be presenting the "Mike McFarland Sportsmanship Award". This plaque is awarded to an individual or family who has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship during the race. We will also again be presenting the Joe McCary Sr. Mentor Award. This award will be presented to the adult member who best demonstrates the quality of mentorship. The champions from the Stock Division, Super-Stock Division and the Masters Division will each win a one-week trip to Akron, Ohio to compete in the All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007. **It is understood that all 3 champions are obligated to represent the GWSBD in Akron, Ohio and as such must complete all Akron paperwork before leaving the track. Trophies will not be given out before the race has ended and the track has been returned to pre-race condition. All prizes and trophies will be presented at the awards ceremony following the clean up.**

**The GWSBD wishes all a good fair race and a great time. GOOD LUCK !**