

**Portland Adult Soapbox Derby**  
**Third Saturday in August on Mt. Tabor**  
**10AM-4PM**

## A Meetings

### 1 Volunteer Safety Meeting - Mandatory

Each team MUST provide a volunteer and they are considered a part of your team. If you do not have a volunteer signed-up, or if your volunteer does not show up and sign in on race day your team will NOT race. **Volunteers make The Portland Adult Soap Box Derby possible.**

One member from each team **must** attend a volunteer meeting. It is best if the volunteer is present at the meeting, but any member of the team may stand-in to relay important information.

Please choose one safety meeting to attend.

*Where:* Mt. Tabor Park in "The Pits" (Located in the upper parking lot overlooking the playground.)

*When:* **Friday, August 7th, 2026 @ 6pm**

**Saturday, August 8th, 2026 @ 3pm**

### 2 Racer Safety Meeting - Mandatory

At least one member from each team must attend a racer meeting. It is best if more than one member is present so everyone is clear on the rules and safety. Review and know the rules prior to the safety meeting. There will be a quiz with prizes.

Please choose one Racer Meeting to attend.

*Where:* Mt. Tabor Park in "The Pits" (Located in the upper parking lot overlooking the playground.)

*When:* **Friday, July 31st, 2026 @ 6pm**

**Saturday, August 1st, 2025 @ 3pm**

### 3 Brush Clean Up

Every year we do an invasive brush clean up a week or two before the derby. Date and time will be coordinated with the Park's Management and will be announced to all teams. This is essential to spectator viewing and safety, not to mention it helps Mt. Tabor Park. We love our mountain and our extra work helps us lock in a race the following year. This is *not required* but we appreciate anyone

who is willing to give a few hours to help us, help Derby, and to help Mt. Tabor.  
Email [volunteer@soapboxracer.com](mailto:volunteer@soapboxracer.com) to be on the list.

*Where:* Mt. Tabor in "The Pits" (Upper parking lot overlooking the playground.)

*When:* Tentatively set for **Sunday AM, August 9th, 2026**

## **B Online Application - Mandatory**

*Application Deadline is **Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, at 11:59 Pacific Time***

\*NOTE\* Completing the online application does NOT guarantee you participation in the derby. A team representative MUST attend our in-person registration, volunteer, and safety meetings

## **C In Person Registration - Mandatory // \*\*WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR\*\* In person registration will be at Covert Cafe at 803 SE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97216, a racer owned bar. We are following the same rules; we are advising not to show up before 5 AM. Once your spot in line is secured, feel free to mill about, enjoy some food/beverages, and utilize the AVAILABLE BATHROOM!! Sign ups will begin @ 8am PST.**

*Registration Day (**Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 @ 8am PST**)*

Place in line traditionally held on a First-Come-First-Serve basis.

1. The first 42 teams to line up will have a spot in the derby and must pay the **non-refundable \$250 entrance fee** at this time, via cash or check.
2. Teams will check the team information form and make any changes at this time. No changes will be accepted after registration day.
3. Your team must draw a number from a hat, which will be your "Race Team Number" for this year.
4. After all 42 spots are filled, we will form a waiting list of alternate teams.

The **\$250 entrance fee** must be paid by alternate teams at registration and will be refunded if you are not called to race.

*Those are the ABC's*

## **Rules - Mandatory**

**D Be respectful of the Derby staff, spectators, and your fellow racers.** Bad behavior or failure to adhere to the following rules will not be tolerated and will result in penalties that range from a warning to a disqualification for one heat to a lifetime ban from Portland Adult Soapbox Derby.

## E Derby Basics

### Racer Categories defined-

**Science:** A Science Car is a race car designed for speed that weighs less than 300 pounds. A science car is NOT eligible for the “Best Art Car Award”.

**Art:** An Art Car is a car or “float” designed with art as its primary objective and weighs less than 500 pounds.

- 1 All team members must be at least 21 years of age including your volunteer.
- 2 Each team may have up to 5 members not including your volunteer.
- 3 Each team must have a designated sober driver, or drivers, who remain sober until your team is finished racing.
- 4 Each team member including your pusher and volunteer must sign a liability waiver on race day. Participate at your own risk.
- 5 There must be at least one member from your team in your pit stall at all times. The Pit Boss will come by your stall once to call you up for your next race. If you miss your call and are not queued up on time your team will not race that heat.
- 6 If your team misses a heat, a time of 3 minutes will be entered for your team for that heat.
- 7 Each person racing or riding in a car must have a DOT, SNELL, or **ECE** certified vehicle helmet securely attached to his/her head with the factory chin strap. A full face helmet is recommended but not required. **No other type of helmet is allowed.** Eye protection is also strongly recommended.
- 8 Each car can have a maximum of three (3) people in it. Your pusher can not race if pushing for that heat. No one may jump into the car after the race has started.
- 9 Each car gets a push start by one designated pusher. If your pusher or push pole is in contact with the car when the pusher reaches the Fault Line, which is 10 yds past the Start Line, you will not receive a time for that heat.
- 10 All efforts must be made to avoid contact with other cars while underway. Intentional bumping/rubbing is prohibited. Malicious contact will earn a DQ.
- 11 No music, horns, water cannons, contact with any other cars, or any disruptive activities will be allowed in the Starting Grid, Push Zone, and ‘on deck’ areas. The Push Zone must remain hazard free and the asphalt remain dry to allow fair starts.
- 12 For a fair and safe race, water must not be squirted, discharged, or thrown UNTIL your car has reached the "Water Line" which is a chalk line 15 feet beyond the Fault Line. Any discharge of water before this line will result in disqualification for that heat.

**13** Liquid water is the only acceptable weapon allowed after the Water Line.

Water balloons are accepted. No pyrotechnics, fire, fireworks, candy, ice, balls (aka: testicles), soapy water or anything that can cause a dangerous track may be thrown from your car at any time while on the track and racing -or- in the pits.

**14** Do not deliberately squirt spectators or other racers in their faces/eyes with water cannons. Be respectful of our fans and fellow racers. Squirting fans should be a shower, not a laser blast.

**15** From the Starting Grid to the Finish Line your driver MUST NOT hold a cell phone or any other device. i.e. phone, i-pad, walkie-talkie, cans with a string, mp3 player, or camera (video or still). You have one job! Make it to the bottom safely.

**16** No James Bond horseshit. No smoke, chalk, mirror, or vision dimming hijinks.

We aren't super-villains. We know where you're going, so no super-spy crap.

**17** No high fives or contacts with spectators including actions that lure spectators onto the track such as throwing candy, prizes, etc. are allowed. Keep all body parts inside the race car during the race.

**18** If your gravity car is not free rolling by the time you hit the "Redline", located approximately 150 ft. from the Finish Line, your car will be disqualified. A timely race is essential.

**19** Drivers MUST brake after the finish line. No runaway cars! Your car must be at a complete stop before the lower reservoir entry gate. The "Runaway route" is left open by our safety team for emergencies only. If your car needs to use this emergency route your car will be subject to inspection before your next race. If you blow the stop twice, you are subject to disqualification by the Race Director.

**20** Each car will race at least 3 heats. Scoring will average your best 2 out of 3 times to qualify you for the single elimination quarterfinal.

**21** Each team is expected to clean up after themselves. Leave the park cleaner than you found it!

**22** Each team will be given a ballot to vote for their favorite nominees in whichever categories are provided. This is a community event and prize winners are chosen by this community of racers. Vote dammit!

## **F Derby Car and Team**

**1** A **Portland Adult Soapbox Derby Car** is a gravity racer with a minimum of 3 wheels, a steering system, and **TWO BRAKE SYSTEMS**. Skateboards and street luges do not qualify.

**2** Total cost of the car build not to exceed \$500 dollars. Brakes, seatbelts, helmets, and other safety items are excluded from this limit. Spare no change to stay safe on

race day.

- 3** Any group can enter up to 2 cars. Each car's team will be required to register separately and have an individual Team Captain, Lieutenant, and Volunteer. The 2 cars may not be mirror copies of each other. Get creative! Change up those color schemes. This is to make it easier for the timing crew to get accurate times.
- 4** The car you "Sign-In" on Race day is the car you race for the entire day. Do not bring a back-up car, we will know and you will be BOOed by everyone in The Pits!
- 5** Your team number must be on the Front, Right and Left side of your car written in Arabic numerals. (Look it up!) Must be legible and 6" minimum height.
- 6** Your car must have at least three (3) wheels in contact with the track at all times.
- 7** Your car must be powered only by gravity, no kinetics, no wind, and no other means of propulsion is allowed.
- 8** Your car **must** have **TWO FUNCTIONAL BRAKE SYSTEMS** independent of each other. **A PRIMARY** brake system and a **SECONDARY** brake system as a backup in case of failure. No Fred Flintstone style foot dragging.
- 9** Your car **must** have a large eyebolt (400# min. rating) attached securely to both the front **and** rear of the car. Up to 3 cars are tethered together for tow-back to the pits.
- 10** An audible horn is mandatory. It must be loud enough to be heard by spectators from around blind corners.
- 11** Your driver must operate the car from a secure position, e.g., seated, strapped in, or enclosed by the car, with easy access to the brakes and horn.
- 12** Passengers must also be secure and in no danger of falling out of the car.
- 13** Fully enclosed cockpits must be able to be easily opened from both the interior and the exterior of the car without tools. Labeling from where it opens is suggested.
- 14** Your car will be inspected by our Pit Boss crew and held to a "Workmanlike" standard. You must demonstrate that **both brakes** stop your car, the steering functions, the eyebolts are secure, and the horn works. Any car that appears unsafe or in violation of our rules will be disqualified from racing without refund.
- 15** Your SCIENCE or SPEED CAR must not weigh more than 300 pounds.
- 16** Your ART CAR must not weigh more than 500 pounds. Art cars weighing more than 300 pounds are not eligible to race in the Final Three.
- 17** Your car is subject to being weighed at any time while you are in the pits or in line for the start of your race. Weight limits DO NOT include driver/passengers. Weight limits DO include water and water cannons. **OVERWEIGHT** cars will NOT race.
- 18** The width of your car must not exceed 5ft (60 inches).
- 19** The length of your car must not exceed 12ft (144 inches).
- 20** The height of your car must not exceed 10ft (120 inches).
- 21** Removable push poles must not exceed 10ft 10 1/2" (130.5 inches) overall length.

**22** Push pole receivers and push bars are included in the overall 12' length of the car.

**23** You must give PASD one blue M&M, or facsimile, at the Racer Safety Meeting.

**24** No Pokey Things: You must NOT have sharp objects on your car that could harm spectators, racers, or yourself in a crash, or injure someone walking by your car in The Pits. This includes push bars and push pole receivers. No Ben-Hur spikes, saw blades, sharpened stakes of any rigid material or items such as animal antlers. Any sheet metal edges must be folded over (hemmed) so sharp edges are not exposed.

**25** Only wheels with pneumatic tires will be allowed. Casters, skateboard wheels, solid wheelbarrow wheels, etc will get you disqualified. This includes "Ye olde timey soapbox wheels" or Official Kids Soap Box Derby Wheels.

**26** **No use of lawn tractor chassis & wheels/tires are allowed. The wide, low pressure tires & low speed bearings result in slow cars which slow down our event. The show must go on...at a speedy pace.**

**27** Our organization does not authorize test runs on Mt. Tabor. Help us remain in good standing with the community & Mt. Tabor officials. Test your gravity cars elsewhere!

**28** Suspending the driver or passengers from the structure of the car is allowed only with inspection and pre-approval from Derby staff. Approval must be obtained on or before the Racer Safety Meeting. Contact [racer@soapboxracer.org](mailto:racer@soapboxracer.org) for criteria and procedural info.

**29** "Face/Head first driving position" is allowed with these rules.

- a. The front of the driver's helmet must be 24 inches or more behind the leading edge of the chassis. Your face must not be the front bumper of your car.
- b. The driver's and passenger's head/helmet position must be behind the steering controls. Your steering controls must be in front of your head.
- c. A FULL FACE DOT/Snell/**ECE** certified helmet with visor/protective eyewear is required for face first drivers and passengers. No exceptions.
- d. Driver must be able to see at least 180° forward and sides.
- e. Driver and passenger legs, arms, or any part of their body must be within the car's front, side and rear dimensions at all times.

Violation of these rules will disqualify you from the track on race day.

## **G Alcohol**

We do have an alcohol permit for all of our entertainment needs, HOWEVER...

**1 NO GLASS BOTTLES** are allowed on the mountain.

**2 NO KEGS!** This is not a frat party!

**3 NO BOOZE!** Portland Parks & Recreation does not allow hard alcohol. Drink your

whiskey after the race at the awards ceremony.

## **H Race Day Basics**

- 1** Racer Queue Up- No earlier than 6AM!! We need the space before 6am to get our own trucks on the mountain. Enter from the Salmon St. entrance ONLY, not SE 69th. No more than one transport vehicle per team. The line will begin at the 4-way stop at the “Visitors Center”. At 7am we will begin loading you up into “The Pits”. DO NOT drive to The Pits until directed to do so by Derby staff or you will be turned away and be required to go to the end of the line. Please follow all instructions from Derby staff to ensure a safe and speedy Pit set-up.
- 2** “The Pits” must remain clear for track set up from 5:00am – 7:00am.
- 3** Please keep the lower and upper summit gates and the left side of the road clear during these times. Do not block the flow of traffic to ensure a speedy track set up.
- 4** All Race Teams must be unloaded and checked-in by 9am.
- 5** Do not set up pop-up tents until the Pit Boss gives you the go-ahead.
- 6** The pits are a space available environment, please make space available for your fellow racers to enjoy the day. Don’t be a douche.
- 7** The “Team Captain” is responsible for each of your team members’ actions.
- 8** Do not relieve your bodily fluids in the bushes. Use the porta potties!!
- 9** Pick up your trash.
- 10** If in the event of an accident or malfunction your car is unable to finish the race, the driver must pull the car 10 ft. off the track. If your car can be repaired, you are welcome to do it there, EXCEPT on the outside of the learning curve. Once your car is operational, to derby standards, contact a volunteer and we will notify you when it is safe for your car to roll down the track. If your car is NOT repairable your car must remain off the track for the remainder of the race. At the end of the day you will NEED a Portland Parks & Recreation permit for your vehicle to retrieve your derby car.
- 11** No motor vehicles are allowed on the race course unless given a Portland Parks & Recreation permit from the organizers. This includes scooters.
- 12** Do not lock or chain bikes to any of the reservoir fences.
- 13** Drones or model aircraft are not permitted at Mt Tabor Park 365 days a year.

## **I End of Day**

- 1** It is up to every team to clean up after themselves. Teams with a messy pit slot will be notified and possibly disqualified from racing the following year. PDX Adult Soapbox Derby prides ourselves on leaving the mountain cleaner than we found it.
- 2** If you need to retrieve a disabled derby car from the track, contact the Pit Boss,

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Info Booth, or Race Director for a permit.

**3** Meet us at the Official After Party! Awards start at 9pm @ a TBD location.

**Thank you and let us make 2026 our BEST DERBY YET!**

**Remember your VOLUNTEER! They are part of your racer team too!**

**Cheers,  
PASD Team**

**Questions about these rules?**

**Contact us at:**

[racer@soapboxracer.org](mailto:racer@soapboxracer.org)

[www.soapboxracer.org](http://www.soapboxracer.org)

**Portland Adult Soapbox Derby**