



DUNSTABLE'S SOAPBOX DERBY



Information Pack



DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

WELCOME

Welcome to the world of Soapbox Derby...

Hold on to your helmets...

In this information pack you'll find all the information to get started on your own soapbox derby kart, so you can enter the Dunstable Soapbox Derby. The winning categories will be overall fastest time, and best presented, all drivers will receive a medal.

Hopefully, it will also help to clarify any questions you might have and alert you to potential pitfalls... like crashing.

It is completely FREE to enter, if you wish to raise any money for charity or seek any sponsorship to help with the build of your kart, you are more than welcome to do this. Disclaimer paperwork and a more detailed event schedule of the day such as times etc. will be sent on successful application.



HOW TO ENTER

If you think you've got what it takes, register your interest via the website

www.dunstable.gov.uk/event/dunstables-soapbox-derby/

You will then be sent a registration form for you to complete.

If you have any questions or queries please email events@dunstable.gov.uk

Deadline for registration is Monday 27 July



WHAT IS A SOAPBOX DERBY?

A soapbox derby is a racing event where participants compete by driving gravity-powered karts, often called soapbox karts, down a sloped track. These karts are typically homemade and designed without engines, relying solely on gravity and clever engineering for speed.

Key Features of a Soapbox Derby:

Karts are often built from scratch using materials like wood, metal, and plastic. Designs range from simple and functional to elaborate and creative.

Gravity-Powered:

No motors or engines are allowed. Karts coast downhill, gaining speed from the slope.

Competition:

Participants aim to cross the finish line first or achieve the fastest time. Some derbies also award creativity, craftsmanship, or sportsmanship.

Family-Friendly Fun:

Often a community event with kids, teens, and adults taking part. Encourages teamwork, engineering skills, and a love for friendly competition.

Tracks:

Races typically occur on paved roads or specially designed tracks with a noticeable slope. Tracks are often lined with cheering spectators.

Soapbox derbies combine creativity, craftsmanship, and the thrill of racing into an exciting, family-friendly experience. They're as much about the journey of building the car as they are about the race itself!





JUDGING CRITERIA

SHOWMANSHIP

Sure, being the fastest across the finish line is important, but it's not the only way to win. On RACE DAY, speed is nothing without personality! Impress the crowds with your imagination, wow us with your performance, and dazzle everyone with your showmanship. Make it a spectacle to remember!

SPEED

Let's not forget - it is a race, after all. The fastest soapbox to cross the finish line will certainly be in the running for victory. (Note: To qualify, your "vehicle" must actually cross the finish line!)

CREATIVITY

Speed alone won't cut it. We're looking for soapboxes that are outrageous, humorous, and brilliantly imaginative. Your creation should reflect your personality, so have fun during the design process. Be bold, be wild, be anything but ordinary - and always remember to keep it safe!



RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Team members must be **8yrs or over on the day of the race.**
- Under 17yrs old requires signed consent from parent/guardians who must accompany the racer on the day!
- We strongly recommend to take out their own insurance for the event. You can get insurance from Sports Cover Direct: <https://www.sportscoverdirect.com/insurance/soap-box-racing-insurance/>
- All drivers must be fit and well/healthy with no medical conditions and must not be pregnant. A disclaimer must be signed at scrutineering.
- Teams must consist of no more than SIX people, including the driver. The pit crew of two people can only push as far as the start line. After that, the drivers are on their own! If they need help by the pit crew, there will be a time penalty for every push needed to complete the course.
- Maximum of 2 people can be in the soapbox for the race.
- No team will be allowed to compete under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- All entries must be homemade. Modified karts are not permitted.

Teams must follow the instructions of the safety officials and marshals or they will be disqualified.





RULES AND REGULATIONS

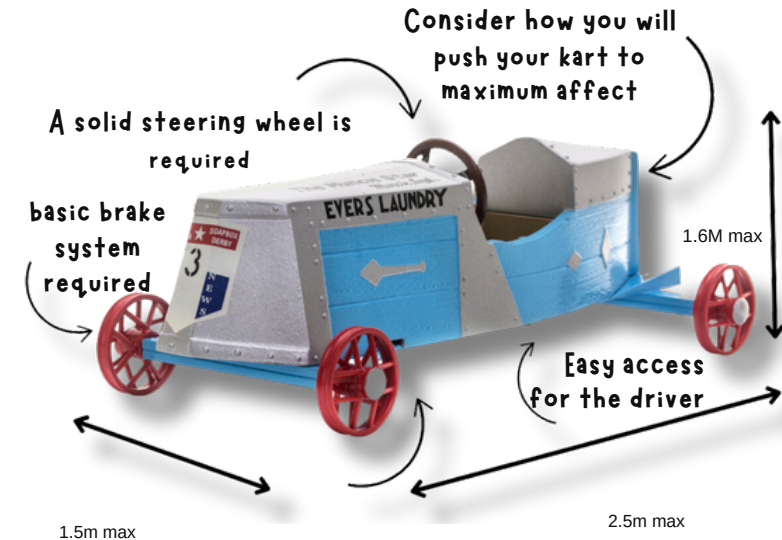
- In all matters relating to the Soapbox Race, the committee's/Judges'/Timekeeper's ruling is final.
- Drivers must wear a full-face helmet and gloves, knee and elbow pads, plus long sleeves and trousers advised.
- Drivers are not allowed to be physically attached or enclosed in any kind of capsule or cockpit that they can't escape from.
- Pyrotechnics are not allowed.
- If part of your kart starts to fall off and the steward feels it is a danger he will indicate for you to stop if needed.
- Team members are allowed to push the kart if it comes to a complete stop or crashes into the barriers- a time penalty of 10 seconds will be enforced per 'push' which will be added on at the end of the timed run.

All Soapboxes will be checked prior to racing by race control.
Any kart which fails the inspection will NOT be allowed to race.



SOAPBOX SPECIFICATION

- Should not exceed 1.5 m in width and 1.6 m tall.
- Wheelbase from front axle to back axle should not exceed 2.5 m.
- Wheel's diameter should not exceed 67 cm. Must have a rigid steering system (no ropes).
- Must have a rear wheel(s) braking system as a minimum on the same axis. Braking with feet and hands are not permitted.
- Must have a minimum of three wheels and be stable.
- The kart driver must not be in a prone or head-first position at any time.
- All team members must be able to access the kart without the use of extra tools/keys.
- Must not have any design elements to endanger themselves or the public (i.e. no sharp metal objects, mirrors or glass or any flammable smoke)
- The soapbox must have a solid floor.
- No part of the soapbox must extend beyond the width of the soapbox (no dangerous projections).
- Soapboxes must be powered by the strength of a push and the gravity of the hill only. So no stored power or external energy sources including engines, petrol, batteries, electrical cords, catapults, afterburners and the likes are allowed.
- Please select building materials carefully to ensure that your kart doesn't impact too harshly on the environment.



Scrutineering

**Scrutineering will take place on Friday 4 September in Priory Gardens.
TIMES TBC**

This will ensure that your kart passes all the safety requirements and will give you overnight to fix any issues before the race day.

RACE DAY

The event will take place in one day, with two practise runs then begin afterwards in the form of three time runs. The overall fastest time will be determined from these runs. There will be approximately 30-45 minutes between each run for any tweaks or repairs to your kart. At the end of the runs, the winners will be crowned.

**If you would like the registration pack posted to you please email
events@dunstable.gov.uk**



