



2026 Pinewood Derby Rules

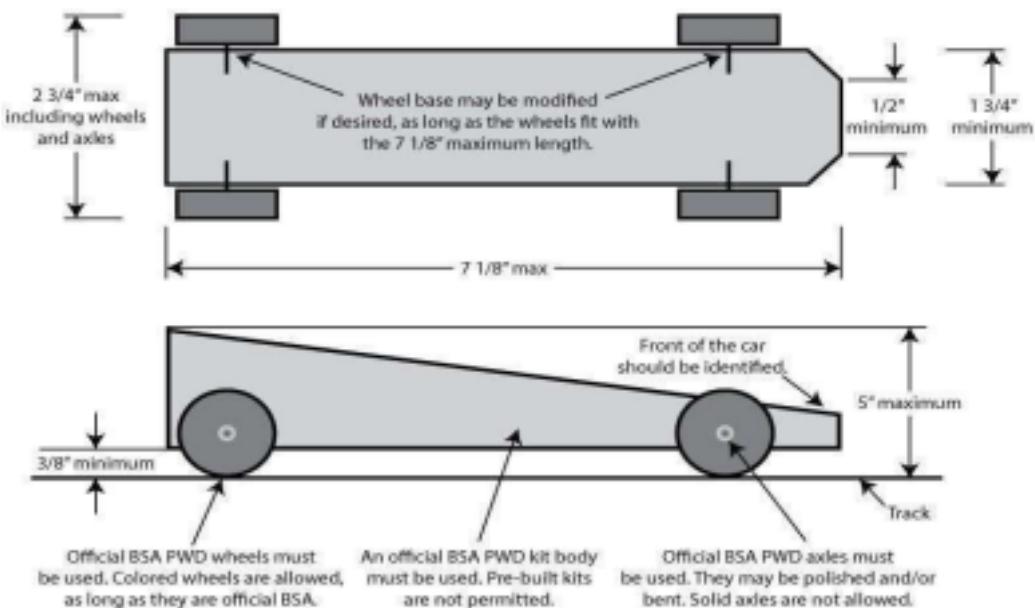
Quinapoxet District

Heart of New England Council

Please remember that the Pinewood Derby is a recreational event. The point is not to win, but to have an enjoyable time regardless of the outcome of the race.

Lengths, Widths, & Clearances

- A. The maximum overall width (including wheels and axles) is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches
- B. The minimum width between wheels is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches so that the car will clear the center guide strip in its lane.
- C. The minimum clearance between bottom of car and track is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch to clear the guide strip.
- D. The maximum length of the car, including wheels, is $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches.
- E. The maximum height of the car, from the wheels, is 5 inches.
- F. The front center of the car where it meets the race release bar must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. The front of the car shall not be a pointed edge.
- G. If desired, you may change the wheelbase (the distance between the front and rear axles).



Weight and Appearance

- A. Pre-built "kits" are not allowed. All cars need to be crafted from the official Boy Scout Pinewood Derby kit that contains a block of wood.
- B. The total weight of the car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces
- C. The readings given by an official race scale at weigh-in shall be considered final.
- D. Cars may be hollowed out and built up to maximum weight by the addition of wood, plastic, fiberglass or metal only, provided that it is built into the body of the car and firmly attached to it.
- E. No loose materials of any kind are permitted in or on the car. Note that the car may be inverted and shaken as part of the inspection. There should be no sharp objects or materials (e.g., glass) that could harm handlers or damage other cars or the track.
- F. Lead or Mercury shall not be used for adding weight, as it is a health hazard.
- G. Details such as steering wheel, driver, spoiler, decals, painting, and interior detailing are permitted as long as these details do not exceed the maximum length, width, and weight rules as detailed above.
- H. Cars with wet paint are not acceptable.
- I. Weights may be screwed onto the cars instead of glued for easier adjustment.
- J. The car must not have been entered in previous District Races.
- K. The majority of the car must be wood. 3-D printed accents are acceptable.

Wheels and Axles

- A. Only official BSA Pinewood Derby wheels may be used. Colored wheels from the Scout Shop are permitted. The molding seam on the wheel's tread may be removed with a light hand sanding. No other wheel changes (beveling, tapering, thin sanding, wafering, lathe turning, etc.) are allowed.
- B. Sanding a wheel spun on a mandrel is allowed, PROVIDED the molded in tread marks are still clearly visible around the entire circumference and width of the wheel.
- C. The wheels must maintain factory width.
- D. The official BSA axles supplied with the kit or in an official BSA wheel pack must be used.
- E. These axles may be polished and/or bent. Solid axles across the car are not allowed.
- F. Wheel bearings, washers, or bushings are prohibited.
- G. The car may not ride on any springs or suspension.
- H. The car must be free-wheeling, with no starting device or other means of propulsion.
- I. Axles may be inserted into existing slots, new slots, drilled holes, or hammered into the car. It is not necessary to use the slots pre-built into the car. (Track clearance must be maintained.)
- J. It is not necessary that all 4 wheels touch the track; however, all 4 wheels must be used in the design.
- K. Wheels cannot be painted, no hub caps. Axles must be visible.