Ashbourne Soap Box Race

Rules and Regulations

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1. **THE TEAM**

**a. Team Captain**

All teams will nominate a team captain who is responsible for the conduct of the team and who will be the official point of contact between the team and the event organisers. The team captain must be at least 18 years old on the first day of the event.

**b. Number of members**

There is no maximum to the number that can be in a team, but, ALL must register. The suggested minimum number of members in a team is 2. Any fewer than this will make it difficult for the team to function. There is no maximum number of the team members that can ride the cart during the race.

c. **Drivers and Passengers**

All drivers must be at least 12 years old on the first day of the event. All passengers must be at least 12 years old on the first day of the event.

d**. Age Restrictions**

Other than those covered by rules 1.a (Captain), 1.c (Drivers and Passengers), there are no restrictions on the age of the team members. However, the organisers will take no responsibility for the care of any minors. Teams must make proper arrangements for the care of any minors in their charge.

2. **THE VEHICLE**

a) **Construction Rules**

​These Rules apply to all entries. They have been designed for your safety and the safety of others around you, based on best practice and common sense.  
We’re here for fun, but the soap boxes MUST be strong, safe, and stable and have effective brakes and sound steering. These rules enable us to run the event effectively for the maximum benefit of all. Remember, you are spending your valuable time and money to race in the Soap box, please read all the rules so that you can compete. To avoid disappointment, if you are in doubt, the team captain should contact the race organiser prior to the event.

1. **Dimensions & Weight**  
   Maximum overall length – 2500mm  
   Maximum overall width – 1500mm  
   There will be a grid on the start line to for conformity.
2. **Wheels**  
   Soap Box must be designed to have three or four load bearing wheels and must be all in contact with the ground in a standing position.
3. Gravity propulsion only – i.e. no motors, no pedals, no stored potential energy and no pushing from the start.
4. If all four members of the team are racing, there must be a safe position on the soapbox for each member.
5. Decorated soap boxes, sponsorship and advertising are encouraged. There will be points for fancy dress and the build effort which will go towards your final score. We also appreciate it if the team name is painted onto the soap box.
6. **Safety:**
7. The driver must be seated and forward facing.
8. Soap box must have an effective steering system with adequate turning ability for the course. Steering systems utilizing wheel braking, foot steering or rope links will not be accepted.
9. Soap box must have an effective braking system. The brakes must be activated inside the cart, so that hands, feet or arms cannot become entangled with the wheels or trapped under the body of the cart should the cart roll over. The braking system should act on more than one wheel and should be capable of holding the vehicle on the hill, when laden with a driver and or passengers and bringing the cart to rest at the finish and at any point along the course. Braking systems that rub on the ground will not be allowed.
10. Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that puncture injuries cannot happen.
11. Soap box must have no loose parts or sharp edges. No loose weights will be allowed inside or outside the soap box.
12. No glass or other materials that would shatter or cause injuries to drivers and spectators in the event of a crash can be used in the construction of the vehicle.
13. Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided. Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.

b) **Technical Conformance**

Should a vehicle fail to pass the safety inspection on a technicality, the organisers may allow it to take part provided that they are satisfied that all safety related conditions have been met. Note that this decision to exercise this rule is entirely at the discretion of the organisers and is intended to apply only to minor non-conformance to specifications that are not safety related (e.g. vehicle dimensions, etc). Gross technical non-conformance or failure to reach the minimum safety standards will result in the vehicle being excluded from the event and will not be issued a refund

c) **Modifications**

The vehicles may be repaired and adjusted prior to the event, but they may not be significantly modified after they have passed safety inspection. Parts may be replaced on a like-for-like basis, but no parts may be added to or removed from the vehicle. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes ballast weights. The kerb weight of the vehicle may not be significantly altered during the course of the competition. Any replacements made during the event must be indicated to the Chief Technical Officer prior to being carried out and must be inspected and approved on completion. The vehicle may, at the discretion of the organisers, be inspected at any time to ensure continued compliance with the rules throughout the event.

**d} Damage**

Damage of any cart that is involved in any accident during the course of the event, or which suffers any damage whether as a result of racing or otherwise, will be inspected before being allowed to start another run. Teams are obliged to report any damage to the Chief Technical Officer at the earliest opportunity after any incident, and in any case before their vehicle is next involved in a competitive run. If a cart is being used for a subsequent run and is damaged enough to make it unusable for the next race there will be no return payment and the cart will be deemed unfit to race.

1. **Cart Number**

Teams will be allocated a race number before the event.

**3. Personal protection equipment**

All riders must have the minimum protective equipment consisting of a full-face helmet, full finger gloves and lace up footwear.

**4. Entry**

The event is open to anyone over the age of 12 years on the day of the race. Entrants under the age of 18 must have the entry form signed by an appropriate adult and must be accompanied by an adult to enter the race.

If your soap box is entered in the race for more than one run *i.e. you have entered with different drivers*, you must fill out two separate entry forms and declare that the same soap box will be used for different runs. It is up to you to bring it back to the start line for the next run. If the soap box is damaged on the first run and is declared unfit to race again, there will be no refund.

**5. Declaration**

All members of the team will be required to sign a disclaimer as part of the entry form, and these will be checked to ensure all team members present on the race day have signed. It is important for you to purchase your own insurance.

**6. THE COMPETITION**

1. **The Course:**
   1. The event will start at the junction of Northcliffe, North Avenue and Dovehouse Green and end in St. Johns street.
   2. There are three challenges on the course to complete, two of which involve ramps/ jumps. The jumps can be bypassed with the forfeit of the points for each of these.
   3. It is the responsibility of the team captain to assure themselves that their cart/driver is capable of safely completing the course and whether the jumps should be attempted.
2. **Competition points system**

There are 100 points available. This will be made up of:

* 20 points for the fancy dress/ cart theme.
* 20 points for the gravity racer build. Judges will look favourably on bespoke designs and carts built from scratch.
* 30 points for the distance travelled. There will be 3 obstacles; a chicane and two ramps/jumps. Entries will be awarded 10 point for each successfully completed.
* 30 points awarded for race time. I.e. 1st place to receive 30 points, every place position following to receive one less point.

A vehicle that does not complete the course will not get points for race time and only achieve points for the obstacles completed. This scoring systems has been designed to encourage driver caution, for the safety of competitors. In the unlikely event that the result is a tie, the winner will be decided by the finish position.

1. **Contingency**

Whilst every effort will be made to give every cart that is entered the opportunity to race, the organisers reserve the right to alter these numbers should circumstances require it.

(vi) **Start procedure**

All starts will be from stationary. Push starts are not permitted. Carts will be placed on the start line and the driver will apply the brakes. No part of the cart may be in front of the start line. No person other than the driver and passengers are permitted to be in contact with the cart after it has been placed on the start line. When given the start signal, the driver may release the brakes.

1. **False Starts and Penalties**

A false start is where the vehicle moves before the starter has given the start signal. False starts will incur a 5-point penalty

1. **Crash restart**

Drivers will not be allowed to restart after a crash. They must wait with their vehicle and it will be removed to a safe zone. If the vehicle is booked on another run, the vehicle must be inspected by the chief technical officer who will decide if the vehicle is fit to race again. The chief technical officer’s decision is final.

1. **Finish**

An official finish is when any part of the vehicle crosses the finish line. Drivers and passengers must be in contact with their vehicle and have all safety gear in place when they cross the finish line in order to earn placement.

1. **Compromised ability**

If in the opinion of the race officials, a team member’s ability to act in accordance with the rules of the event has been compromised by means including (but not limited to) alcohol, drugs, illness, injury, or emotional distress, that person will not be allowed to continue the event.

1. **Safety Equipment**

A driver, who, at any time during the event, is in control of a vehicle without all pieces of safety equipment properly in place, will be disqualified. This includes crossing the finish line.