SOAPBOX DERBY RULES AND REGULATIONS

There are five basic requirements for derby cars and participants:

1. **Gotta Go!!!**
   a. Each derby car must be gravity powered. No motors or engines. There is no limitation on size, weight, materials or designs. When using wood it is suggested that you use screws rather than nails and be sure to use plenty of wood glue.

2. **Gotta Turn!!!**
   a. Simple pivot steering is the most basic and common steering system. Basically, the front axle is a solid piece that rotates about a single pivot in the center. This system is the most simple to construct and is quite adequate since you will not need a big turning radius.
   b. Four bar linkage is like a steering mechanism that you might find in your automobile. It is more complex and harder to construct and thus it is seldom recommended. Whatever method of steering you use, it is not wise to limit it to the range of your car. The derby will be run on a straight course so that there will be little need for sharp turns. Please do not design your car to turn on a dime, it is not safe and may cause your car to flip.

3. **Gotta Stop!!!**
   a. Skid pad on the wheels is a very basic, yet very effective braking method. In this method, you set up a pad or brake shoe that rubs against the wheels to stop the car. This is the most preferred method for cars made from scratch because of its effectiveness and simplicity.
   b. A skid pad on the ground is similar to the first option, but instead of a pad contacting the wheels, it contacts the ground. This method is a little more complex to construct and probably less effective than the pad on the wheels method. However, this is the method that was first used in soapbox racers.
   c. Caliper brakes on the wheels are like your basic bicycle brakes. This method works great although the construction needs to be fairly concise for the brakes to be effective.
   d. Anchor or parachute could be used – but, *JUST FOR FUN!* Regardless of the braking system that you choose the most important thing is that the car must be able to stop. Good brakes will go a long way in preventing crashes.

4. **Gotta wear a Helmet!!!**
   a. Helmets are a must! Please do not alter helmets in any way that would change their effectiveness. Cars will not be allowed on the track unless the driver is wearing a helmet. Elbow pads are also strongly encouraged.

5. **Gotta have Permission!!!**
   a. Be sure to pick up an entry form/permission slip before the race. All drivers under the age of 18 must have the permission slip signed by their parent to enter the derby. *Entry forms need to be turned into the Village Hall by 5:00 pm on August 5th.* Please note that permission slips must be signed in order to race.
SOAPBOX DERBY
ENTRY FORM/PERMISSION SLIP

Age Groups: 8-14 yrs. Old, 14 – 18 yrs. Old, Adult – 18 and older
Fee: $5 for the 8-18 brackets; $10 Adults 18 and older

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<th>Name of Participant</th>
<th>Age</th>
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Please list identifying information on your car. (Color, name or number)

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<th>Name of Parent of Legal Guardian</th>
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Please check each box as you have reviewed the information.

___ I have read and understand the rules and regulations of the derby and agree to comply.

___ My car has been constructed as outlined (has working steering and brakes) and is considered to be eligible to drive.

___ I agree to conduct myself appropriately, demonstrating good sportsmanship and refraining from inappropriate conduct.

I give permission for my son or daughter, _________________________________________ to participate in the Soapbox Derby and will not hold Village of Merrimac or its Village employees responsible should an accident occur.

____________________________________________________
Signature of Parent of Guardian

Mail registration form and fee(s) to:
Merrimac Community Festival – “Soapbox Derby”
100 Cook St., Merrimac, WI 53561

Checks can be made out to the Village of Merrimac –PAM

Contact Candy with any questions by calling 608-493-2057