Introduction

These Rules and Regulations apply to all entries. They have been designed for your safety and the safety of others around you, based on best practice, common sense and the experience of previous years. They enable us to run the event effectively for the maximum benefit of all – please ensure you read them carefully and comply with the details.

Please note: All soapboxes will be scrutineered to show that they conform to our regulations. This is not a guarantee of safety.

The course is 550m long with a descent of 50m. It should be noted that this is not indicative of the gradient of parts of the course. In places it is much steeper and participants can expect to reach 30-40mph. Soap boxes will be given the opportunity of at least three runs and will set off singly at intervals, electronically timed.

If you have not attended one of our events we strongly recommend that view the footage on our website and on You Tube. These will give you a good idea of the track, conditions, competitors, and some pointers as to what works and what doesn’t!

Barbecue

- Scrutineering will be available on the Saturday Evening – time 6.30pm – 8.00pm. Please indicate “yes or no” on the entry form. It will still be available in the morning as usual.
- There will be a Barbecue on the common on the Saturday night – all competitors welcome at £5.00 per head. Details will be posted on website.

Sharing of Carts

Some teams keep the costs down by sharing the same cart. Whilst this is totally acceptable under the rules and a good way to have a lot of fun, it is worth noting the following.

- If you share a cart it is more likely to need repairing because it is being used twice as much. This can be frustrating for the team that did not break it!
- Logistically, sharing a cart can mean you do not get as many runs down the hill as some other teams. This is because the cart will usually need attention between each run and it has to be transported from the bottom of the hill to the top twice as many times as the other carts. Both teams need to be very slick between runs to get the cart back to the top of the hill quickly. The organisers will try to facilitate as many runs as possible but there is no guarantee of parity.

1 - General Conditions

1.1 Up to six persons per team. (See 3.5 to 3.9 for conditions specific to drivers).
1.2 The closing date for applications is 1st July 2014. Please submit your entry as soon as possible since numbers may have to be limited.
1.3 It is hoped that each team will raise as much additional money as possible, in donations, sponsorship or collections for the designated charities. (A prize will be awarded for the highest amount raised).
1.4 Brightly coloured soap boxes, sponsorship and advertising are encouraged. We also appreciate it if the team name is painted onto the soap box.
1.5 Every team must accept these Rules and Regulations in full.
1.6 Registration will commence at 0730 hrs on the day of the event, followed by practice runs. (Racing will be expected to start at 1000hrs). Please do not be late as you may not get as many runs as other teams.
1.7 Any contravention of the Rules and Regulations may lead to disqualification or penalties.
1.8 The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry to any team without an explanation. Their decision will be final.
1.9 A standard entry fee of £30 is required with each team entry. If your cart is driven by two teams this means two entry fees.
1.10 Soap boxes and drivers will be scrutinised in the pits, and prior to each run and at any other time, before being allowed to participate.
1.11 The start will be from a raised ramp, by gravity. No pushing will be allowed. The Starters decision is final.
1.12 After crossing the finishing line drivers will need to apply their brakes and quickly depart from the track under the Marshal’s instructions.

1.13 Practice runs will not be timed.

1.14 There will be two categories of teams – ‘Juniors’ 12 to 16 years old (inclusive)
– ‘Adults’ 17 and over

1.15 A flat bed trailer facility will be used to transport soap boxes from the pits to the starting ramp. There will be a tow option for soap boxes with suitable towing hooks.

1.16 Numbers will be provided at registration and must be prominently displayed on each soapbox.

1.17 The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any or all participants that demonstrate inappropriate conduct.

1.18 For speed related prizes, the fastest two runs will be aggregated to decide the winner.

2 – Technical, Design and Structural Regulations

2.1 Maximum length 2300mm measured from front to rear of soapbox.

2.2 Maximum width 1118mm measured from outside to outside.

2.3 Minimum eye height 700mm measured from driver’s eye-line, when seated, to the road surface. Drivers to remain seated at all times.

2.4 No protuberances outside these dimensions will be allowed.

2.5 There must be four wheels, fitted with pneumatic tyres, one on each corner. (more than two “in line” wheels will not be allowed) and all wheels should be in road contact during normal running. Ground clearance should be sufficient to clear the top and bottom of the starting ramp – 50mm minimum is recommended.

2.6 Good brakes are essential and will be checked. Braking must operate on at least two wheels on the same axle and be effective to hold stationary on the starting ramp.

2.7 Seats must be securely bolted to the soap box.

2.8 Soap boxes must be designed to carry one person only, in a feet first direction.

2.9 Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that the risk of puncture injuries is minimised. A padded steering wheel is recommended.

2.10 Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided.

2.11 Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.

2.12 Gravity propulsion only – i.e. no motors, no pedals & no stored potential energy.

2.13 No loose weights will be allowed inside or outside the soap box.

2.14 Seatbelts are not mandatory, but are recommended.

2.15 All soap boxes must be fitted with a substantial roll bar and all welding and general construction should be of a good standard. The roll bar should be at least 35mm above the driver’s helmet when the driver is seated normally in the vehicle, and a second roll bar should extend at least 25mm beyond the driver’s gloved hands when placed at 12 o’clock on the steering wheel. If you are in doubt as to what is ‘substantial’ please contact our scrutineer before or during construction so as to avoid disappointment on the day.

2.16 Steering must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.

3 – Safety Regulations

3.1 The purpose of the event is to have fun, but the safety of the team, supporters and spectators is paramount throughout the day, and accordingly, Richards Castle Soap Box Derby reserve the right to amend these rules or go above and beyond their guidance.

3.2 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.

3.3 All soapboxes must be constructed with pedestrian friendly sympathies. Sharp edges will not be permitted.

3.4 No glass or other materials that would shatter or cause injuries to drivers and spectators in the event of a crash should be used in the construction of the soap box.

3.5 Drivers must wear an approved crash helmet to BS 6658 (motor cycle helmet) or higher, and appropriate gloves. Clothing must be capable of withstanding a spill on tarmac or concrete and must be done up at all times when in the soap box. No bare limbs will be allowed. N.B Mountain bike helmets are not acceptable.

3.6 All drivers must attend the Drivers Briefing.

3.7 All drivers must walk the course prior to their first run.
Safety Regulations continued

3.8 For adult teams only – Only two of the maximum six team members are permitted to be drivers on the race day. There will be one practice run per driver. The purpose of this run is to enable the drivers to get the feel of the course and their soap box. The run will not count in the timing competition. Please telephone Ian Broom/Robin Maitland if this causes a problem. They will explain some options available.

3.9 For Junior teams only – A maximum of two of the six team members are permitted to be drivers on the race day. There will be one practice run per driver. The purpose of this run is to enable the driver to get the feel of the course and their soap box. The run will not count in the timing competition.

3.10 The scrutineer’s decision is final. Scrutineers will have full access to the soap box and component parts as required to carry out their duties.

3.11 Teams are responsible for the ongoing risk assessments on their soap box during the event and are obliged to report any change in risk to the scrutineers.

3.12 No expressed or implied warranty of safety shall result from the publication of or compliance with these rules and/or regulations. This publication is in no way a guarantee against injury to team members, supporters or spectators.

3.13 Please note it is possible for there to be two carts on the course at the same time. Sometimes a second cart is started before the first has finished the course. If this is the case and the leading cart has an accident, or the second cart is significantly faster and might cause a dangerous situation, a red flag will be raised and the runs will be stopped. THERE IS TO BE NO OVERTAKING. The affected cart will receive an additional run.