

Richards Castle

SOAP BOX DERBY



Richards Castle Soap Box Derby 2025

Notice to Builders and Entrants

We have 3 classes:

Adults - 17+ on the day of the event

Juniors – 12 – 16 on the day of the event

Mixed – enter this class if you have a mix of juniors and adults

You may race either a 4-wheel or 3-wheel soap box in any of the classes.

Please read regulations carefully and take particular note of some of the common faults we find when inspecting soapboxes on the day.

- Roll bar, front and rear
- Brakes
- Steering
- Dimensions

If in doubt please contact Dave Pearce on 01584 876016

Rules and Regulations – 2025

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 inspected 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 you 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!

Saturday Evening

- Inspections 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.

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.

Photography/Video consent

The Richards Castle Soap Box Committee and all its volunteers take seriously their moral and legal responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. Paramount to this commitment is our assurance that all necessary steps are taken to protect children/young people from the inappropriate use of their images in resource and media publications, on the

internet and elsewhere.

During the stated event group and individual photographs and/or filming will be undertaken by approved personnel. In accordance with the Richards Castle Soap Box Derby Safeguarding Policy, these images may be used for archive and publicity purposes e.g. on official websites or in posters and magazines.

As the parent/guardian/carer of a junior entrant or vulnerable adult by signing the entry form you are giving permission for group and individual photos/ video films to be taken during the event and understand that these may be used for archive and publicity purposes.

Drones

Richards Castle Soap Box Derby has a policy of NO DRONES allowed on site.

1 - General Conditions

- 1.1 Up to two persons/drivers per team. If there are two persons/drivers then they share the available runs (see 3.5 to 3.10 for conditions specific to drivers).
- 1.2 The closing date for applications is **June 8th 2025**. 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, themed soap boxes (see this years theme), 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 £50 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 inspected 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, slow down and quickly depart from the track under the Marshal's instructions.
- 1.13 Practice runs will not be timed.
- 1.14 There are three categories of teams:
 - Juniors - 12 to 16 years old (as at the date of the Richards Castle Soap Box Derby)
 - Adults - 17 and over (as at the date of the Richards Castle Soap Box Derby)
 - Mixed - enter this class if you have a mix of juniors and adults

- 1.15 A flat bed trailer facility will be used to transport soap boxes from the pits to the starting ramp.
- 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

If you have any queries or doubts when building or entering your soap box please call

Dave Pearce on 01584 876016

- 2.1 **Maximum length 2500mm** measured from front to rear of soapbox.
- 2.2 **Maximum width 1500mm** measured from outside to outside
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- 2.3 If you have a box that you think may exceed these dimensions please **contact us**.
- 2.4 Soap box can be fitted with 4 or 3 wheels, and all wheels should be fitted with pneumatic tyres, (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.**
- 2.5 **Good brakes are essential and will be checked. If an axle has a braked wheel then both wheels on that axle should be braked. Braking must be effective to hold the soapbox stationary on the starting ramp which has a gradient of approximately 1 in 8**
- 2.6 Seats must be securely bolted to the soap box.
- 2.7 Soap boxes must be designed to carry one person only, in a feet first direction.
- 2.8 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/handlebar is recommended. Bar end-plugs are compulsory if handlebars are used.
- 2.9 Bodywork and controls must not impede the driver in exiting the vehicle unaided.
- 2.10 Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.
- 2.11 Gravity propulsion only – i.e. no motors, no stored potential energy and no pedals used for propulsion.
- 2.12 No loose weights will be allowed inside or outside the soap box.
- 2.13 **Seatbelts are highly recommended especially on heavier soapboxes.**
- 2.14 **All 4 wheel and heavy 3 wheel soap boxes must be fitted with a substantial roll bar. For soapboxes based on a conventional bicycle or tricycle frame a roll bar is not compulsory but a roll bar is compulsory for a 3 wheeler constructed from tubular steel or similar and it must be of the specification set out for the 4 wheelers. (Please speak to Dave Pearce for clarification). All welding and general construction should be of a good standard. The roll bar should be suitably braced so as to adequately protect the driver in the event of a roll over. 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.

- 2.15 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 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. Appropriate gloves must be worn and no bare limbs will be allowed.**
- 3.6 Drivers must wear an approved crash helmet to BS 6658 (motor cycle helmet) or higher. N.B Standard mountain bike helmets are not acceptable *please bring proof, see below.**
- 3.7 All drivers must attend the Drivers Briefing.
- 3.8 All drivers must walk the course prior to their first run.
- 3.9 There is a maximum of two members/drivers per team and these are the only people that are permitted to be drivers on the race day. Note that if there are 2 members/drivers then the number of available runs is shared between the drivers. 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 Dave Pearce if this causes a problem. He will explain some options available.
- 3.10 For Junior teams only – parents or supervising adults must be at the start line to start children each time.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.

***MTB DH helmets. Checking standards may be difficult as markings are often under the pads. It is up to the driver to prove the helmet has at least EN1078 and CE mark on. The helmet may also be marked with the American ASTM F1952 which is a higher standard.**