



The Wheelman National Finals - Singles - 2023

Chris Williams (402) 890-5513

General Driver Rules & Expectations:

Only Fresh Cars May Be Used

1. ALL RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED OR YOU WILL NOT RUN
2. Drivers must wear seat belt, helmet, fire suit jacket and long pants while participating.
3. ALL drivers must attend the drivers meeting.
4. During event you are given 1 minute to make an aggressive hit or will be disqualified.
5. You MUST run a roof sign.
6. Drivers are not allowed to drink alcohol before they participate. If found with alcohol in system you will not run, no exceptions. **ZERO TOLERANCE RULE!!!**

THIS IS NOT A SET OF RULES BUT A SET OF GUIDELINES OF HOW TO BUILD YOUR CAR. IF IT DOESN'T SAY YOU SPECIFICALLY CAN DO SOMETHING THEN YOU CAN'T!

Car Preparation:

NO PAINTING OR UNDERCOATING OF THE FRAME. NO BUFFING OR GRIDING FRAMES OR BODIES EXCEPT WHERE WELDING IS SPECIFICALLY ALLOWED IN THESE RULES. NO PAINTING IN THE INSIDE OF THE BODY OR CAR. IF THIS IS DONE THE CAR WILL NOT BE INSPECTED.

1. Any American make car can run with the following exceptions: NO 1970 or older Lincolns and NO 1973 or older Chrysler Imperials or Imperial sub-frames, 4x4, ambulance, hearses, trucks, limousines, etc...
2. All cars must be stock, unless modification is specifically stated in these rules.
3. All glass, plastic, chrome, and interior must be removed from car before arriving to the derby.
4. All trailer hitches and braces must be removed.
5. Batteries must be moved to the passenger floorboard and properly secured/covered.
6. All cars must have working brakes when you cross the hoist. If the car is not able to exhibit the ability to stop it will not be inspected.
7. NO welding other than what is mentioned in this set of rules. If your car is found with any weld, other than what is allowed, and you refuse to fix it to the judge's satisfaction, you and your car will not run.
8. Only parts off of cars that are legal for this class are allowed unless specified otherwise.

Enjoy Building!!!

Fresh Plates – (4) 6x6x1/8” plates – 2 per frame rail

Plates must be 1-inch apart including the weld; 1/2” weld max.

They cannot touch or be attached to the driveline components at all. **MUST HAVE A 1/2” INSPECTION HOLE.**

Frame:

Bumper:

Bumpers Brackets - No more than one set of bumper brackets may be used. Bumper brackets may be from any car that is legal to run in your class and on only one side of the frame. Bumper brackets must be one of the two following methods.

First Way– factory bumper bracket that is legal to a car in your class may not extend any further back than the first 14” of the frame. You can weld bumper brackets to the frame (single pass only), on one side of the frame. You can weld bumper brackets and shocks to the bumper. You can weld shocks to shock brackets. You can collapse shocks, and you can bolt the shocks to the towers with 1/2” bolt or less, and it must be done vertically. All brackets must touch the bumper and cannot be cut apart to lengthened. No part of the bumper bracket may extend back further than 14” from the front edge of the frame rail

OR

Second way - INSTEAD of using bumper brackets you are allowed to use ONE 4” wide x 3/8” thick plate extending from your bumper down either a side, or the top, or bottom of the frame choose only one cannot wrap a corner with it and cannot be any longer 14”. You are also allowed to wrap this strap around the front of the frame 4” to create an “L” shape. This is to give you enough material to weld your bumper to the strap. Plate may be reconfigured but must stay only 4” wide max. Do not bend plate past 90 degrees when you reconfigure the plate. Plate may be welded on either side of the frame or the top or bottom, your choice. Do not abuse this rule YOU WILL CUT.

Bumpers –

Stock Bumper - You **may** reinforce bumpers on the inside of the bumper all material must be inside the factory front and rear bumper skins with no alterations. You may trim bumper ends or fold them around. Welding the bumper skins (chrome to inner liner) is allowed.

Manufactured Bumper - If you choose to manufacture a homemade bumper it must conform to the following size limits. The bumper may be built up to have a 15” point from the farthest point from the back side of the bumper to the point, however the point itself may be no more than a factory Chrysler pointy itself and spanning over a 36” span across the bumper. They may be 8” tall.

Bumper height not to exceed 22” to the bottom of the bumper to the ground and must be a minimum of 14” from the ground to the bottom of the bumper or frame. Bumpers must be in stock location and must be mounted in the same location the factory mounted the bumper. The

bumper must be completely in front of the frame rails. No part of the bumper may extend back past the front most part of the frame rails.

Front and rear bumpers may have 4 loops of wire from radiator support/trunk lid or deck (to sheet metal only do not go around core support bolts) to bumper (not frame). These cannot be placed in front of the radiator.

Rear Bumper Brackets must follow the front bracket rule, no longer than 14" on the frame, or you can have a 8" bracket on multiple sides of the frame. Must follow front bracket rule besides number of sides if you choose this route. Wagons do not weld the bumpers to the body or move the bumper to the back frame rails.

Frame Shortening and Tilting:

You may shorten the front frame on a FoMoCo or GM on the front frame only. You may cut the frame off flush with the front edge of the body mount hole. If it is a weld on mount leave the remaining portion of the body mount in place. If you remove the body mount completely or relocate it you will not run. 76 and older Cadillacs must measure 18 inches minimum from the front a arm mount hole to the front edge of the frame and frame must be cut square. *80s and newer cars are allowed to cold bend in one location or cut factory seams apart to bend their cars down only, re welding these seams must follow the frame seam welding below. Weld 3" on 3" off. Do not abuse this rule or you will cut. No cars 1980 or older are allowed frame shape alterations.

Frame Welding

You can seam weld the top frame seam from the firewall forward, 3" on and 3" off. Top outside frame seams only, no brackets of any kind or vertical welds on the engine cradle will be permitted. These welds cannot be any larger than 1/2".

Rust Repair – Body/Frame – Must be replaced with the same thickness of metal and can only extend 1" past the rust. Call and ask on any frame rust before fixing. If you do not talk to the head tech before it will be cut out.

Frame Shaping – NO frame shaping is allowed.

You may not relocate any brackets on the frame. This mainly pertains to 1972 and older Cadillacs relocating torsion bar brackets to cut frame shorter, all brackets on all cars must stay stock with no alterations.

Front Suspension:

Tie Rods and Ball Joints – Aftermarket tie rod tubes are allowed (no "Big Chiefs") with stock size tie rod. Do not re-engineer the way the steering components mount to the frame. Only stock size car replacement ball joints and tie rod ends are allowed; no pickup or van tie rod ends. If using a weld in ring for ball joint it cannot be any bigger than 2" tall by 3" in diameter, do not weld to the frame only the a-arm

A-Arms - Upper A-arms may be welded or bolted down with up to a 5/8" bolt but may not be reinforced. If welded, it may only use up to 2- 2x4x1/8" thick strap per a arm. This strap must weld to the a-frame and cannot extend farther forward or backward than 1" past the widest part of the a-frame. No lower a-arm straps. No changing or modifying the a-arm brackets. All a-arms must bolt through the factory holes. COIL SPRINGS must be a factory car coil spring for a car that is permitted to run in this class.

Steering box – May be interchanged but must remain a stock box for a car that is legal in the class you are running. Pitman arms must remain stock or stock replacement. No hydraulic steering setups

Idler Arm – Idler arm must remain stock or interchanged for an idler arm for that is off a car that is legal in the class you are running.

Hubs – May run aftermarket hubs and nuts

Spindles – must be stock for a car that is legal in the class you are running, with no modifications. The ball joints must have 2 separate nuts. No one piece nuts.

Rear Suspension:

Leaf springs must remain stock material. Springs must have 1" stagger with no leaf spring as long as the main leaf with the main leaf being the top spring. Total of (7) leaf springs no thicker than 3/8" thick and 2 3/4" wide. Leaf Spring Hangers can be made of 2" x 6" x 3/8" thick strap must be mounted with (1) 1/2" bolt per frame rail (No welding). You may have 4 leaf spring clamps per spring pack, each clamp can have 4- 3/8"x3" bolts. Clamps may not exceed 3"x4"x1/4" material.

You can change coil springs to a stiffer spring, you can double the rear springs (they may be tied together in no more than two spots, do not weld them together), do not put spacers in sagging coil springs to get your height, do not raise the suspension any other ways except what is listed above. You can wire, or chain coil springs to rear-end and frame to prevent springs from falling out, do not go through body as this would be another body mount.

You can loop chain or wire (1 loop of 3/8" chain or 4 loops of #9 wire) from rear end to frame in 1 spot on each side, must go around frame, do not bolt the chain to the frame. We are going to allow you to weld the chain to the side of the frame, for your chains from the frame to the rear end, you can weld one link only to the side of the frame if you choose to weld the chain instead of wrapping it around the frame. This is a standard chain link do not use long 3/8 mooring chain links

Or you may use 2- 1" all thread going from your rear end through the package tray to hold your rear end in. This may not go through the body.

Use all-thread or chain not both!!

WATTS LINK CONVERSIONS

They must bolt to package tray with 4 – ½” diam. and 1 -¾” Bolt. No welding of the upper brackets to package tray. The upper brackets can be no thicker than 3/8” and must be at least 1” away from frame rail with a mounting plate of no bigger than 8” square. The upper trailing arms must angle off the factory mounting point on the rear end and mount to package tray in the factory mounting location of the car you are running 98 – 02 fords mount the same way as a 97 and older ford. Lower frame brackets may be ¼” X 6” X 3” box tubing 3” long welded to side of frame (not to top or bottom of frame in any way) where the factory brackets are located. All unused brackets must be removed from frame.

No gussets may be used on these lower brackets.

Trailing Arms

You may use loaded factory trailing arms or you can manufacture homemade trailing arms out of 2”x3” square tubing, both styles must pivot on both ends and have rubber bushings.

Rear- Ends:

Use rear end of choice, nothing heavier than an 8 lug rear end. You can tilt rear end if you wish. Welded or posi-track highly recommended. Back braces are welcome. Braces may not extend more than 4 ½” on the outer 10” of a stock size axle tube or 10” on the remaining housing. No changing out rear package trays on frame. - You must use the factory brackets that came with the car you are running unless Watts Link than see the Watts Link rules. No relocating brackets on the frame.

Tires:

Tires no bigger than 16 inch, No split rims, No studded tires. Foam filled tires are not allowed at the arena events. Doubled tires are ok. Valve stem protectors are ok. Tires may be screwed to rims. Wheel reinforcement is allowed as long as the wheel starts with a stock wheel, and the reinforcement stays within the factory bead.

Bead locks are allowed. They must not go past the rubber on the inside of the tire and the outside must remain inside the factory lip of the rim.

Solid tires are allowed

Motor:

Use motor of choice, motor must be in stock location. Distributor Protectors are NOT allowed. Mid Plates are NOT allowed. Lower Cradles are allowed but must attached to a factory style engine mount, with rubber bushing attached to frame. The factory engine mounts are the only way of tying the motor down.

NO Distributor cap protectors or Full cradles!! YOU are allowed a front lower cradle and pulley protector if the sway bar is removed. You may run the front plate for the engine cradle but cannot extend back at all. This is to try and save motor mounts do not abuse this rule. Header Protectors are allowed, Piece of 4X4 ¼” welded around header ONLY and cannot connect to anything. No other protectors allowed on motor or in motor area. You are also allowed a 6”x6”

mounting pad for your motor, this must be attached to the engine cradle only and not come in contact with the side rails at all.

Transmission Brace and Skid Plate:

You may run multiple bars down or one solid plate that conforms to the transmission and may run from the back of the bell housing only. The bell housing can only bolt through the factory transmission hole on the motor. If these bars or plate catch the sheet metal excessively you will be required to cut reliefs into the transmission tunnel. Your trans brace can only be welded 4" where it meets the transmission cross member. You are allowed to build a 90-degree angle where it meets the transmission cross member, and it may be tied down with one 3/8" chain or 2 – 5/8" bolts with 1.5" washers or welded to the cross member for 4" total.

Transmission Cross Member:

You may use a straight piece of 2x3x1/4" tubing, no contours and must be mounted in the stock location on the transmission. It must be straight from rail to rail.

NO HOMEMADE TRANNY CROSS MEMBERS one piece of tubing

2x3x1/4" tubing is the only crossmember you are allowed, **NO STOCK CROSSMEMEBERS**

No stock crossmember only 2"x3"x1/4" tubing

Tranny cross members must mount in factory location for the car only and may use (2)- 2x2x1/4" x 6" long angle iron to reinforce the crossmember, must be welded to the frame and crossmember. The transmission cross member must be one piece and must be straight from side to side. The transmission cross member is the only method which the transmission may be tied in. If you use the 6" angle iron all factor crossmember mounts must be cut off.

Body

Body Shaping:

Body may be shaped on the exterior sheet metal only. No body shaping inside the passenger compartment, inside the truck, or inside the engine compartment at all. Quarter panels, Roof, or pillars may not be removed.

#9 Wire:

You are allowed 2 spots per window (4 Loops). This must end up at body or frame, cannot be connected to cage material or window bars.

You may run wire from frame rail underneath back of car, behind rear end with 4 loops of wire or 1 loop of 3/8 chain or cable. This may go around the frame, it may go through a factory frame hole, or you can weld 1 – 3/8 chain link to the side of the frame to run the wire through, but do not reinforce the frame with the chain link or you will cut it off. This wire may pass through the trunk floor if you choose.

Radiators:

For mounting radiators, you may use (4)- ½" all thread. This may pass through the bottom of the core support. This must not pass through the upper core support. It may be attached to a 2"x6" 1/8" flat steel and must be welded to the core support they must be outside the fan. You may fill the opening in front of radiator with ¼" max store-bought expanded metal or 1/8" rad guard. Must remain within the core support body mounts.

Body Mounts:

Body mount bolts can be replaced with 5/8" bolts and can only be 8-inches long, body mounts can be replaced with steel or washers but must be 1" thick and have the same diameter as stock spacers. Bolts may extend through body and have up to a 4x4x ¼" washer on top, washers must be separate and cannot reinforce the frame. Bolts must be up inside of the frame with up to a 2x3x ¼" washer. If you choose to use a body mount hole for your hood ready bolt this does not have to be up inside frame, the plate can go on the bottom side of the frame and be no larger than 3". if you choose to leave in the stock rubber pucks you must leave the metal cones inside the rubber puck. You must leave at least a ¾ space if using the factory rubber spacer. Do not devise a way that enables you to suck them down tight.

Radiator support mounts can be removed, and you can suck the radiator support down solid. Absolutely no body mounts may be moved or added, do not shorten the front of your car and move back past the body mount hole as your car will not run. If you have to build core support spacers, you may not weld it to the body or the frame mount. Core Support Spacers cannot exceed 2" square material and must stop on the bottom of the core support and top of the frame. The front frame must not be shortened to far that the 1" all thread must pass through the factory stamped hole. The all thread may only be welded to the side of the frame in this location. Chrysler K-Member cannot be altered.

You may add (2) body mounts in the position of your choice from the firewall back to the rear bumper. 5/8" bolts up to 8" in length and must have a 1" body spacer in between frame and body. They must be painted a bright color for easy viewing. Wagons with extra bolts in the humps already will be considered your (2) extra mounts. These must follow all other body mount rules.

Hood & Front Clip:

Hood must have at least a 12 inch square hole cut out in case of fire. Any holes in hood may be bolted back together with 3/8" or less bolts and 1.25" diameter washer no more than a total of 12 bolts allowed to pinch the hood sheet metal back together. You may cut multiple holes but do not exceed the 12 bolts. You are allowed 6 spots to hold the hood on; you must have a minimum of 4 tie down spots. You may have up to 1" all-thread, it may go from the hood to the frame, but must go through the front body mounts, this may be welded to the frame after it passes through the body mount but may not be nutted underneath the body mount if it is welded. All other tie down spots must be sheet metal to sheet metal only, and the hold down bolts cannot exceed 8" in length! All hood bolts must be placed outside the windshield bars.

You may have plates for hood tie down, not to exceed 5x5x1/4" square or 6" x1/4" round. Front core support cannot be moved back from its factory location. It must stay bolted to the fenders the same way that it came factory.

You may cut wheel wells for tire clearance. Fenders may be bolted back together with 5 -3/8" bolts or less with 1.25" diameter washers. No rolling your fenders and welding them. If you wrap or fold your fenders around the front of the core support do not exceed 4 - 3/8" bolts with 1.25" washers to bolt back to the core support of fender. This includes both sides, 4 total.

Windshield Bar & Firewall:

Firewall- **DO NOT ALTER FIREWALL!!!** Besides cutting out for distributor.

Window Bar- For safety, all cars must have (2) windshield bars extending from the roof of the car to the firewall/dash, straps cannot be any larger than 3/8"x3" flat strap. If and only if you remove the firewall/dash completely between the straps you can connect these 2 bars. The removed part must be completely removed and must be as wide as the vertical bars. The horizontal bars connecting the two vertical bars cannot be any larger than 3/8"x3" straps. No more than 6" of strap material is allowed on the roof and no more than 6" of strap material allowed on the firewall. Do not go over 6" on roof or firewall or you will cut. Window bars cannot go more than 6 inches past the window opening. Must be at least 14 inches apart at the firewall.

Doors

You may weld your doors solid with nothing larger than 3" by 1/8" strap and must follow the door seam. Do not overlap strap or you will cut the strap off. You may fold tops of doors over and weld the outer skin and inner skin together, but you are not allowed to add any material. If you chose not to weld, they must be tied shut in six locations using 1/2" bolts no longer than 6", 3/8 Chain, or #9 wire. If we do not deem the car safe to compete you will add more fastening points. You are allowed to add bracing to the exterior side of the driver's door. This bracing must not stick any further out than 2" from the door and may not have any sharp edges. You are also allowed to carry the bracing up to 3" past the exterior door seam either forward or backward.

Cage

All cage material must be no larger than 6" od, unless specified for a specific rule. It must be a minimum of 4" off the floor everywhere except the down legs going straight down. No cage material may be within 6" of the firewall and any part of the engine or components and be minimum of 4" off the transmission tunnel which no sheet metal cannot be altered. You may weld a bar behind the seat from doorpost to doorpost, it can be an X do not connect directly to frame, and you may also have a single bar (with no extensions), across your dash area to replace you dash. You may run a bar connecting the dash bar and seat bar inside of the front doors only. You may weld two down bars from the cage to the frame vertically or to the floor to protect batteries and your feet. These down bars must remain behind the inside door seem and may only

be welded to the top side of the frame. These bars cannot not exceed 2"x3". You must have a roll loop behind the seat, which must be welded to the floor or frame and may be welded or bolted to the roof. Side bars including roll over may be a max length 62 inches long. Side bars may be any dimension but must remain off the floor everywhere 4 in, they must remain 6 inches away from firewall and rear sheet metal. This is for drivers safety, not to strengthen the car, if we feel you have pushed this, you will cut!

Mopar's are allowed to run a 1" bolt with a 5" plate on both sides (frame and body) in the front most frame hole in the rear frame. You are then allowed to weld a kicker from the door bar and weld to the top of this plate. It can be a maximum of 2x3" square tubing. All Mopar cage material must be 5" forward from the center of this body mount hole other than the kicker explained prior. Some Mopar's have a very tight passenger compartment and you may need to run the halo through the small back window, mainly Cordoba's, call first.

Gas Tank Protector

You must run a gas tank protector. It cannot attach to anything other than your cage. It must be centered between your frame humps. It cannot exceed 30" wide. It can angle in from your roll over protection. It must be a 1" away from rear sheet metal, which cannot be removed. The bracing must be 4" above all floor sheet metal, which cannot be removed, measured from the highest flat area of the floor in the rear seat area. You may have bars come up behind the gas tank. These MUST BE **VERTICLE** and follow the 1" away from sheet metal.

Fuel Tank, Oil Coolers, & Transmission Coolers:

Original gas tanks must be removed. You must use a well-made fuel cell, and it must be properly secured and covered. Only metal tanks may be used. Fuel line must be secured and fastened properly. Keep away from exhaust. Place fuel cell behind driver's seat or in the center of the car. No other source of gas inside the car at all. Engine coolers are allowed. These coolers cannot be placed to reinforce the car. No bolts may extend through the frame to create a body mount.

Quarter panels:

Quarter panels can be bolted together using (5) 3/8 inch bolts with (1) inch diameter washers. Shaping of sheet metal on quarter panels is allowed but sheet metal cannot be doubled over and / or welded. Absolutely no metal may be added to quarter panels. Bottoms of quarter panels may be folded up to trunk pan and can be attached in (3) locations by using (3/8) inch bolts and (1) inch outer diameter washers or (1) inch long welds. Quarter panels must remain vertical. It is understood the shaping of sheet metal effects the vertical appearance. Top of quarter panels cannot be pushed in any farther than the inner edge of frame rail on the same side of car. The top of the quarter panel must measure (10) inches tall from the body bolt elevation. This measurement will be taken at the top of the quarter panel above taillight area. The remaining upper portion of the quarter panel must slope upward toward base of c-pillar. Bottom of quarter panel can be pushed in until it meets the trunk floor. Trunk floor cannot be narrowed or squeezed. Trunk floor is defined by the entire width of the horizontal floor in trunk area.

Trunks:

Speaker decks can be removed or flattened if desired. If removed you may only use 2- 3"x5" 1/8" strap to connect to sheet metal. No metal may be added to trunk lid or rain channel. Two (8) inch by (8) inch holes must be cut for inspection purposes. Holes must be over body mount area behind humps. Holes can be bolted together with eight (3/8) inch bolts and (1) inch outer diameter washers or (1) inch welds per hole. The backside of the rear wheel tubs and all body mounts inside trunk must be accessible and visible during inspection. Once car has passed, holes can be covered with factory thickness sheet metal and attached by using the (8) bolts already mentioned. Inspection hole covers must be presented during inspection and installed when your stick is being taped on. Trunk lid must mount in factory location but can be contoured down toward top of package tray without exceeding quarter panel rule. Bolts for hinges must be factory size but can run thru top layer of trunk lid and be washered and nutted with washer being no bigger than (1) inch outer diameter. Trunk can be attached to car by welding (5) inch wide by (5) inch long (1/8") inch thick plates on exterior trunk seams. The (5) inch on, (5) inch off, method will be utilized. Station wagon tailgates must remain in factory location but can be lowered into box if applicable. Attaching tailgate to car must be done in the same manner as a trunk lid (5 inch on and 5 inch off). (2) 1" All-thread may go from the trunk lid to the frame or trunk pan, If welded to the frame it must come straight down from the trunk lid and can only be welded 4 inches vertically.

If it passes through a body mount hole you must have a 1" spacer between the body and frame.

GM Wagons must remove all rear decking and seat components. All other rules above must be followed.

03 & Newer Rules: - No 03 and Newer Cars will be allowed for 2023

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Legal Cradle Example

