



The Gracie Soap Box Derby is a community charity event created to raise awareness for children fighting cancer. The goal is simple: have fun, race safely, and come together for a good cause.

**Safety comes first. Fun comes second. Winning comes third.**

## 1. Driver Eligibility

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### Age Divisions

- Junior Division: Ages 7-11
- Teen Division: Ages 12-19

### Registration & Waivers

- All drivers must be registered before race day. A simple e-mail will do it.
- A completed liability waiver is required before any driver may race.
- Drivers under age 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

## 2. Race Day Schedule

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Time	Activity
12:00 p.m.	Driver check-in and car inspection begins
12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Test runs, first come, first served
1:00 p.m.	Racing begins

Drivers and cars must arrive by 12:00 p.m. to allow enough time for check-in, inspection, and any required safety adjustments. Parking is on-site for racers and spectators.

## 3. Required Driver Gear

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**Required** safety gear:

- A properly fitted helmet
- Closed-toe shoes

*Recommended* safety gear:

- Eye protection
- Thin gloves

**Drivers may not race without required safety gear.**

## 4. Basic Car Requirements

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**Every car must pass inspection before racing. At a minimum, each car must:**

- Have four wheels
- Be gravity powered only
- Have no motors, pedals, batteries, or other propulsion systems
- Have working steering
- Have working brakes
- Be safely built with no sharp edges, loose parts, exposed nails, exposed screws, glass, or unsafe decorations
- Be no longer than 84 inches
- Be no wider than 36 inches

## 5. Detailed Car Safety Requirements

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### Wheels & Axles

- Wheels must be securely attached.
- Axles must be secure and may not be bent, cracked, loose, or unstable.
- Wheels must spin freely and may not wobble excessively.
- Wheel fasteners, cotter pins, lock nuts, or other retainers must be in place.
- No wheel, axle, or bearing modification may be made after inspection unless approved by a race official.

### Steering

- The car must steer safely and predictably.
- Steering may not allow the wheels to turn so sharply that the car could flip.
- Steering should include stops or limits to prevent over-rotation.
- Steering ropes, cables, wheels, or linkages must be secure.

### Braking

- Every car must have a functional brake system.
- Brakes must be able to slow and stop the car in a straight, controlled manner.
- Brakes may not damage the road surface.
- Brakes will be tested during inspection.
- A car that cannot stop safely will not be allowed to race.

### Body, Frame & Decorations

- The frame must be strong enough to support the driver.
- All parts must be securely attached.
- No sharp edges, exposed nails, exposed screws, glass, loose metal, or breakable decorations are allowed.
- Decorative items may not block the driver's view.
- Decorations may not interfere with steering, braking, wheels, or the driver's ability to exit the car.
- Creative car designs are encouraged, but safety comes first.

### Seat, Driver Position & Visibility

- The driver must sit inside the car in a stable seated position.
- The driver must be able to see the course clearly.
- The driver's hands and feet must remain inside the car during the race.
- The driver must be able to reach the steering and brake comfortably.
- The driver must be able to exit quickly with minimal assistance.

## 6. Inspection

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All cars must pass inspection before racing. Race officials may inspect a car at any time before, during, or after the event. Inspection may include review of:

- Helmet fit and driver gear
- Steering
- Brakes
- Wheels and axles
- Size and overall stability

- Sharp edges or protruding hardware
- Seat, cockpit, and exit ability
- Added weights
- Sponsor wraps, decorations, or design elements that could affect safety

**Race officials may reject any car that appears unsafe, unstable, difficult to control, or dangerous to the driver or others. Once a car has passed inspection, no changes may be made to the car unless approved by a race official.**

## 7. Course & Race Day Safety

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- The course will have clearly marked start and finish lines.
- A safe braking zone will be provided after the finish line.
- Spectators are not allowed on the course during racing.
- Drivers must follow all instructions from race officials.
- Drivers must keep hands and feet inside the car while racing.
- Unsafe driving, failure to follow instructions, or unsafe conduct may result in disqualification.

The race is intended to be held rain or shine, within reason. Race officials may delay, pause, modify, or cancel racing because of lightning, poor visibility, unsafe road conditions, or any other condition that makes racing unsafe.

## 8. Race Format

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- Drivers will race in two divisions: Junior Division, ages 7-11; and Teen Division, ages 12-19.
- Each driver will race in one timed heat.
- Each car will begin from the race ramp.
- Fastest timed cars will advance to the finals.
- Final race format, timing, re-runs, and any adjustments will be determined by race officials.

## 9. Awards

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- Junior Division Champion
- Teen Division Champion
- Best Car Design
- Gracie Spirit Award

## 10. Authority of Race Officials

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Race officials have final authority over safety, inspection, driver eligibility, race format, timing, re-runs, weather delays, disqualification, and interpretation of these rules.

### **Liability & Injury Notice**

Participation in The Gracie Soap Box Derby involves inherent risks, including falls, collisions, equipment failure, property damage, and personal injury. All drivers, and parents or guardians of minor drivers, are responsible for reviewing the rules, following all safety requirements, and obeying race officials at all times.

A completed waiver is required before any driver may participate. The rules, inspections, and safety procedures are intended to reduce risk, but they cannot eliminate all risks associated with soap box derby racing.

**For questions, please e-mail [chris@graciefund.org](mailto:chris@graciefund.org)**