



2021 Montague Soapbox Derby Rules

Derby date this year is Sunday, September 19th, 2021. The first heat is at high Noon. Racers must start arriving at Check In for inspection at 8:30 AM. All carts must be checked in by 11:30 AM.

Derby applications, accompanied by a \$25 filing fee, will be accepted starting June 1st, 2021 through Friday, September 3rd. We are accepting only 60 racers, so get it in early. Applications can be found on the Derby Website MontagueSoapboxRaces.com.

Once you are accepted into the Derby there are no refunds. All accepted Racers will receive a Racer number and other information.

Racers will be split into three divisions by age: “Kid Racers” are 8-12 years old; “Teen Racers” are 13-19 years old; and “Adult Racers” are 20 years and older. Yes, adults are encouraged to enter. We are sorry, but for safety concerns you cannot race if you are under 8 years old on Derby Day.

The Derby will take place at Unity Park in Turners Falls, which is one of the villages in Montague, MA. Unity Park borders on the Connecticut River and is quite beautiful all year round. The Derby track will be the 1st Street hill. Racers will start from a dead start (no push starts) and come down the hill to cheering crowds on both sides. There will be announcers on a platform overlooking the track, and three TV cameras capturing all the action just like in the Olympics. DVDs will be available for sale in advance and after the Derby.

Adult Racers will start on a ramp at the very top of the 1st Street hill where it forks off 3rd Street at Kostanski Funeral Home. This is a pretty steep hill that drops 60 feet in less than 300 feet of road, and flattens out into a long left turn. As we will outline later in this document, adult Vehicles must be sturdy enough to survive potential speeds above 35 MPH and a long left turn without collapsing or steering into the hay bales. Teen and Kid Racers will start further down the hill, making the track less severe.

Racers will get two qualifying heats, going down the hill in pairs side by side with another Racer. Drivers **MUST** stay in their lane or be penalized five seconds. Because of the single left turn in the track, in each heat racers will trade lanes so they get one heat in the left lane and one in the right. Racers' two run times will be added together for a total race time. This means that the right lane, which is banked the wrong way and obviously longer, is the more important heat. Skill is required!

Racers will go in age order, from youngest to oldest, going through each division, a pair of carts every two minutes, with short breaks between each age group to move the starting and finish lines. Kid Racers will run both heats back to back and have their own trophy ceremony before the Teen and Adult divisions go down the hill. The race announcers will keep track of fastest times.

Trophy cups will be given to the fastest three carts in each division. In the event of a tie, a tie-breaker heat will be used. Separate style trophies will be given for several different style categories.

Vehicle Overview

Please adhere to **ALL** the rules as they are in the interest of not only your safety but the safety of others as well. Failure to meet the requirements could result in disqualification from this event. Vehicle inspections are subject to the discretion of our Cart Inspectors, and all decisions are final.

Racers and Vehicles must be ready to race when dropped off at Check In, at the corner of Avenue A and 1st Street in Turners Falls. Drivers must arrive between 8:30 and 11:00 or they will be turned away. **We have up to 60 Racers to process**, so please be on time. Every vehicle / Racer must go through an inspection before running the course. No construction or repairs will be allowed other than minor adjustments as deemed by the Cart Inspectors. Vehicles damaged in transit will have a limited time to get repaired. Late arriving cars will be turned away.

Racers should have at least one crew member, called the Racer Assistant(s), accompany them at Check In. The Racer is the only person who will go down the hill. No passengers. Racers must fit into the vehicle and be able to operate the steering and brakes.

Your vehicle must be hand-made (this is the part to be as creative as possible!). Any kits or pre-fabricated vehicles will be disqualified. Use any material you have available to put your rig together keeping in mind it will need to pass our weight and safety inspection. Please be as fun and creative as possible when building your vehicle! The more creative the better.

Your Vehicle must be no more than 8 feet long and 4 feet wide. There are no height restrictions. The Vehicle must weigh less than the limit for your Derby Class: 250 pounds with driver for Kid Racers; 350 pounds with driver for Teen Racers; 450 pounds with driver for Adult Racers. You are allowed to add weights to make it heavier, as long as it does not go over the limit. Adult Vehicles should have 6" road clearance at both the front and back as they will be starting on a raised ramp.

Vehicles must have a floor. Racer legs **cannot** be extended over open space. Full enclosures are not necessary, but are encouraged. Racers are not required to be in a fully seated position, and may lay prone if desired. Seat belts are not required, but are encouraged, as are knee pads or long pants.

This is a gravity-fed race. Your Vehicle cannot move using any mechanical, gas, solar, electrical, sonic, wind (natural or biological), rocket, nuclear, biomass, Flintstone or magical fairy dust power.

Adult vehicles must be sturdy enough to withstand speeds over 35 MPH and should be able to steer through the downhill course without flipping over or collapsing. Make it sturdy, people! Low center! Strong parts and construction, and suit up for safety, and NO capes! Please.

Protective headgear (bicycle or motorcycle helmet), gloves, elbow pads or a jacket, and goggles or shop glasses **MUST** be worn by ALL Racers. Absolutely **NO** exceptions. No opened-toed shoes, such as sandals. Knee pads are encouraged. If you are jettisoned from your vehicle, they will all come in handy. Make sure your helmet is buckled on when you race. Please.

Ensure all your wheels, chassis, decorations and anything else that could become dangerous projectiles are securely attached to your vehicle! No sharp edges inside or out. If there are items found to be in question, they must be removed or corrected to meet Race requirements.

Up to five Vehicles will be towed up the hill at a time using a long rope with loops every twelve feet. Your cart must have a sturdy hook somewhere on the front center and a rope-guide in back for towing purposes.

Keep It Creative, Fun & Tasteful

We encourage you to be as creative, fun & tasteful as possible when building your cart. Many Racers will come up with a theme for their cart and pit crew, while others just might want a cart built for speed. This is a fun community event so come light-hearted and ready to have a great afternoon! If you have a support team who wants to cheer you on, you should get them to gather in one spot and hold up a sign so other fans can gather.

Please be sure to keep your vehicle's appearance at a PG-13 level, free of profanity or nudity, as there will be impressionable eyes looking on. Any violation to this rule will result in disqualification. Use your noggin and best judgment here folks!

Please visit our website for additional information, including directions and information on how the Staging / Inspection / Pickup Areas work: **MontagueSoapboxRaces.com**

If you plan on being a Racer, please go to the website and sign-up on the **Contact Us** page. This will keep you in the loop with any changes and updates. We also have a Facebook page, at **[Facebook.com/MontagueSoapboxDerby](https://www.facebook.com/MontagueSoapboxDerby)**

Good luck to you!

- The Montague Soapbox Race Committee.



