

Hunstanton Soap Box Derby

Full Rules and Specifications 2026

Entry Details

1. Teams may consist of up to 4 crew members, at least one of whom must be over 18 years of age on race day. A maximum of 2 from the crew may occupy the kart (i.e. as drivers/passengers) at any given time.
2. The age of the driver(s) and/or passenger(s) determines the age category entered. If 2 drivers, both must be in the same age category.
3. There are 4 categories for Soapbox Entrants:
 - **Junior Under 13** (10–12-year-olds, i.e. has reached at least 10th birthday but not reached 13th birthday)
 - **Junior Under 16** (13–15-year-olds, i.e. has reached at least 13th birthday but not reached 16th birthday)
 - **Adults** (16–49-year-olds, i.e. has reached at least 16th birthday but not reached 50th birthday)
 - **Veterans** (50+, i.e. has reached 50th birthday and above)

(All ages on race day.)

4. Prizes will be presented to teams finishing first, second and third in each category and to the overall winner. A team's fastest/best time counts for the final results, not an average time. Should there be a tie on the fastest/best time, run-offs will be held to determine the faster kart and therefore, the positioning in that category.
5. In addition, there will be one award presented to the team judged as having the best decorated/ best looking kart: the Concours d' Elegance award.
6. Soapbox karts must meet the Construction and Safety Guidelines as described herein.
7. Participants must enter online by the set closing date detailed on the event website. Late entries will not be accepted. Note, there is a maximum entry limit, and entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
8. Teams are not permitted to share karts.
9. Pre-event instructions will follow via email in due course, so please check junk folders before contacting the Hunstanton Events Team.
10. Registration and packs will be available to collect on the morning of the event and further details will follow in the pre-event instructions that will be sent via email closer to the date of the event.

Race Day

11. Participants must report to the scrutineering area by the prescribed time. *
 - All karts must pass scrutineering (conform to all rules and specifications) before being allowed to take part.
 - All karts must be registered and have passed scrutineering by the prescribed time. *
 - Late arrivals will not be able to take part.
 - All team members are required at a driver's briefing before the event commences. *

- No karts will be permitted to race without passing scrutineering.
- Race numbers will be issued by the booking-in team and must be clearly displayed on the kart.

*(*Times will be notified in pre-event instructions.)*

12. Racers must be available and ready at the starting location at the scheduled time.

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- Racers must remain available to race at any time until all his/her races are finished.
- Participants who are not available when required to race may be eliminated from further competition.
- A listing of drivers will be posted at the booking in area.

The number of runs will be decided on the day but should be at least 2 (weather / judge's decision dependent).

Rules

1. When racing, drivers must as a minimum wear suitable footwear and a helmet with chin strap. **NO CRASH HELMET = NO RACING**. Organisers' strong recommendation is that **full face helmets, gum shields, gloves and clothing covering all the legs and arms should be worn**. The race judges' decisions are final and shall not be contested.
2. No crew members are permitted to stand on the back of the kart; all members must be seated through-out the entirety of the course.
3. Any team members following the kart down along the course, must exit the course at the first crossing.
4. Please remain in the kart at the finish as the organisers will push you out of the way.
5. By virtue of registration, participants, or the parents or guardians of participants who are minors, have agreed to render harmless the Hunstanton Soapbox Derby, the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and volunteers assisting with the event organisers of any consequences arising from participation in the Derby.
6. Adults with junior drivers must always stay with their children during the event.
7. Competitors must always follow the precise instruction of the race marshals.
8. The minimum age for a driver is 10 years old; no one under 10 may take part in the event.
9. Team names judged inappropriate by race organisers will not be accepted and will be changed. Similarly, karts decorated inappropriately may not take part.
10. Any crew members deemed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will result in the whole crew being withdrawn from the competition.

Soap Box Kart Design

The design of the karts is up to the builders. Remember that the judges will be looking for style and originality. Builders should keep in mind that the Soapbox should be built with the intended driver in mind.

Soapbox kart construction and safety rules/guidelines:

1. Soapbox karts are powered by gravity only — **no engines or motors.**
2. Karts can have one or two occupants, but both must be contained within the kart.
3. The driver must sit in the kart, facing forward and control the kart using only hands and feet.
4. The kart must fit the driver and passenger. Driver and passenger must be able to get in and out of the kart easily and operate steering and braking in the normal seated position without stretching or straining.
5. The centre of gravity, with the driver and passenger in place, should be as low as possible without violating the minimum road clearance (8cm) specification (including brake).
6. The kart must have four wheels. **Minimum diameter is 15cm.** Wheels may not be made of wood.
7. Measures must be taken to prevent wheels from departing the kart when in use. Use cotter pins or other positive means to keep the wheels in place.
8. Fasteners used in the steering and brake systems must be prevented from loosening when in use using lock nuts, cotter pins, wire tying or other means.
9. **Maximum** overall kart length, 280cm.
10. **Maximum** wheelbase (distance between front & rear axles), 190cm.
11. **Maximum** kart body width, 150cm. **Minimum** kart body width, 50cm.
12. **Maximum** axle length, 140cm.
13. **Minimum** road clearance to any part of the kart, including fasteners, must be 8cm.
14. Minimize front and rear overhang.
15. All basic structure parts must be securely fastened to each other using bolts, screws or other suitable hardware. Plywood and solid wood are permitted structural materials. **Particle or strand type board is not permitted for any structural part.**
16. The basic structure is defined as the chassis on which the driver and passenger sit and to which the axles, steering and brake mechanisms, and body shell are attached.
17. The kart body or shell may form part of the basic structure. It must be made of rigid impact resistant material.
18. Back and forth movement of either front wheel shall be limited to 3cm. Stops must be installed to prevent oversteering. Steering movement must be smooth.
19. The kart **must have a braking system** capable of slowing the kart to a smooth, short and safe straight line stop without damaging the road surface or making contact with the bales. **The braking system must include rear wheel brakes and must be capable of stopping the kart from speeds up to 25mph.**
20. Cable links used in steering and brake systems must be secured and not slip under stress.
21. Adjusting hardware such as turnbuckles must be lock-wired in the final adjusting position.
22. We recommend that the driver's and passenger's lower torso, legs and feet are within a body shell. The driver or passenger should not be able to contact the road surface or the wheels when seated in the normal operating position in the kart.
23. There shall be no exposed sharp edges or points.

24. Exposed edges that may be contacted by the driver or passenger shall be smooth. Protective cushioning material may also be fitted.
25. Build a stiff non-flexing basic structure. Try to keep karts light, but tough and strong. Do not add additional weight.
26. It is recommended to incorporate handholds for ease of handling.
27. It is vitally important that the kart can be driven repeatedly without steering and brake adjustments.
28. Test the steering and brake mechanisms for strength, repeatable and smooth operation, both prior to the event and after completing your first run. Karts unable to steer and brake effectively after their first run will not be permitted to make a second run. Similarly, karts unable to steer and brake effectively after their second run will not be permitted to take place in a run-off.
29. Test the whole kart on a sloping surface. Make certain, through testing, that the intended drivers can safely operate the kart.
30. If intending to go over the ramp, test it several times on your own test area to ensure the kart can withstand the impact and that brakes work effectively, as test runs are not an option on race day.

Please do not arrive at the Soapbox Derby with an untested kart or driver!

Disclaimer to be agreed by participants

I/we understand that by signing the entry form (ticking the box) I accept full responsibility for my own safety and the safety of any minors in the crew. I/we agree to observe the rules of the event and to follow the instructions of the event organisers, marshals and scrutineers. I/we confirm that I/we consider to be in good health to participate. I/we accept that the entry fee is non-refundable and cannot be rolled over into another year, unless the event is postponed or cancelled by the organisers.

Disclaimer for Under 16s to be agreed by parent/guardian

I confirm that my son/daughter is in good health, and I give consent for my son/daughter to participate in the above event. I consent to any emergency treatment required by my son/daughter during the event. I give consent for my son/daughter to be photographed during the event, and I consent to the photographs being used by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk for promotional purposes. The information you provide will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to ensure the safety of all participants and may be shared with other people/organisations involved in the delivery of the above event if appropriate. By signing the entry form (ticking the box) you are consenting to the Council using the information which you have supplied in the manner stated above.

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Disclaimer

The BCKL&WN and event providers/suppliers do not accept any responsibility for any accident, damage or loss to entrants or their property during the running of this event.

