

Richards Castle Soap Box Derby 2026

Rules & Regulations for all teams and builders

General

Entry

- To enter each team must complete the online booking form.
Entry is confirmed on payment of £50 which should be made within 5 days by BACS or direct payment to:
Richards Castle Soap Box
Lloyds Bank 30-95-27 Account 00880352
- Entry fee is £50 per team (two teams sharing one cart = two entry fees).
- The entry fee is non-refundable unless the event is cancelled by the organisers. If your cart does not pass scrutiny then the entry fee will **not be** refunded.
- **Entry deadline: 8 June 2026.**
- Up to two drivers per team. Runs must be shared if there are two drivers
- All teams must accept these rules in full.

Classes

There are three racing classes:

- Adults: 17 years and over (on the day of the event)
- Juniors: 12 to 16 years old (on the day of the event)
- Mixed: Teams with both junior and adult members

You may race a 3-wheel or 4-wheel soapbox in any class.

On the Day

Event Overview

- Course length: 550 metres
- Vertical drop: 50 metres (with some steeper sections)
- Top speeds: 30–40 mph
- Runs: Each soapbox should be able to have at least three timed runs
- Start: Single start from a ramp with timing
- Timing: Electronic

If you're new to the event, we highly recommend watching previous races on our website or YouTube to get a feel for the track and what makes a successful build.

Soap box safety Inspections

Saturday June 27th Evening: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Sunday June 28th morning: 7:30am– 9:30am

Please indicate on your entry form which inspection session you will be attending.

Important Checks

When building your soapbox, pay special attention to these areas - they are the most common inspection faults. If you have questions or need advice during your build, please contact: Dave Pearce – 01584 876016

- Roll bars (front and rear)
- Brakes
- Steering
- Dimensions

Event Management

- Soapboxes will be transported by flatbed trailer from pits to start.
- Race numbers will be provided at registration and must be clearly displayed.
- Speed prizes: based on the combined times of your two fastest runs.
- The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry or disqualify teams for rule breaches or inappropriate behaviour. Their decision is final.
- Soapboxes and drivers may be inspected at any time during the event.
- Starts are gravity-powered only (no pushing).
- After finishing, drivers must brake safely and exit the track promptly as directed by marshals.
- Practice runs are not timed.

Fundraising

- Teams are encouraged to raise money for the event's chosen charities - a prize will be awarded for the most funds raised.
- Creative designs are welcome! Bright colours, themes, sponsorships, and team names on your soapbox are encouraged.
- Registration starts at 7:30 am on race day. Practice runs begin at 10:00 am — please arrive on time.

Sharing Soapboxes

Two teams may share the same cart.

- Shared carts may require more maintenance between runs.
- Sharing can reduce the total number of runs you complete.

- Both teams must work efficiently to transport the cart and prepare between runs.
- The organisers will do their best to ensure fair opportunities, but equal run numbers cannot be guaranteed.

Photography & Video

The Richards Castle Soap Box Committee follows a strict Safeguarding Policy to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

- Event Approved personnel may be taking group and individual photos or videos for publicity or archive use (e.g., website, posters, magazines).
- By signing the entry form, parents/guardians of junior entrants or vulnerable adults give permission for these images to be used.
- No drones are permitted on site or to be used for photographing the event unless authorized by the Soap Box Committee.

Building your Soap Box

Technical, Design & Construction Rules

If unsure about any rule, please contact Dave Pearce (01584 876016).

Dimensions and weight

1. Max length: 2500 mm (front to rear)
2. Max width: 1500 mm (side to side)
3. Minimum ground clearance: 50 mm (to clear starting ramp)
4. Weight: Team members will need to lift soapbox on and off uplift trailer (manual handling)

Wheels:

1. 3 or 4 wheels allowed
2. All wheels must have pneumatic tyres
3. No more than two wheels in line
4. All wheels must touch the ground during normal running

Brakes:

1. Must be effective enough to hold the soapbox on the starting ramp on a 1 in 8 gradient
2. If one wheel on an axle is braked, then both wheels must be braked
3. Will be checked during inspection

Seating & Bodywork:

1. Seat must be securely bolted to the soapbox framework
2. Soap boxes must be designed to carry one person only, in a feet first direction.
3. Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that the risk of puncture injuries is minimal.

4. A padded steering wheel/handlebar is recommended. Bar end-plugs are compulsory if handlebars are used.
5. Driver must be able to exit unaided
6. Doors/hatches (if used) must open easily from inside and outside

Other Requirements:

1. Gravity propulsion only – no motors, pedal power, or stored energy
2. No loose weights inside or outside
3. Seatbelts recommended, especially for heavier soapboxes
4. **Roll bars.** 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 below for the 4 wheelers. (Please speak to Dave Pearce for clarification). All welding and general construction should be of a good standard.
5. **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.
6. Steering must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.

Safety Rules

- The event is for fun, but safety comes first for all participants and spectators.
- Every team member must sign the official disclaimer.
- We **REQUIRE ALL DRIVERS TO HAVE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE**. This can be obtained for a small fee from <https://www.sportscoverdirect.com>. Participation will be refused without it.
- Soapboxes must be pedestrian-friendly – no sharp edges or glass.
- Protective clothing required: long sleeves and trousers, gloves, and no bare limbs.
- Approved helmets are mandatory (BS 6658 motorcycle helmet or higher; MTB helmets must show EN1078 and CE mark).
- 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.
- All drivers must attend the safety briefing and walk the course before their first run.
- Only registered team members may drive. One or Two drivers may share the available runs.
- Each driver gets one untimed practice run.
- Junior teams: a supervising adult must be present at the start line.

- The scrutineer's decision is final.
- Teams are responsible for monitoring the condition and safety of their soapbox throughout the day.
- Compliance with these rules does not guarantee safety — racing carries inherent risk.
- No overtaking. If a red flag is shown, stop immediately. Affected teams will receive an additional run.

For any questions or clarification, contact Dave Pearce on 01584 876016.