

## Home-Built Soapbox Cart CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

11. Soapbox carts are powered by gravity only.
12. The driver must sit in the cart, facing forward and control the cart using only hands and feet.
13. **Very important! Drivers must fit in the cart. This means they must be able to get in and out of the cart easily, and steer and stop the cart in the normal seated position without stretching or straining.**
14. The centre of gravity, with the driver in place, should be as low as possible without violating the minimum road clearance (2.5") specification.
15. Carts must have four wheels. Minimum diameter is six inches. Wheels from manufacturers may not be modified but must be used 'as is'. Wheels must have solid or inflated rubber tires and not be made of wood.
16. Measures must be taken to prevent wheels from departing the cart when in use. Use cotter pins or other positive means to keep the wheels in place.
17. Fasteners used in the steering and brake systems must be prevented from loosening when in use by the use of lock nuts, cotter pins, wire-tying or other means.
18. Maximum overall cart length, 84".
19. Maximum wheel base (distance between front and rear axles), 56".
20. Maximum cart body width, 28".
21. Maximum axle length, 35". Axles must not rotate - wheels must rotate on the axles.
22. Road clearance to any part of the cart, including fasteners, must be 2.5" minimum.
23. Minimize front and rear overhang to prevent getting hung up on the starting ramps.
24. 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. **The basic structure is defined as the chassis on which the driver sits and to which the axles, steering, brake mechanisms, and body parts are attached.** The cart body or shell may be part of the basic structure. It must be made of rigid impact resistant material. Make the structure stiff and non-flexing .
25. Springs and shock absorbers are not permitted.

1. **Important!** Steering shall be only by means of rotation of the front axle on a central pivot. Total back and forth movement of either front wheel on this axle shall be limited to one inch (2 X half inch). Stops must be installed to prevent over-steering. The steering movement must be smooth.
2. The carts must have a braking system capable of slowing the cart to a smooth, short and safe straight line stop without damaging the road surface. Drag chutes are not permitted.
3. Cable links used in steering and brake systems must be secure and not slip under stress.
4. Adjusting hardware must be lockable. Turnbuckles must be lock-wired in the final adjusted position.
5. **All brake and steering components should be readily visible and accessible without disassembly of the cart.**
6. The driver's lower torso, legs and feet must be within the body shell.
7. There shall be no exposed sharp edges or points. Exposed edges that may be contacted by the driver shall be rounded and smooth. Protective cushioning material may also be fitted.
8. There shall be no hard protruding ornamentation on the cart.
9. It is recommended to incorporate convenient hand-holds for ease of lifting and handling.
10. You may decorate/paint the cart any way you wish, but in good taste. Funny and humorous is good.

### Now the Really important Stuff!

It is vitally important that the cart can be driven repeatedly without steering and brakes adjustment.

Thoroughly test steering and brake mechanisms for strength, repeatable and effective operation.

**Test the whole cart on a sloping surface. Make certain, through testing, that all the intended drivers can safely operate the cart.**

**You must arrive at the derby with a TESTED soapbox cart and drivers**

If you have questions or need help, contact  
[manotickderby@gmail.com](mailto:manotickderby@gmail.com)



The Annual Allan Haan Soapbox Derby  
in Manotick  
held in conjunction with the  
Picnic-in-the-Park  
Sunday, August 25, 2024

Hosted by  
Manotick Village &  
Community Association  
[www.manotickvca.org](http://www.manotickvca.org)



## Derby Race Rules and Cart Specifications



See the derby on YouTube.

## A Fun Race

Summer is the time for kids and their parents to use their creativity by building a soapbox cart and racing it in the Manotick Soapbox Derby. The Manotick Village and Community Association (MVCA) will hold its 12th annual soapbox derby on **Sunday, August 25, 2024** on Beaverwood Road next to Centennial Park in Manotick.

Along with the Picnic in the Park, this is a whole day of fun for everyone. Starting at **8:00AM** carts will be inspected at the top of the Maple Street. **Please arrive early so racing can start on time!** If participating in the race, please plan to be there for the whole day. To participate and run your cart in the derby, you need to register online at [www.manotickvca.org/derby](http://www.manotickvca.org/derby). There is a \$25 fee per cart.

**Registration closes on Friday August 16, 2024 or earlier if the maximum number of participants has been reached. Please register early to secure your spot.**

This is a fun derby, perhaps not suitable for serious soapbox racing enthusiasts, but anyone 7 or older is welcome to participate. We ask participants for consent to use pictures taken for future derby promotion.

In case of inclement weather, the derby may be cancelled. There will be a notice on our website [www.manotickvca.org](http://www.manotickvca.org) on the morning of the derby day. There will be posts on MVCA social media as well. If the derby is cancelled the registration fees will be refunded.

### Volunteers and Sponsors

We need your help in running the derby. To be a volunteer or sponsor, please send an email to [manotickderby@gmail.com](mailto:manotickderby@gmail.com) and we will contact you.

## Race Rules

1. For reasons of safety, carts must meet the Construction Specification described herein.
2. Each cart will race four times. The driver in each of the four races need not be the same person but all drivers must be registered in advance.
3. During race day carts may not be modified to suit different drivers. Only minor seat adjustment is permitted.
4. Total weight shall be limited to cart plus driver. **No extra weights of any nature shall be added.**
5. **Minimum age of participants is 7 on derby day.**
6. Participants and parents/guardians must be available any time from 8:00 AM until the end of racing. Participants who are not available when called may be eliminated from further competition.
7. Carts may be inspected prior to each race to ensure they are safe for racing. Ruling by the inspectors shall not be challenged. Carts rejected by the inspector must be promptly removed from the starting location.
8. When racing, drivers must wear shoes, a helmet with chinstrap, eye protection and gloves.
9. Carts must stay in their lane. Drivers who purposely cross the centre line or purposely run into the cone brake barrier at the finish line are subject to disqualification of that race.
10. Carts involved in an accident during the race will be impounded by the committee to help determine the cause of the accident. An accident is deemed to have occurred when a cart causes injury to persons or damage to property other than the cart itself.
11. The race judges' decisions are final and shall not be contested.
12. In case of inclement weather, race officials may halt or cancel the races.
13. The most important rule is **"SAFETY FIRST"**. Participants shall obey race officials. **DRIVE SAFELY!**

### NOTE:

**A waiver, signed by a parent or guardian of the child or youth must be completed before the racer will be permitted to participate.**

## Home-built Soapbox Carts

This derby is as much about having fun racing as it is about building a soapbox racing cart. Youngsters are encouraged to try their hands at building one. Parents and grandparents may be of great help.

Should you be fortunate enough to have access to a soapbox cart stored and forgotten in a barn or attic somewhere, you may be able to use it.

Painting and decorating a cart is fun. You can finish the cart any way you wish within the specified construction guidelines.

**Special prizes will be awarded to funniest, most creative and most innovative carts.**

**All carts that enter this derby must meet the Construction Specifications described herein.**

There are numerous websites that offer plans and suggestions for soapbox carts. Look them over before deciding on the general characteristics of the cart you want to build.

Your local hardware store has items typically used in cart construction: axles, wheels, cable, cable clamps, fasteners, pulleys, turnbuckles etc.

If building a soapbox cart is too daunting, you can buy a cart kit ready for assembly. Sources are available on the web or you may contact us for further information.

**There are a few sponsored carts available for kids who are unable to build or obtain one. Please contact us as soon as possible at [manotickderby@gmail.com](mailto:manotickderby@gmail.com) for further information.**

Kids with special needs are also welcome to participate in the derby. If interested, email us at [manotickderby@gmail.com](mailto:manotickderby@gmail.com).

