

## **Samoset Council Pinewood Derby**

The Format -

These are the PWD rules posted on the BSA website.

*According to the BSA's Cub Scout Leader How-To-Book, the general rules are as follows:*

*All cars must pass the following inspection to qualify for the race:*

- 1. Width shall not exceed 2-3/4 inches.*
- 2. Length shall not exceed 7 inches.*
- 3. Weight shall not exceed 5 ounces.*
- 4. Axles, wheels, and body shall be from the materials provided in the kit. Additional wheels can be purchased separately.*
- 5. Wheel bearings, washers, and bushings are prohibited.*
- 6. No lubricating oil may be used. Axles may be lubricated with powdered graphite or silicone.*
- 7. The car shall not ride on any kind of spring.*
- 8. The car must be free-wheeling, with no starting devices.*
- 9. No loose materials of any kind are allowed in the car.*

As you can see these rules are extremely vague and leave to much room for interpretation which in turn allows for individual preferences to be written into the rules. Everyone has an opinion as to what the PWD represents, some are purest that think the race should be run on a wooden track and have an abundance of rules and some are extremist that think there should be hardly no rules and it's a every man for themselves. The goal is to find a happy medium that promotes the "Scouts" to build most of their own cars. My son experienced this issue at the Mid America Nationals race where he placed second to a proxy or mailed in car that was built by a professional PWD racer for the winning scout. This is what we do not wish to happen, we want the scouts to take pride in their accomplishments and keep the adults from building the entire car. These are our following recommendations for PWD rules and procedures for the pack, district and council races.

Individual Packs are encouraged to have every scout be present on race day and should make every accommodation to schedule the PWD at a time that would provide the highest percentage of scout participation. The pack should schedule their race before their corresponding District race so their scouts are eligible to advance to the next level. The pack will be responsible for providing a PWD clinic to allow parents the availability to tools and knowledge so that everyone has the opportunity to learn to build a competitive Pinewood Derby car. (More information on how to hold classes will be available in a separate packet.)

### **Procedures**

#### **Pack Eligibility**

The objective is to get each pack to preform at the same level, to allow the scout to race the same car "competitively" through the District and Council levels without building an entirely new car. It is this factor that we ask the following equipment and rule standards be met and once these requirements are met the pack will be eligible to host their district race.

The track will be required to be an aluminum Best track or Freedom track. The optimum length would be 42 feet but 35 feet is expectable with the understanding that it will need to be lengthened to the 42 foot length within 2 years. The few packs that have a longer track should sell the additional length of track to another pack with a shorter track. The stop section should be a minimum of 60 inches and having lane dividers would be advised. An electronic timer will be required, it must show elapsed time and be able to work with the PWD race software. A laptop computer will be required in which school AV equipment should interface with it to display the race information for the pack to see clearly.

The packs should have a basic understanding as to how many scout will be attending the PWD race and should budget accordingly. We highly suggest that the packs divide the winners by rank. This allows for the fairest competition for each scout.

Racing Classes or Ranks are -

Lions & Tigers

Wolves

Bears

Webelos I

Webelos II (The Webelos could be combined if there are fewer than 4 in each class)

Sibling / Young Adult (age limit 17 yrs old. This could become a Boy Scout Race once there are both genders allowed in Scouting.)

Adult (At the pack and district level the siblings and Adults race can be run together but separated by groups in the computer to properly distinguish the winners)

The objective is to provide the best possible experience for the scout and their family. It does no one any good to have a new Tiger scout be held to the same standard of PWD knowledge as a Webelo that has raced for 5 seasons. These types of negative experiences only build resentment toward the entire scouting adventure thus shortening the length of the scout's enrollment. Please keep in mind this lower Cub Scout retention has a long term effect on both the Webelo and Boy Scout programs that could take a decade to repair.

In addition the packs should have a separate adult and siblings race. This accomplishes two goals, first it involves the entire scout's family which cements the family's support towards the Scouts organization. The second is that it stops the father or father figure from building an entire car for themselves. Now we all know it happens and there is really no way to monitor it but by providing an individual "Dad's" race that provides trophies will lower the number of father built cars drastically. The scout cars that are still father built will become obvious and that "spot light" on them during the scout's race should be the final deterrent from it happening again.

In closing each pack will provide trophies for the top 3 racers of each class, top 3 trophies for the siblings and top 3 trophies for the adults race. There should also be 3 trophies for the overall fastest Scouts. This would bring the total trophy count between 21 to 25, with 12 or 15 smaller class trophies, 3 siblings / kids trophies, 3 adult trophies and 3 overall trophies, with the option of a "Best in Show" or "Best Scouting" themed trophy also. The pack should budget \$250 for trophies. To make it affordable I believe that the council could help facilitate a CO-OP trophy

purchase that could include each Pack and District race within the council. I believe there are 40+ packs in 6 different districts so there could be a potential of 1,224 trophies! This CO-OP'ing of trophies would allow the council better buying power as a whole thus saving each pack \$100,s of dollars on trophies. There will also be the council and district patches, in which one could only estimate the total number required to be close to 600 in total for the 7 events.

I understand that these number seem overwhelming but the awards cost can be countered by an entrance fee. Each pack should include an entrance fee with each car purchased, for example; the kits would be sold to each scout for \$7.00. The cost of the kit is \$4.00 from the council so \$3.00 goes towards the awards cost. So if a pack has 35 racers then the fees cover \$115, leaving \$135 remaining of the total \$250 awards total. This new sum should easily be covered by food and drink sales at the event, with and left over funds being applied to the Regatta, Space derby or next years PWD race. No one will argue a \$3.00 fee that supplies the scouts some awesome trophies!

#### District Races -

Each pack shall submit the 6 fastest racers to participate in their District PWD race. If any of the qualifying 6 racers cannot attend the race then the next fastest racer will be allowed to fill the slot, this will continue until all 6 slots are filled. This will ensure that each pack sends a full compliment of 6 racers to the District races. This in turn will provide the District a full field of racers making it the best event possible for the scouts. There will be a \$5.00 race fee associated for the District level. These fees could be paid by the scouts pack or left for the individual scouts to pay. The scout could also use monies in their individual scout accounts to pay the entrance fee. There will be trophies given to the top three racers per rank, the top 3 fastest overall racers and a best of show winner. The Rib Mountain District has had a traveling trophy for the past 40 years, in which the winner's pack number gets engraved on it and if the other 5 districts do not have one then they encouraged to start a new tradition by providing one to this years winner.

#### Samoset Council Race –

Samoset Council Championship – closed to only the top 6 District winners. The top 6 racers will receive trophies and the overall winner will also receive the traveling Samoset Council Champions Cup for the year. Graphite only. NO Fees.

Open Scouts Graphite - top 3 racers per rank receive trophies with the top 6 overall receiving championship trophies

Open Scouts Oil - top 3 racers per rank receive trophies with the top 6 overall receiving championship trophies

Siblings / Young Adults – Graphite / up to 17 yrs old with top 6 racers will be receiving trophies

Adult – Graphite with top 6 racers will be receiving trophies

Pre-race registration can be completed online, there will be a \$5.00 entrance fee per car. Any Cub Scout can enter 1 car in both the Open Graphite and Open Oil scout divisions. Siblings and

Adult divisions are also 1 entry per person with a \$5.00 entrance fee per car. There will be NO proxy racing, all contestants must be present the day of the race.

Each District shall submit the 6 fastest racers to participate in the Samoset Council Championship PWD race. If any of the qualifying 6 racers cannot attend the race then the next fastest racer will be allowed to fill the vacant slot, this will continue until all six slots from each district are filled. This will ensure that each District sends a full compliment of 6 racers to the council championship race. The Scouts that qualify for the Samoset Council Championship must run the same car that they entered in their District race. All other divisions can be either newly built cars or that years car that were raced at the pack or district level. And finally Samoset Council requires that ALL scouts must be in uniform throughout the event. Now have fun, follow the rules and always remember to show good sportsmanship at all times.