



Barrow-in-Furness Soap Box Derby
15th August 2026



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Mandatory compliance

1. Karts can carry no more than 2 persons, seated, feet facing forward. Seats must be securely bolted to the kart. Seatbelts are not mandatory but are strongly recommended. The driver can be changed for each run.
2. Gravity propulsion only - i.e. no motors, no pedals, no stored potential energy (e.g. batteries) or sails.
3. Maximum length 250cm measured from front to rear of the Kart. Maximum width 160cm measured from outside to outside. No protuberances outside these dimensions will be allowed.
4. The bodywork and the chassis should be constructed using recycled materials where possible. We strongly recommend a metal-based chassis (build it well, so it can last the day). A strong timber chassis will also be accepted.
5. Materials which might shatter on impact are NOT permitted in the construction of the Kart. Covers may be attached to the chassis but must be considered safe and secure on inspection. No exposed sharp corners or edges will be allowed.
6. The maximum weight of the Kart is 100kg (not including driver). Karts may be weighed during scrutineering and prior to each race. Any karts weighing more than 100kg will not be allowed to participate in the race. Please note that this is a safety requirement.
7. No additional ballast is allowed in the kart. No loose weights will be allowed inside or outside the Kart. All items must be securely attached to the kart (anything that is likely to fall off will be removed).
8. Karts will have between 3 and 6 wheels, with or without suspension. Wheels must be of an inflatable tyre type and unrestricted in diameter but must be within the maximum dimensions. All wheels should be in road contact during normal running. Ground clearance should be sufficient to clear the top and bottom of the starting grid - 10cm minimum is recommended.
9. Working brakes that affect at least 1 axle must be fitted and tested. Friction brakes are allowed as long as they are in contact with tyres but CANNOT be acting with the road surface in any way.
10. Karts must have effective steering to navigate the route. Steering must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability. Any steering column, brake lever or other protrusion must be designed and fitted such that the risk of puncture injuries is minimised. A padded steering wheel or handlebar is recommended.
11. Bodywork and controls must not impede the drivers in exiting the vehicle unaided. Any doors or hatches required for driver access must be readily operated from both inside and outside the vehicle without the use of tools.
12. All karts must be safe (any believed to be dangerous to the public or the participants will not be allowed to take part in the race).
13. All karts must display their allocated race number in such a manner so this can be seen easily.
14. This is a family event, so make it fun, BUT please ensure that your themes and branding are 'appropriate'.



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SAFETY TERMS & CONDITIONS

Safety conditions must be adhered to - please read them carefully

- Above all the day is about having fun while promoting businesses within Barrow-in-Furness. However we take health & safety very seriously and our team on the day reserve the right to dynamically risk assess, amend and go above and beyond the guidance we have written here to cover all eventualities the day may present to us.
- Our event insurance for the day does not cover the teams or drivers in the race. We strongly encourage you to take out your own event insurance. Although we are unable to recommend any one insurance company, we understand that www.sportscoverdirect.com provides such insurance and lists 'Soap box racing' as an organised activity they will cover at a cost of around £10 per person per day. PLEASE DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH.
- Please ensure that your karts are constructed with no Sharp edges or any protuberance or extension that could potentially hurt our audience when traveling down the hill or being pushed back up. Accessories e.g. lights, speakers or screens must be integral to the bodywork and affixed in a permanent manner.
- No glass or other materials that would shatter or cause injuries to drivers and spectators in the event of a crash should be used in the construction of the Kart.
- We operate a strict no-alcohol policy for all competitors. This includes all team members.
- The names of all the drivers must be declared and they must be over 18.
- All drivers and passengers must wear an approved crash helmet to BS 6658 (motor cycle helmet) or higher which provides full face cover. Clothing must be capable of withstanding a spill on the tarmac or concrete therefore appropriate gloves, long sleeves and trousers are compulsory and knee and elbow pads are recommended. NO BARE LIMBS ALLOWED ON THE COURSE.
- The carrying of on board cameras is only permitted with the prior approval, in writing of the Clerk of the Course. Cameras must only be fixed to the machine, they must NOT be attached to the rider or passengers helmet. The installation of the camera must be approved by the Chief Technical Officer prior to the machine's first practice session
- All team members will be required to sign a disclaimer and will be presented with a wristband. Only people with wristbands will be allowed on the course.
- All drivers must attend the drivers briefing at 9am at the registration point and then walk the course with our team to satisfy themselves that they and their Kart are suitable for the course.
- Our Scrutineer's and health & safety teams' decision is final. They will have full access to the pit area, Karts and component parts as required to carry out their duties throughout the day.
- Teams are responsible for the on-going assessment on their kart during the event and are obliged to report any changes in risk to the scrutineers.
- No expression or implied warranty of safety shall result from the publication of or compliance with these rules and or regulations. This publication is in no way a guarantee against injury to team members, supporters or spectators.

