

BERKELEY SOAPBOX CHALLENGE '26

Rules & Regulations



Race Day Rules & Regulations

These rules and regulations must be read out to all competitors before they walk the course.

Each team member must sign a disclaimer before racing.

The Event Organisers may impose additional restrictions or permit deviations from these rules and regulations. No express or implied warranty of safety arises from any such deviation.

General Conditions

Soapbox

1. Up to six (6) people are allowed per team, with one person driving the soapbox at any one time. One passenger is allowed per soapbox, provided they are part of the team and dressed accordingly.
2. Team members may be of any age. However, children under the age of 16 must have at least one adult member on their team.
3. If the soapbox is a two-seater, one adult and one child aged 12 or over may descend, provided both have insurance cover. No person under 12 may compete.
4. For the safety of drivers and spectators, converted ride-on mowers and quad-type vehicles will not be allowed to compete without prior consultation with the Quality Control Inspector.
5. The Event Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry to any team without explanation. Their decision is final.
6. All soapboxes must be presented for safety inspection before racing. Each driver must be able to demonstrate the steering and braking arrangements to the inspector. It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that the driver(s) present their soapbox for inspection. No inspection, no racing. Further details regarding inspection times will be provided to teams at registration. Please ensure your soapbox complies with these rules and regulations, as it would be disappointing to get this far and then be unable to race.
7. There will be at least nine winning categories, each scored accordingly: fastest descent; most original soapbox; best build; best pre-descent routine; best splash; most spectacular crash; best theme; 12–16 years prize; and Judges' Prize.

Soapbox Safety Regulations

1. There is no maximum or minimum length, but there is a maximum width of 1,500 mm.
2. To reduce the risk of a driver going face first into hay bales or kerbs, the driver's neck height must be at least 600 mm from the ground when seated.
3. There must be no sharp edges inside or outside the soapbox, nor anything that could injure spectators or marshals in the event of a crash. This means no glass or perspex that can shatter.
4. Anything protruding horizontally from the kart, whether fixed or hand-held, such as poles or battens, is prohibited.
5. Drivers must remain seated at all times, unless the soapbox has been designed for standing.
6. Passengers should remain in the soapbox, but may stand if they wish and if it is safe to do so.
7. There must be at least three or four load-bearing wheels.
8. There must be an effective braking system integrated into the soapbox. If a team cannot prove that its method of slowing down is effective, the soapbox will not be allowed to compete.
9. Soapboxes driven by anyone under 16 must have brakes that can be operated while the driver keeps both hands on the steering mechanism.
10. Drivers of soapboxes deemed to be heavy, meaning they require more than two people to lift safely, must be over 16 years of age.
11. The soapbox must be designed to carry the driver feet-first and facing forwards.
12. Any instrument or fitting within the soapbox must be designed with safety in mind, so that it does not become a hazard in the event of a crash.

Build Quality Control

All soapboxes will be checked by the Quality Control Inspector. The inspector's decision is final.

1. "Feet on the front axle" steering is allowed.
2. "Lean" steering, such as skateboard-style steering, is allowed.
3. "Skid" steering is not allowed.
4. Steering must not have excessive play when controlling the axle.
5. The driver and passenger must be able to enter and exit the soapbox without the need for tools.
6. The soapbox must be designed to run on gravity only. Motors and pedal power are not allowed.
7. Flywheels and kinetic energy recovery systems (KERS) are not allowed.
8. A seatbelt is not required, but teams may fit one if they wish.
9. The soapbox must be built to negotiate jumps and a water splash.
10. There must be a towing ring at both the front and rear of the soapbox. This is needed so soapboxes can be linked together and towed back to the top of the hill for subsequent runs.

Course Safety Regulations

1. The purpose of the event is to have fun, but the safety of teams, supporters and spectators is paramount throughout the day.
2. The Event Organisers reserve the right to amend these rules and regulations, or to go beyond their guidance, if they consider it necessary for safety or the smooth running of the event.
3. All team members must sign a disclaimer on the day of the event. These will be checked to ensure that all team members present on race day have signed.
4. All drivers must walk the course. There will be opportunities for a practice run before the event and on the morning of the event before the public are allowed onto the site.
5. Teams are responsible for ongoing risk assessment of their soapbox during the event and must report any change made to the soapbox before racing to the Quality Control Inspector.
6. Drivers and passengers must be able to go over jumps and through a water splash.
7. Drivers and passengers must provide proof of their own insurance cover. We suggest using Sports Cover Direct (search for “soap box”, as two separate words), or contact us for further information.

Team Clothing

1. The driver's and passenger's bodies and limbs must be fully covered whilst racing. Fancy dress is welcome, provided it meets this requirement.
2. Although not compulsory, drivers and passengers are advised to wear wrist, eye, elbow and knee protection during the race.
3. A properly fitted neck support is advised at all times.
4. The driver and passenger must wear an EU-certified safety helmet at all times when competing. Helmets should be tested and manufactured to British Standard BS 6658:1985, with a BSI Kitemark and a suitable chin strap. Suitable types include equestrian, specialist cycle, mountaineering and motorcycle helmets. A metal colander does not count.
5. Original costume design will be judged.

Berkeley Soapbox 2026

Team Entry Form

Please complete the team details and disclaimer and return them by email to jockeydoc@me.com, together with confirmation of payment of the team entry fee.

Evidence of insurance must be shown on the day. Please identify the driver(s), and any passenger, on the entry form so that insurance can be checked. Insurance is mandatory for all drivers and passengers.

Please help the commentator by **providing some key facts about the driver and team**.

Parents or guardians of competitors under 16 must also sign the disclaimer.

The Team Manager must be on site on race day, or must provide an emergency contact number for the participants.

Please complete and return to Philip: jockeydoc@me.com

Team name		Age	Details	Insurance checked
Team Manager				
Contact number				
Email				
Designer				
Driver 1				☐
Driver 2				☐
Passenger				☐
Crew 1				
Crew 2				
Crew 3				
Crew 4				
Crew 5				
Crew 6				
Pre-descent dance music				
Descent music				
Notes for commentator				
Entry fee paid			Please tick to confirm	☐

BERKELEY SOAPBOX CHALLENGE '26



Payment Details & Disclaimer

Payment Details

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Account name: Berkeley Races

Reference: YOUR TEAM'S NAME

Sort code: 30-98-29

Account number: 02127414

Disclaimer

I agree that, by signing and dating this disclaimer, Berkeley Soapbox Challenge 2026 bears no responsibility for any injuries, sickness, damage or theft arising as a result of the event.

I confirm that any driver or passenger in the soapbox will have taken out their own personal insurance cover.

Due to the nature of the sport, there is no guarantee that any participant, spectator or member of staff will not sustain serious and/or potentially life-threatening injury during the event. First Aid will be available during racing should the need arise.

We encourage healthy competitive sportsmanship. However, sabotage or violence towards any Event Organiser or helper, another team member, another team's soapbox, a spectator or any member of the public will not be tolerated. Anyone caught doing so will be disqualified and asked to leave the event immediately.

The Event Organisers reserve the right to remove any participant or team from competing without giving a formal reason.

By signing below, I accept the rights of the Event Organisers and confirm that I have read and understood the terms and conditions outlined in this disclaimer.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Print name: _____

Parent/guardian signature for under-16s: _____

Date: _____