

Soapbox Derby

Saturday 14th June 2025



If you have any questions relating to this document, in the first instance please contact Poppy Claybourn at Hull 4 Heroes on either events@hull4heroes.org.uk or 01482 534483

Introduction:

The Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby is a community event organised and supported by Hessle Town Council in association with Hull 4 Heroes and the Humber Bridge Board. It is being held to raise money for charities whilst creating a fun day for the teams, supporters and spectators. 'Fun' and 'Themed' Soapboxes are especially encouraged since they provide the most interest to watch!

Sponsorship:

Our hope is to raise funds via each team's own sponsorship as well as direct sponsorship from local businesses. We would be very grateful if the entering teams could do their best to collect sponsorship from their friends, family and colleagues as they build their Soapbox by using online giving. Please make sure you send your online giving link to events@hull4heroes.org.uk so it can be promoted via the website.

Gift Aid:

Any UK tax payer who has paid, or will pay, an amount of Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year can declare their donation as a Gift Aid donation. This means that Hull 4 Heroes will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 donated.

Charity:

For this event our aim is to raise money for the principle benefit of Hull 4 Heroes; www.hull4heroes.org.uk

Social Media:

Please use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote your Soapbox entry and we will share through the accounts of the event. We encourage our teams to talk to each other through social media and invite friends and family along on the day.



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Trophy Categories:

There will be various Trophy Categories on the day in recognition of your dedication, including (list to be confirmed):

- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby Winners 2025
- Charity Sponsorship Winners 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby overall Fastest Adult Team 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby overall Fastest Junior Team 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby overall Fastest Corporate Team 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby Best turned out Soapbox 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby Fastest Single Run 2025
- Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby Main Sponsor Award 2025

How to Enter:

1. Read the Rules and Regulations of this Race Pack

1. Complete the Entry Form for your race category

1. Submit your entry and BACS transfer payment for either:

£100 per non-corporate entry. This includes the general public, all schools, colleges, community groups and registered charities.

£300 per corporate team which allows company branding and advertising.

Account number 22056868 Sort Code 30-99-08. Please label your payment Soapbox and your team name. Alternatively, you may pay by cheque made payable to 'HULL 4 HEROES. Please write on the reverse your 'Team Name'.

1. Send completed form(s) and cheque payments to:

2. Hull 4 Heroes, Unit F27, Upper Deck, Princes Quay, Hull, HU1 2PQ

Early entry is recommended as places are limited and demand is high.

You will receive confirmation of your entry upon clearance of your payment.



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Rules and Regulations

Introduction

These Rules and Regulations apply to all entries. They have been designed for your safety and the safety of others around you, based on best practice, common sense and advice received. They enable us to run the event effectively for the maximum benefit of all – please ensure you read them carefully and comply with the details. They will be enforced! Thank you.

The course is 450 metres long with an average descent of 18cm/m from the northern exit ramp (southbound) of the Humber Bridge into the viewing area car park. It should be noted that this is not indicative of the gradient of parts of the course. The event runs as a “Knockout” competition over a series of heats with a minimum of two runs per team competing. Soapboxes will set off at intervals, electronically timed. The track includes obstacles.

I - General Conditions

1. Up to four persons per team. (See 3.5 to 3.9 for conditions specific to drivers).
2. Please keep checking the website for notice of applications closing due to entry levels. Please submit your entry as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!
3. It is hoped that each team will raise as much sponsorship as possible, for the designated charity. Teams not raising sponsorship for the designated charity HULL 4 HEROES will still be able to enter and raise money for any charity they choose but they will not be eligible for the prize of raising the most money for the event's charity partner. An online giving account must be created by each team irrespective of which charity they are raising money for.
4. Brightly coloured and themed Soapboxes are actively encouraged. Commercial entries only can display logos, sponsorship and advertising
5. Every team must accept these Rules and Regulations in full.
6. Registration will commence at 08:00 hours on the day of the event, followed by inspection and practice runs. (Practice runs see 3.8 will be expected to start at approx. 1000hrs). Times to be confirmed.
7. Any contravention of the Rules and Regulations may lead to disqualification or penalties.
8. The Organisers reserve the right to refuse participation to any team at their discretion which will be final.
9. A standard entry fee of £100 (£300 for business entry see 1.19) is required with each Team entry. All entry fee proceeds net of necessary cost and expenses will be donated to the designated charity.
10. Soapboxes and drivers will be scrutinised in the pits, and prior to each run and at any other time, before being allowed to participate.
11. The start will be from a starting grid on the Humber Bridge. To provide momentum two team members will act as pushers. The starting grid will be marked tape, no pushers may pass. An infringement of this will incur a penalty of five seconds being added to the offending team's heat or final. The Starter's decision is final.
12. After crossing the finishing line drivers will need to enter the run off area and apply their brakes and quickly depart from the track under the Marshal's instructions. At least one team member must remain at the finishing line to assist the driver and ensure that their Soapbox proceeds immediately to the pits.
13. Practice runs will not be timed and will not count towards any aggregate timings.
14. There will be two age categories of teams; 'Juniors'- 12 to 17 years old* and Adults' 18 and over*. (*Any team which comprises of members under the age of 18 must have a person aged 18 years or older who will supervise both soapbox build and their team's competition on the day of the event but will not be allowed to be the driver and will not be counted as a team member). Parental consent forms and supervisor forms will be sent out separately.
15. A trailer train facility will be used to transport Soapboxes from the pits to the starting ramp on the Humber Bridge. No other motor vehicle will be allowed on the track. It is the team's responsibility to ensure their cart is in the correct heat and connected to the towing cable.
16. Numbers will be provided at registration and must be prominently displayed on the soapbox.
17. The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any or all participants that demonstrate inappropriate and or unsafe conduct.
18. For speed related prizes, the fastest race runs will be aggregated to decide winners.
19. Business entries are allowed to place company logos and advertising on their cart on payment of commercial entry fee of £300 for that category.
20. All teams must send a photograph or if still under construction a diagram of their cart for the scrutineers' consideration and web posting.
21. This is a public event and all participants agree for their photographs to be taken and used in the media.
22. All drivers MUST take out their own Sports Accident insurance. This can be found at www.sportscoverdirect.com and comes at a cost of around £20

2 - Technical, Design and Structural Regulations

1. Maximum length 250cm measured from front to rear of soapbox.
2. Maximum width 160cm measured from outside to outside.
3. Minimum eye height 70cm measured from driver's eye-line, when seated, to the road surface.
Drivers to remain seated at all times.
4. No protuberances outside these dimensions will be allowed.
5. There must be four wheels, fitted with pneumatic tyres, one on each corner; 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 – 5cm minimum is recommended.
6. Good brakes mechanisms are essential (Disc Brakes are recommended) and will be checked. Braking must operate on at least two wheels on the same axle and be effective to hold stationary on the starting ramp. **NO FRICTION BRAKES IN CONTACT WITH TYRES WILL BE ALLOWED!**
7. Seats must be securely bolted to the Soapbox.
8. Soapboxes must be designed to carry one or two persons only, in a feet first direction.
9. 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 is recommended.
10. Bodywork and controls must not impede the drivers in exiting the vehicle unaided.
11. 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. Other than initial push to redline on starting grid, gravity propulsion only – i.e. no motors, no pedals & no stored potential energy. See rule 1.11
13. No loose weights will be allowed inside or outside the Soapbox.
14. Seatbelts are not mandatory, but are strongly recommended.
15. It is recommended that Soapboxes are fitted with a substantial roll bar and all welding and general construction should be of a good standard. The roll bar should be at least 35mm above the driver's helmet when the driver and co driver is seated normally in the vehicle.
16. Steering must not have excessive free play or any characteristic tending to promote instability.
17. All carts must be fitted with a towing eye at the front to enable towing in tandem with other carts up hill. Failure to include will mean that you will not be allowed to compete.

3 - Safety Regulations

1. The purpose of the event is to have fun, but the safety of the team, supporters and spectators is paramount throughout the day, and accordingly, the organisers of the Humber Bridge Soapbox Derby reserve the right to amend these rules or go above and beyond their guidance. Please note that competitors are not specifically covered by the organiser's event insurance. Every effort has been made to make the competition safe but it should be recognised that the competition is physically challenging for participants.
2. All members of the team by entering the competition and signing the entry forms are deemed to have signed a disclaimer as part of the entry form and these will be checked to ensure all team members present on the race day have signed.
3. All soapboxes must be constructed with pedestrian friendly sympathies. Sharp edges will not be permitted nor any protuberance, extension. Accessories e.g. lights, speakers or screens must be integral to the bodywork and affixed in a permanent manner.
4. 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 Soapbox.
5. All drivers must wear a cycle helmet and goggles or safety glasses as a minimum requirement however an approved crash helmet to BS 6658 (motor cycle helmet) or higher is strongly recommended, and appropriate gloves. Clothing must be capable of withstanding a spill on tarmac or concrete therefore long sleeves and long trousers are compulsory and knee and elbow pads are optional but recommended. No bare limbs will be allowed.
6. All drivers must attend the Drivers' Briefing at 9:00am (time to be confirmed) at the registration point.
7. All drivers must thereafter walk the course with the race steward and satisfy themselves that they and their cart are suitable for the course.
8. For adult teams entries – Only two of the maximum four team members are permitted to be drivers on the race day. There will be practice runs for each driver before the race. The purpose of this run is to enable the drivers to get the feel of the course and their Soapbox. The run will not count in the timing competition.
9. For junior teams entries – any of the four team members are permitted to be drivers on the race day. There will be practice runs for each driver before the race. The purpose of this run is to enable the drivers to get the feel of the course and their Soapbox). The run will not count in the timing competition. See rule 1.14 in relation to over 18 Supervisor).
10. The scrutineer's decision is final. Scrutineers will have full access to the Soapbox and component parts as required to carry out their duties.
11. Teams are responsible for the on-going risk assessments on their Soapbox during the event and are obliged to report any change in risk to the scrutineers.
12. No expressed 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.

Timings will be sent out with confirmation of entry.