



## COVID-19 Effects on Soap Box Derby

April 28, 2020

International Soap Box Derby continues to closely monitor the status of COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines in place in Ohio, as well as in states where local race programs are staged. Beginning May 2 local race organizations may begin their racing activities as long as they meet all state and local COVID-19 requirements in their communities.

The Governor of Ohio has started to open the state gradually and is hoping to make great strides with testing and tracking over the next 15 to 30 days. We will continue to monitor the Ohio situation. At the same time, we have been working with the City and County Health Departments as part of our decision-making process.

With the ever-changing developments with COVID-19, it is difficult to make final decisions concerning our FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship. Working with input from regional directors, the rally commission and the racing commission, we are discussing many plans for possible qualifying, and formats for the All-American. These include determining the number of racers, safely social distancing, and how to position races throughout the week. The safety of our racers, race families, volunteers and constituents continue to be our number one concern.

We will make a final decision on running the race in July or postponing the event by June 1. We will finalize the format for the All-American by June 15 at the latest. When we make a final decision on holding the 83rd FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby in July, we will announce appropriate health and safety protocols.

We want to give you some additional information to add to what you received on April 15, when we told you that we will qualify at least the same number of rally racers by region that we did in 2019.



To that information, we now are modifying the minimum number of participants in Local races to qualify for the All-American in 2020 only. You will need a minimum of eight (8) stock, eight (8) super stock, and at least four (4) masters racers in your Local.

In addition, if a rally racer has qualified on the points list and the Local race (or the race where that participant normally would race) is canceled, he/she will not need to race in your local race in order to qualify for the FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship. You also will not be permitted to seek a Local race beyond your normal race to compete.

With so many local races yet to be run, we continue to explore various scenarios to allow us to stage a safe and healthy All-American championship race.

We plan to follow up with additional guidelines within two weeks. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office and staff at [soapbox@soapboxderby.org](mailto:soapbox@soapboxderby.org).

Thanks for your continued support of the International Soap Box Derby.