

INTERNATIONAL  
SOAP BOX DERBY

# RALLY PROGRAM FAQ

## International Soap Box Derby Mission

The International Soap Box Derby® is a non-profit youth education and leadership development organization whose mission is to build knowledge and character, and to create meaningful experiences through collaboration, fair and honest racing competitions, STEM curriculum, and other community-focused activities.



# AASBD RALLY PROGRAM

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

(Revision of Rule C-9)

### **What prompted this rule change?**

- The change has been discussed for over two years.
- Utilizing the number of rallies to produce a number of cars for the region was not achievable equally in all regions.
- Race directors often became tied to the avid rally race families and felt some pressure to hold more races, and send more racers to the All American.
- Quality of races declined in effort to hold more races, not necessarily quality races
- Weather constraints have a large effect on some regions in the amount of races possible.
- Rally participant numbers were not complete until May 31 giving little time for people to change their course of action if the projected number of races changes.
- There is no emphasis or responsibility to grow the program or get new people involved thus causing a history of decline.
- Having fewer competitors in the previous system increased odds of racers qualifying for the All American as long as many races were completed (many of which were at minimum fields).
- Larger races hinder the ability to run four quality races in a weekend, which discouraged programs from growing their numbers.
- Theme race weekends and other activities are much more difficult, if not impossible, to hold when racing four races over a weekend.
- Running Single elimination races and indoor races to make race numbers detracts from the racing quality of a standard double elimination race.
- It diminishes the value of becoming a champ in Akron and has often been referred to as "buying a spot" just from competing in races in some areas.

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### **This previous model produced a counter productive culture of:**

- More races per weekend which is financially taxing on families and race cities
- Extremely weather dependent
- Results in a reliance on a greater number of single elimination and indoor rallies which are not the highest quality racing experience that we can offer.
- There is little time for a Director to regard to concentrate on program growth, as well as quality enhancements for the region and experiences outside of soap box derby that traveling families value.
- The number of racers sent to Akron is not determined until the season is over with little time to react on administrative side and participant side.

### **How were the numbers determined?**

- The first objective was to provide a fairer system for ALL regions while not negatively affecting the number of racers representing the Rally Program for the World Rally Championship.
- Data was collected from the last four years (2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019) comparing the number of racers per division in each Region to the number of Rally Championship Participants.
- Percentages were determined based on the average number of participants per region per division for the four years, with the goal of maintain or increasing the total Rally Championship participants.
- The two year guarantee was also a factor in determining the final percentages.

### **Will the percentages remain the same every year?**

- The main objective of this rule change is to grow participants in our sport. As our participation grows, so will the number of Racers invites to the Rally Championship.
- The percentage could be changed in the event that we grow too large and need to manage the number of Rally Participants. This would be a great problem to address, even though we know that we are not anywhere near that point.
- In two years, once the two year guarantee expires, percentages will need to be adjusted to reflect the change.

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### **Are single elimination races being discouraged or eliminated?**

- NO.
- Singles still add to the points system for the individual racer, they just don't impact the region for qualifying numbers.

### **What about regions that would send less champs by this change?**

- There is a 2 year guarantee number that will ensure the same average of champs from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 racing seasons. Regions must hold the minimum number of races to qualify.
- The two year time period will allow Regions/Race Cities to focus on growing participation without any negative effect on their number of Rally Championship invites
- Increasing racers in the Region is key to the growth and sustainability of the AASBD.

### **Why was this change made during the Pandemic?**

- This proposal has been debated and modified for two years. The reasons it wasn't instituted this past year is we had multiple Rally Changes (Point system, Race Standardization) and felt it would be better to wait. In addition, we were able to utilize one additional year of data (2018/2019).
- The pandemic dramatically affected the data for the 2019/2020 race season making it unusable, and may still impact the 2020/2021 race season data.
- Not instituting the Rule Change now could put it off for two more years (as 2020/2021 may be affected).
- Since it appears that the number of Races may be negatively affected due to the Pandemic, the timing of this percentage method is more appropriate.
- The two year guarantee will help maintain stability.

### **Was this rule changed to decrease the number of Champs in Akron?**

- Not at all. It has been designed to produce slightly more champs if the number of racers participating is maintained.

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### **The future positive results could include:**

- A renewed focus on growth
- An ability to adjust the percentage to accommodate Akron's capacity as participants grow
- A culture that would make the rally participants a smaller percentage and more elite class of rally cars competing in Akron as the participation grows.
- There becomes a number to help manage the number of cars at Akron without inhibiting growth.
- The overall quality of racing improves with a focus on double elimination races counting for the qualifications
- Singles could be run for fun or racer development without point implications
- There could be more time after racing for travel home which is safer and more family friendly in most cases.
- Race cities could focus on what is best for them to build their local programs while supporting the rally program.
- Rally invitation spots would grow with each race if there are new racers. It would never progress backwards, which would keep from having weather and other dramas happen at season end.

### **How is racing made better by conceivably encouraging races to pull one timers off the street to increase numbers?**

- Growth is a key component in the long term sustainability of the AASBD and it has not been happening for many years. We want to encourage Directors to get new families involved. It is understood that not all will continue but we need to increase efforts.
- Manipulation of the rules for a region's gain does not maintain the spirit or mission of the derby. This type of behavior should not be a Director's or a region's focus.
- There should be incentive for getting more racers in our programs. It only makes good sense for the future.
- The previous system, combined with the previous point system, created a culture of minimum number of racers, "ghost" racers, and poorer quality racing.
- Adding race cities or rally cities would be an easy way to increase racer numbers.

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### **How is it fair to have racers with less points go to the World Championships if they have less points than someone in another region that has more points?**

- Since invitations are determined by Region, this situation is not new and has been very common.
- Different Regions have different challenges such as: Geography, seasonal availability, distances between race cities, demographics, weather, etc. which makes it impossible for racers to attend the same amount of races and accumulate points.

### **How does this help the Soap Box Derby if you are willing to conceivably reduce the number of rallies and income that is generated?**

- Ideally, the improved quality of racing will encourage more participants which is vital to our long term sustainability.
- Increased racers will result in increased kit/part revenue.
- As our participation grows, we hope to have more "Local" Race Cities see the value in Rally Racing and increase the number of races.
- We are focused more on increasing the family experience.
- Increasing the family experience makes it easier to get new families involved and keep them involved for the long term.

### **Do racers outside of the Region count as participants in your region?**

Rally Racers are always welcome to race outside their Region as well as inside it. When racing outside the Region, racers will be counted in the total racers for that race (to determine the number of participation points), and will be awarded applicable placement and participation points.

However, they will only be counted within their Region in the Regional Racer calculation to determine the number of invitations to the World Championship event at the end of the season.

Although improbable, a Racer could accumulate all their points outside of their Region and, if qualified for an invitation, be counted in and represent their home Region.

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### **How are racer numbers calculated?**

The Region list of each racer rally racing is on the website. The total number of racers (by Division) is then multiplied by the applicable percentage to determine the number of invitations issued.

Normal rounding rules apply where .5 and above is rounded up, and .49 and below is rounded down.

For the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Race years, the Guarantee amount will be used if higher than the percentage calculation.

Example:

In the is example, we utilized Region 6 for the number of racers found on the All American website under "Rally Point Standings" for the 2019/2020 race season.

Stock: 61 Racers times 9% = 5.49 Rounded down to 5. Since the Guarantee for this Region is 10 which is higher, 10 invitations would be extended.

Super Stock: 52 Racers times 10% = 5.2, Rounded down to 5. Since the Guarantee for this Region is 11 which is higher, 11 invitations would be extended.

Masters: 23 Racers times 28% = 6.44, rounded down to 6. Since the Guarantee for this Region is 10 which is higher, 10 invitations would be extended.

This example was based on actual numbers as listed on the All American Website, please note that only represents half a season due to the Covid19 shutdown.