



Cardboard Boat Race Frequently Asked Questions

Please see the guidelines for complete contest rules and regulations.

This is the first time my school will be participating. What should I do to prepare?

Make sure that you have carefully reviewed the Cardboard Boat Race guidelines. We recommend watching several of the videos posted on our You Tube Channel (www.youtube.com/skillsontario) documenting the boat races to help you understand what the competition will look like. If at all possible, students should practice building a boat out of cardboard prior to the event. If it isn't possible to source large sheets of cardboard, consider building a scale model. Consider how team members will enter the boat, paddle and decide on a declared weight strategy. **Have fun!**

Where can I purchase cardboard?

If you are willing to be flexible about the ply of the cardboard and the exact sizing you should be able to get large sheets of single ply corrugated cardboard from your local hardware store (by special order). In order to get 4 x 8 sheets of double walled corrugated cardboard you can contact:

Flint Packaging

Rosvelt Broomes

311 Caldari Road, Suite 102

Vaughan, Ontario L4K 4S9

Phone: 416-798-7286

Fax: 416-798-7287

E-mail: flintpackagingproducts@bellnet.ca

<http://www.flintpackaging.com/>

It is best to order a larger quantity as the cost per sheet is greatly reduced with larger orders. We suggest orders be placed for multiple schools. There is often cardboard left over after the boat race. Teachers/advisors are welcome to bring some back to their school in order to practice for next year.

What should my team bring to the race?

Please ensure that your team comes prepared with...

1. Cutting devices (i.e. box cutters)
2. Pencils/pens/markers
3. Swimsuit and towel
4. Boat design sketch (two copies)
5. Safety glasses for all team members

Optional:

1. Decorations to enhance the appearance as well as painters tape or sticky tack to tack on the decorations
2. Straight or angled edges/rulers of any length or size
3. Tape measures, a compass and/or protractor
4. Paint Brush and/or mini roller with tray to apply contact cement
5. Tarp (for protecting the finished boat at location where teams carry their boat outside to access the pool)
6. Saw horses
7. Camera
8. Nut-free snacks and drinks

What kinds of decorations are allowed?

The sky is the limit. Teams can use artificial plants, regular, construction or wrapping paper, bristle board, markers, cloth, foam or vinyl decals, stuffed animals etc. However, teams must be prepared to remove all decorations (except drawings made directly on the boats' cardboard) before entering the pool. Teams are allowed to bring painters tape and/or sticky tack in order to gently tack decorations onto their boat to assist with easy removal. Teams should also remember that they must stay within their designated work space (10' x10'). **Lacquers, waxes (i.e. crayons), latex/water-based paints and spray paints are not permitted for decoration. The use of aerosol cans, confetti and glitter is strictly prohibited.**

What is "declared weight"?

During the construction phase all team members will be weighed by the judging team. At this time, teams must decide which team members are going to participate in the first phase of the weight challenge. The combined weight of the team members that begin the weight challenge are considered "the declared weight"

A note about "declared weight" strategy: Please carefully consider the following:

- Should the same team members who were racing act as the declared weight? This enable the racers to remain seated in the boat after the race and the weight challenge can begin immediately after.
- Should team members who didn't race act as the declared weight? This will ensure that all team members have a chance to participate in the pool challenges.
- Should the lightest team members act as the declared weight? Would it be better to hold some weight rather than sinking right away?
- Remember, there are no points for how long your boat stays afloat. A boat that holds 500 lbs after 6.5 minutes in the weight challenge will get fewer points than a boat that holds 725 lbs after 90 seconds in the weight challenge.

How many team members can participate in the weight challenge?

The declared weights can range from one team member to all four team members. After holding the declared weight for 90 seconds, teams can ask their teacher/advisor and/or students from other teams to participate in their weight challenge. More weight can be added in any denomination (i.e. anywhere from 1 to 100 additional people).

Will my personal weight be shared with others? All team members will be weighed by the judging team or Skills Canada – Ontario staff. While efforts are made to be discreet with team member's personal weights, given the nature of the weight challenge this isn't always possible. Team members should be prepared to share their weight within their team.

After seeing how the boat performs in the race challenge can my team adjust the declared weight?

No. Declared weights must be decided during the construction phase.

How many team members can participate in the Race?

One or two team members can be used to race the boat. It is at the team members' discretion.

Can teachers (advisors) participate?

During the construction and race periods teachers should be hands-off. We request that teachers advise their team(s) about safety concerns only. Teachers can participate in the weight challenge at the team members' discretion. When there is space available, teachers will be given the opportunity to form their own team to compete in the competition as exhibition competitors. Teachers will be allowed poolside during the weight challenge to help steady the boat and coach the team on strategy.

What are judges looking for during the construction phase?

While observing the teams and examining the submitted design sketch the judges will be asking themselves a number of things, for example...

| Category | Examples of Criteria |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Planning and Design | Are the lines of the drawing neat and clean? |
| | Have the scale and measurements been indicated in the drawings? |
| | Are the proportions of the drawings correct? |
| | Are the drawings laid out in more than one point of view? |
| | Did the team include any enlargements or detailed sections of boat construction? |
| Quality of Construction | Does the boat being built match the team's drawing? If they have modified can they explain why? |
| | Are team members using materials provided adequately or ingeniously to strengthen their boat? |
| | Are cuts and bends in cardboard neat and clean? |
| | Does the finished boat look solid enough to endure the race? |
| | Does the finished boat meet all rules and regulations of construction? |
| Teamwork and Team Spirit | Are team members communicating to each other regarding the progress of construction? |
| | Are all team members fully engaged in the construction of the boat? |
| | Is communication between team members appropriate at all times? |
| | Are team members cheering their team, school, each other? |
| | Are teams dressed in costume? |
| Safety and Cleanliness | Are the team members working and communicating to ensure each other's safety? |
| | Are team members using cutting tools properly and safely? |
| | Are team members using glue safely and appropriately? Is the can of contact cement on a protective sheet at all times? |
| | Did group members wear protective clothing and gear (gloves, goggles, shoes)? |
| | Is the team continually cleaning up waste products as construction occurs? |
| Visual Appeal | Does the boat stand out from the crowd? |
| | Are the decorations themed and appropriate? |
| | Is the boat clean and tidy? |
| | Are the decorations on the boat fun, colorful and attractive? |
| Skilled Trades Knowledge | Are there five Skilled Trade Careers written on the boat? |
| | If the careers don't have an obvious connect to the skills used at the Boat Race can the team explain why they are included. |

Hey...Why is that team allowed to...?

Judges make every effort to ensure that all rules and regulations are followed and applied evenly. However, sometimes judges must make judgment calls (for example when interpreting when a boat has 'sunk'). All judges rulings are considered final. **For safety reasons race rules are always subject to change depending on requests made by lifeguards.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Waldron at emilyw@skillscanada.com.