



STEM Wars 2026

Short Track CO2 Car Race

Event Coordinator:

- Reggie Cole
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- Please contact him with any questions.

Description of the Competition:

Students will design, build, and race CO2 cars. Cars will be designed and built using the TSA building rules and specifications outlined below. Students will place in the event purely on race results. A maximum of 12 cars per school. All cars will race **once** for time.

Rules of Competition:

1. Car designs must meet the metric 500 TSA specification listed: (See page attached).
2. Wood blanks used for cars must be cut from a **Basswood or standard 2"x 4"**. (Balsa wood is not permitted.)
3. All cars must be painted or stained. (Car must be dry prior to inspection)
4. The judges will inspect and impound all cars at the competition.
5. If a wheel falls off the car, it will be disqualified.
6. Standard 8 gram Pitsco CO2 cartridges will be supplied for races.
7. Cars that do not meet the specifications may be permitted to race for exhibition if they are not a safety issue (This is at the discretion of the coordinator.)

Added Safety Specs and Restrictions:

If design is a rail style car, the center section must have a cross-section diameter of at least 5mm.

1. Power plant housing must be deemed thick enough by judges. (3 mm spec.)
2. Power plant housing depth must meet minimum TSA specs.

Material Requirements:

- There is no limit to cost of materials.
- Pitsco-type wheels must be used.
- Ball bearings can be used.
- Axles and bushings can be of any type.
- Paints or stain of any type are acceptable. (It must be dry prior to inspection)

Dragster Specifications

	Min	Max
Axles Bearing Diameter	3.5mm	4.5mm
Axle hole Diameter	3.5	4.5mm
Axle hole position above body bottom	3.5mm	9 mm
Axle hole position from either end of body	9mm	100mm
Brass Spacer bearing diameter	7mm	9mm
Dragster body length	200mm	305mm
Dragster body height at rear with wheels	56mm	75mm
Dragster body mass with wheels	60 grams	N/A
Dragster body width at axles front and back	35mm	42mm
Power plant depth of hole	51mm	51mm
Power plant housing thickness around entire housing	3mm	
Power plant housing diameter	19mm	20mm
Power plant C/L from body bottom	31mm	35mm
Screw eye-Eyelet inside diameter	3mm	5mm
Screw eyes (2) or C/L of bottom, distance apart	155mm	270mm
Wheels, front diameter	32mm	37mm
Wheels , front(width at greatest diameter)	2mm	5mm
Wheels, rear diameter	30mm	40mm
Wheels, rear (width at greatest diameter)	15mm	18mm
Wheelbase	105mm	270mm