

## Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Cub Scout Balsa Wood Derby (Racing Event)	Date of risk assessment	22 Feb 2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Martin Berriman
		Date of next review	22 Feb 2027		

Only Balsa wood will be used (soft, low density, easy to sand by hand) therefore hand sanding only, no power tools are to be used.

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p><b>A hazard</b> is something that may cause harm or damage. <b>The risk</b> is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<b>Controls</b> are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even <b>stop</b> the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Track Collapse or Instability	Everyone	Track assembled and checked by adults only. Stability checked before event. Track placed on level surface. No climbing or leaning on track permitted.	
Trips Around Track Area	Everyone	Spectator zone clearly marked. Cables (timing systems) taped down if loose. Clear access routes maintained.	
Excited Movement During Races	Everyone	Cubs seated behind start/finish lines or to the side. One group racing at a time. Clear instruction: no running.	
Small Parts Detaching from Cars	Everyone	Cars checked before racing. Loose parts removed. Broken cars removed immediately from track.	
Slips/Trips from Dust or Equipment	Everyone	Fire exits identified at start of session. Register taken. First aid kit available. At least one adult with current first aid training present. Emergency contact details available.	
Behavioural Excitement / Rough Play	Cubs	Clear behaviour expectations explained. Adequate adult supervision ratios maintained.	
Safeguarding & Supervision	Cubs	Standard Scouting ratios observed. Cubs with asthma advised to bring inhalers (due to wood dust)	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)