

## ***RA Racers Rules***

### ***Preface***

These guidelines are intended as a starting point for churches/associations which are beginning this activity. Generally, there are four levels of RA Racer competition open to churches with a Royal Ambassador program including; church, association, region and state events. These are the official guidelines for each of the four levels as well as the multi-state and open events. Where available, participation in Association Congresses is encouraged, but not required, for preparation in competing in regional events.

Regional Congresses are open to all registered RA chapters. The top three finishers in each category from each region will qualify to compete for the Kentucky State Championship. The top three finishers in each category from the Kentucky State Championship will qualify for the Multi-State Championship.

### ***Purpose***

RA Racers provides an opportunity to involve men and boys in the program of Royal Ambassadors. As an interest activity it meets the physical and social needs of the boy, provides an attraction to the program and emphasizes good sportsmanship as an interpretation of the pledge. It also creates meaningful relationships between boys and an adult as they team to create the car. Adults can be involved in all parts of this event thus lending support to the program and creating leadership for the program.

### ***Qualifications***

The RA Chapter and/or men's unit must be registered with the state and associational BMEN. Men and boys who participate must be members of BMEN, Challengers or Royal Ambassadors.

### ***Categories***

Five Categories will be used during the regional and state competitions and is suggested as a starting point as follows:

- LAD: Grades 1-3
- CRUSADERS: Grades 4-6
- CHALLENGERS I: Grades 7-9
- CHALLENGERS II: Grades 10-12
- BAPTIS MEN ON MISSION AND ADULT

### **Publicity**

Each church/association should plan at least 3 months for this event to give time for ordering cars, building track, enlisting help and publicity and getting the facility, ordering the awards, registering chapter/units and working on becoming members.

## ***Track***

The track is to meet RA Racer specifications which are available from the state. The track's construction may either be of the side rail design (the Official Royal Ambassador Race Track from Make Tracks Company, Sparta, Tennessee) or one that uses a center strip to keep cars in their lanes. The car chassis must not be lowered from the height as provided in the kit nor should weights extend below the bottom of the block in order to maintain a minimum clearance of 3/8". Failure to follow these instructions may cause the car to drag on lane strip.

The track may incorporate finish line lights and electronic timers or manual finish lines. A foam pad or blanket will be used to catch cars finishing. Placing the track in a roped area will help prevent persons from crossing the track.

The facilities need to be large enough to accommodate one or more tracks at 34 feet long each.

## ***Race Car***

Each participant will build a new car each year.

Cars must be constructed so that they may be run on either track design; side rail or center strip. Weights should not be attached to bottom of chassis unless recessed into the bottom of the block. A minimum of 3/8" clearance must be maintained, therefore the chassis should not be lowered.

Cars may weigh a maximum of 5 ounces . Official weigh in will be on digital scales. Weights must be securely attached to the car.

The standard dimensions of the cars shall be as follows:

Maximum width to be 2 ¾ inches including wheels and axles. Maximum length to be 7 inches. Maximum distance between axle slots (wheelbase) to be 4 ¼ inches. These are the standard dimensions of the Official Royal Ambassador Race Car made by Royal Racers of Sparta, Tennessee which is the recommended race car kit. The standard block or the deluxe precut kit may be used.

Ordering information: <http://www.royalracers.com/Orderinginfo.htm>

Make Tracks Company  
192 Lovejoy Rd.  
Sparta, TN 38583-3370  
(931) 935-8203

The nose of the car may not be cut to fit around the starting post.

Only the ¼ inch tapered wheels with the name "Royal Racers" stamped in the wheel may be used along with the axles provided by Royal Racers. The shape of the wheels may not be altered, but the "flash" on the rolling edge may be removed. Axles may be cleaned and buffed, but not altered. **Bending or cutting slots in the axles is not permitted.**

No additional parts may be attached to the cars. Each car must have the official RA sticker on it. Other stickers and/or stripes will be permitted.

Graphite (dry lubricant) may be applied to the wheels and axles and is the only lubricant permitted. No liquid lubricants allowed.

### ***Race***

The number of divisions will be as described in "Categories" above.

When possible, the race will be double elimination depending on the number of entries. Consult with those who know these methods and be flexible if you do not know the attendance before the competition. The starting grid will be determined by random generation for computerized tracks and drawing of numbered tokens for others.

Should weights come off of the car during a race, the participant may promptly replace the weight under the race judge's supervision.

If a car jumps lanes or a weight comes off which affects another car, the race will be rerun from the same lanes. If the same car causes a 2nd incident, it will be disqualified for that heat and the race re-run with the remainder of the cars to determine a winner. If the 2nd incident does not affect the outcome of the race then the finish order will stand.

First, second and third place trophies will be awarded in all divisions.

Regions should record the fourth place finisher in each category to be used as a substitute should one of the top three finishers be unable to participate in the Kentucky State Championship.

### ***Open Event***

Open event races that are not part of the Region, Kentucky State Championship or the Multi-State Championship will be based on elapsed time. Each competitor will make two runs on different lanes and the fastest time recorded as the car's official time.

First, second and third place finishers will be determined by the quickest time in each category and trophies awarded for each.

### ***Equipment and Materials for Registering Cars***

3x5 forms for each participant with space for their name, address church, age and grade (high school or below) and a space for officials to enter the "Category".

Pencils and markers, several tables and chairs; one for the forms; one for inspection and number assignments; and the others for cars that have been weighed, registered and are ready to race.

Four posters to be attached to tables where the cars will be ready to race, one for each category (Lad, Crusader, etc.).

Bucket for drawing numbers.

One numbered poster for each bucket.

Scales (digital, if possible) for weighing and tape measure.

Additional wheels, axles and glue for emergency repair on cars damaged by handling by officials.

## ***Registration***

You may choose to pre-register participants to ensure an attendance for the event and to keep the event from slowing down due to a large number of entrants waiting to register.

- If not pre-registered (all forms filled out), each participant should begin at the registration table and fill out all required forms.
- Each participant should present his registration form and car at the inspection area for weigh-in and measurement.
- When the car has passed inspection, the official will check the participation form for accuracy and the 3x5 card and car are carefully placed by the official on the corresponding table for the appropriate category. Two or more persons may be needed to speed this process.
- When registration is completed for all categories, the selection of cars and lanes for bracketing will be done randomly.

## ***Racing Procedure***

- Allow floor plan for all to see and discourage crossing over the track or getting too close to the cars ready to race on the track. This may be controlled by placing a rope or flags around the track and tables that have cars ready to race.
- No one is permitted to touch the cars after they have been weighed, registered and placed on the table ready to race except the official or the participant who owns the car when directed to do so.
- Every car must race at least once; even if it races by itself.
- Determine how many heats and places at the finish will be necessary to qualify for the final race.
- Official will explain the following procedure or have printed handouts for everyone to see:
- When the race begins, names of the competitors will be drawn and called out and the participants or the official will move the car and card from the table. The car is placed at the start line on the track and the participant will take the card to the finish line to wait for the race.
- Cars race by gravity. Each car may be allowed one false start (jumping the track, coming apart, sticking on the track). The race is cancelled and restarted. If the same car repeats a false start it is disqualified and the race will not be stopped unless that car interferes. If the car with 2 false starts was in a double elimination, the car moves to a loser's bracket. During a false start, unaffected cars must be allowed to travel the distance of the track and must not be grabbed as they go by which may cause damage to the cars. If at the second false start of the same car, there is interference, that race is cancelled, that car is eliminated and the cars are allowed another race.
- Finish: the car whose front crosses the finish line or lights it's lane first wins. At least two officials are needed to observe the order of finish.
- After the race the official declares the winner(s) of that race (heat) and the participant or the official moves the car and card back to the table to await the next race. After the last heat this process is repeated for the final race and continues until all the winners are determined in that category.

## ***Judges/Officials***

The Judges/Officials may depend on specific needs. Suggestions:

- Two at the registration table; one for starter; two at finish line; one score keeper; three or more car watchers; and one head judge.
- One of the judges at the registration table should be the rules judge. The rules judge has final authority over rule interpretation, including the specifications and inspection of race cars.
- The finish line judge should work closely with the score keeper in keeping track of the places at the finish.
- The head judge has final authority on timing, lane violations, scratches, false starts, tiebreakers, interferences, placing at the finish line and the final decision over all issues of the event.

### ***Awards***

Suggestions: All Categories – Place at finish.

Types of awards: Ribbons, Certificates, Trophies, Patches, Medals, etc.

Note: RA Racer patches and chevrons are available at Lifeway Book Stores.