

# 2023 BIG CAR BUILD RULES

## General

Car must make a full car length hit to be qualified as a hit! No back and forth taps.

All cars will be inspected before 5:30 pm or they will not be allowed to run in the event!!!

1. Nothing may be added after inspection without tech approval.
2. All winning cars will be re-inspected prior to leaving the arena area and before payout.
3. NO 1973 and older Imperials or Imperial sub frames, Commercial Vehicles or Convertible frames.
4. No frame swaps from 2003 newer Ford Motor Co. vehicles to any other year or make of vehicle. (SEE: FOMOCO section)
5. Other than above, the Derby is open to any American made hardtop model stock car or station wagon or Ranchero/El Camino body style.
6. SUV and Crossovers are also allowed as long as they are based on a midsize or full-size automobile platform and are classified as a “midsize SUV”.

Examples; Mazda CX-9, Hyundai Santa Fe, Nissan D Platform vehicles.

- a. No light truck or full-size SUV or van platforms.
- b. No 4x4 or AWD allowed unless 1 drive line is removed.
- c. No cab forward designs allowed

Note: OEM means original equipment of the manufacturer.

## Metric – Old Iron – Fomoco

Certain rules will apply differently to different types of cars. This is meant to equal the playing field among different vehicles. Pay close attention to the differences in the rules for your vehicle.

**METRIC CARS** are any 1980 and newer vehicle and some late 70s models

Late 70s EXAMPLES:

- ◆ Most GM full size products 1977+
  - Caprice, Delta, Bonneville, Electra, De Ville
- ◆ Most GM Midsize products 1978+
  - Monte Carlo, Malibu, El Camino, Cutlass, Regal, Century, Grand Prix
- ◆ 1976+ Cadillac Deville
- ◆ 1979+ Cadillac Eldorado and Oldsmobile Toronado
- ◆ 70's Ford Granada/Fairmont, Mercury Monarch/Zephyr and Lincoln Versailles
- ◆ 1979+ Ford Country Squire Wagon and Mercury Grand Marquis or Colony Park Wagon
- ◆ 1977+ Ford Thunderbird and mid-size LTD II only (Not full size LTD)

- ◆ 1979+ Dodge St. Regis and Chrysler New Yorker
- ◆ Mopar M-Body cars 1977+
  - Diplomat, LeBaron
- ◆ 1978+ Chrysler Town and Country wagon

**Old Iron Cars** are anything older than a METRIC Car. 2003 and newer FOMOCO produced vehicles will also be considered OLD IRON. Some additional exceptions will also apply to 98 and newer FOMOCO produced frames. See the FOMOCO section in the rules for these exceptions. (FOMOCO=Ford Motor Company i.e. Ford/Lincoln/Mercury)

## **PREP**

1. Must remove all breakable or flammable material.
  - a. All glass, chrome, plastic, exterior mirrors, headlights, taillights, chrome rings, emblems, grills, and flammable materials must be removed except the driver's seat.
  - b. Glass must be removed, not broken inside doors.
  - c. Rear seats must be removed.
  - d. Must remove the inside spare tire compartment lid and all seats from station wagons.
2. Car numbers must be 18" tall in clear contrasting paint.
  - a. Roof Sign recommended.
  - b. If you do not use a roof sign, you must have numbers on the roof and on each side.
  - c. Roof signs can in no way be used to strengthen car.
3. Batteries must be removed from the engine area and moved to the inside of the vehicle.
  - a. Must be placed in a securely mounted battery box or steel frame.
  - b. Must be placed in the passenger floor area or back seat area.
  - c. No wooden or plastic boxes or plastic milk crates.
  - d. All batteries will be covered with rubber inner tube or other nonconductive material to protect the driver.
4. Radiator must be in the original stock position.
  - a. No additional radiator supports, mounts, or guards.
  - b. Only two (2) wire, garden hose, straps or plastic ties may be added to secure the radiator.
  - c. No water from the cooling system inside the driver compartment.
5. Floor Shift/After-market Cable shifter allowed.
6. Locked/welded stock rear ends allowed.
7. Aftermarket steering allowed.
  - a. No reinforcing.
  - b. No reconfiguring where boxes mount. (see FOMOCO section for exception on crown vics)
  - c. 1 extra knuckle

8. Any tire and wheel combination may be used. No liquid filled tires.
  - a. Valve stem protectors allowed
  - b. No Beadlocks
9. Hand throttle allowed – (Return Springs).
10. Transmission coolers allowed. Must be inside the car & covered. DOUBLE CLAMPED
11. Engine location may be moved but must remain within 3” of stock positioning.
12. A hose attached to the transmission filler tube (Burp Tube) for fire safety.
13. Any racing or factory automobile seat may be used.
  - a. Must be securely mounted.
  - b. Bench seat OK
  - c. Seat may in no way be attached to frame
14. Gas Tank protector allowed and recommended (see CAGE COMPONENTS)
15. No additional welding will be allowed on any vehicle following being teched in.

## **SAFETY**

1. Stock seat belt or racing harness lap belt required.
  - a. 4-point harness recommended.
  - b. Seat belts must remain buckled during the entire time of the heat. Failure to do so will result in disqualification!! EXCEPTION: FIRE.
2. DOT approved safety helmets are required.
  - a. Must stay on during the entire length of time of the derby and buckled. Failure to do so will result in disqualification!!
3. Fire extinguisher recommended.
  - a. Must be mounted securely, easily accessible to the driver.
  - b. If the derby is stopped twice for fire on the same car you may be counted out at that point by officials’ discretion.
4. Cars must exhibit the ability to stop at all times. Brake failure will result in disqualification.
5. Safety glasses and gloves MUST be worn by all drivers. Long sleeve shirt recommended.
6. Mud screen allowed and recommended on front and driver’s window.

## **FUEL SYSTEMS**

1. Fuel tanks must be a safe container of steel construction.

Example: Jeep can or boat tank and must be approved by an official.

  - a. NO PLASTIC fuel tanks unless they are a FUEL CELL
  - c. Gas tanks must be securely mounted and must be bolted and/or chained solid.
  - d. Tanks must be capped and behind the driver in the rear seat area.
2. Gas tank protectors are allowed and recommended. (see CAGE COMPONENTS section)
3. Stock gas tanks cannot be used and must be removed from the vehicle unless relocated to the back seat area. Two (2) 9/16” holes drilled in the floorboard for drain of spilled fuel.

4. Newer model cars equipped with fuel injection systems that run with electrical fuel pumps, an electrical “Kill Switch” must be added, placed and marked where an official can easily shut it off from outside the vehicle if needed. A 2”x3” yellow E must be painted on the roof if running an electric fuel pump.

## **WINDOWS**

1. Side window post (B pillar) bracing is allowed and recommended on cars that do not come with a factory window post.
  - a. 2 posts per side allowed (you may add 1 additional to single post cars).
  - b. No other bracing is allowed.
2. Halo (over the roof) roll bars are allowed and will be counted as window posts if they go through the window opening.
3. Front window bars or bands:
  - a. Max material size is 3” x 3” x 1/4” square tube or 4” x 3/8” flat bar.
  - b. You may use a plate or angle at each end to mount the window bar to. Max 4” x 4” x 1/4” plate or 2” x 2” x 1/4” angle.
  - c. Cars may have a maximum 2 vertical front window bars  
IF the middle portion of the firewall is completely cut out, you MUST run a window bar on each side of the cut out from firewall to the roof.
  - d. You may run 1 horizontal bar between each vertical window bar if the firewall is cut out between them. If a distributor protector is used, the horizontal bar must be at least 10” away.
4. A front and driver’s window screen is allowed and recommended. Easily removable window net is recommended on the driver's window.

## **BODY**

1. You may use 6 bolts per fender to bolt the inner and outer fender skin around the wheel well.
  - a. Max size 1/2” bolt with 1.5” washer.
2. Firewall may be cut to accommodate rear mount distributors.
3. All holes must be covered with a non-flammable material.

## **DOORS**

1. Doors must be chained and/or welded shut securely.
  - a. Maximum 2-1/2” x 1/4” thick metal strap or up to 3/4” round-rod may be used as a filler.
  - b. Chains must be a minimum 1/8” and a maximum of 3/8” chain.
  - c. If welding, you may only weld up to 50% of the entire door, inner and out seams included.
  - d. You may weld inner and outer door skins together at window opening only.

2. A door bar on the driver's side door area is mandatory with a minimum 6" channel.
3. **Passenger door bar is mandatory! Can be inside or outside.**
4. The door bars cannot extend past the beginning of the fender openings.
5. Inside door bars are allowed and must be padded.
  - a. Inside door bars may not extend through the firewall or rear wheel well and may not be attached directly to frame or kickers.
6. The Driver's door (only) may have a steel/metal plate up to 3/8" thick welded to door skin only.
7. May not cover any of the door seams by more than 2". **Bolts must be trimmed flush to nut on the door bar.**

## **FRAME**

1. Stock body mounts may be changed to no larger than 3/4" bolts or all-thread with max 6" washers on top side only.
  - a. Bolts must be inside the frame or in stock positioning on the bottom side.
  - b. Bushings may be removed but must be replaced with at least 1/2" of washers or other filler material.
  - c. No extra body mounts will be allowed.
2. Body may not sit directly on the frame.
3. No welding body to frame.
4. One wrap of chain around the rear frame hump to axle is allowed.
5. No chains or U-Bolts allowed around the body to frame on any car except for if the chain is needed after a heat for repairs.
6. You must contact track officials for approval and inspection prior to and after the repairs. No exceptions.
7. No trailer hitches.
8. No objects protruding outside of the car.
9. If officials determine that a car is unsafe it will not be allowed to run until fixed.
10. Square tube in place of transmission mount allowed in stock position.
  - a. Cannot be used to strengthen frames or be stronger than stock mount.
11. Front frames may be shortened but can't be shorter than 19 inches from the center of A-arms
12. Frames must be in OEM condition on any and all vehicles other than stated above. No ADDED METAL.
13. NO "tilting" of the frame at any point on any vehicle.

## **CAGE COMPONENTS**

1. **Must have at least two (2) vertical upright bars from floor to roof.**
  - a. May be attached to sheet metal or top of frame only, not both.
2. Halo (over the roof) roll bars allowed.
  - b. Will be counted as window posts if they go through the window opening.

- c. Must be vertical and may be attached to the top of the frame only or sheet metal only, not both.
  - d. If welding to the frame, do not plate at the bottom of the roll bar or frame.
  - e. You may only weld an open tube to only the top of the frame.
  - f. Welds MAY NOT extend to the sides of the frame. No plates on frame.
  - g. If welding to only sheet metal, you may use up to an 8x8x1/4 plate on each end at the floor and roof but it may not be attached to the frame in any way.
  - h. Top piece over the roof may be up to 6" x 6" square or round tube or up to 10" channel.
3. A behind driver cross bar (spreader bar) is mandatory.
    - a. Must be welded or bolted behind the driver's seat from side to side.
    - b. The spreader bar cannot exceed 6" in diameter.
    - c. Spreader bar must be at least 5" above the top of the frame rails.
    - d. Each end of the cross bar may be attached to up to an 8x8x1/4 plate, welded or bolted to the door skin.
    - e. Spreader bar may be welded or bolted to upright bars
  4. You are NOT required to remove the dash but it is recommended.
    - a. IF dash is removed, you must install a dash bar from side to side, above the steering column.
    - b. Dash bars may not be connected to window bars.
  5. Driver side door bar is mandatory with a minimum 6" channel.
    - a. Passenger door bar is mandatory.
    - b. The door bars must not extend into any wheel well opening.
    - c. Inside door bars are allowed and must be padded.
    - d. Inside door bars may not extend through the firewall or rear sheet metal and may not attach directly to the frame.
  6. Gas tank protector allowed.
    - a. May be attached to behind the seat spreader bar or sheet metal but may in no way be attached to or within 5" of any frame rail or rear kickers.

## **BUMPERS**

1. Any stock OEM automotive bumper allowed.
2. Automotive bumpers may be swapped between different makes and models.
3. Homemade bumpers also allowed following these guidelines
  - a. You may use a maximum 6" x 6" x 1/4" square tube
  - b. Chrome skin off any stock automotive bumper may be wrapped around the steel tube and welded. (Optional but encouraged for appearance)
4. Bumper width may not be wider than car
5. Bumper tips and fender wells may be trimmed.
6. Bumper may be mounted in ONE of the following ways:

## **STOCK BRACKETS**

1. Stock brackets may be welded to the bumper & frame in stock position.  
Max 1/2" filler material.
2. You CANNOT cut in separate pieces, or bend stock mounts to reconfigure in any way and reattach them to the car or bumper.
3. Bumper shocks may be compressed and welded.
4. Bumper shocks may be extended no more than 10 inches back from front of frame rail on the top of the frame rail or the outside of the rail.

## **HARD-NOSE WITH PLATE**

1. You may remove all stock mounting hardware and weld the bumper directly to the frame (hard nose)
2. You may cut the frame flat to mount the bumper.
3. You may NOT cut the frame any closer than 19" from the center of the A-Arm.
4. You may cap the end of the frame with a maximum 6" x 6" x 1/4" plate to weld the bumper to.
5. All stock mounting hardware must be removed.

## **HARD NOSE WITH FLAT-BAR MOUNT**

1. Maximum 4"x 15x 1/4" piece of flat bar may be used and may be welded or bolted to the side of the frame and to the bumper in place of stock mounts.
2. You may bend the front 5" of the flat bar to make an "L" to provide more surface to weld the bumper to.
3. Flat bar may only be attached to the front 10" of the frame rails.
4. Bumper may be welded to frame where it touches.
5. You may also use two additional pieces of 1" filler up to 4" long each.
6. Round rod or flat bar filler only
7. No extra plates allowed at front of frame.
8. ALL stock mounting hardware must be removed.

Bumper cannot be welded to the car body.

Chain or strap around the bumper to hood or trunk is allowed but will be counted as a hood/trunk mounting point.

Maximum height from ground to bottom of bumper not to exceed 24" in front or rear.

## **HOOD & TRUNK**

1. All cars' hood and trunk area will be opened or must be 100% visible (inspection hole) for inspection.
2. You may attach the hood and trunk at a maximum of 8 POINTS each.

3. Trunk lids may be chained, bolted or welded.
4. Hoods may be chained or bolted only.
5. Maximum bolt size is 1" in diameter.
6. Maximum washer size, 6" x 6" x 1/4".
7. Every 5 feet of chain used will count as 1 mounting point.
8. Maximum weld filler size is 2" x 1/4" flat bar or 3/4" round-rod.
9. Every spot that is welded will count as one mounting POINT on the trunk, maximum 10" of weld at any point.
  - a. Welded points may not be within 5" of each other.
  - b. You can attach 2 of the POINTS from hood and trunk to or around the bumpers in front and rear.
  - c. These can be chain or flat strap max 3" x 3/16"
10. Inside of the engine compartment must be visible through fenders or inspection holes if hood is not easily removed.
11. For OLD IRON cars, only 2 POINTS may be connected to the frame in the front and only 2 points in the rear.
12. For METRIC cars, 4 mounting POINTS may be connected to the frame in front and 4 POINTS in the rear.

CLARIFICATION: If you use multiple methods to secure the trunk, make sure to read this section carefully.

EXAMPLE: 2 bolts, 2 chains, and 40" (4 POINTS) of weld is equal to 8 POINTS.
13. If tucking or wedging, you may NOT weld the trunk lid or fenders to the trunk floor.
  - a. If you choose to tuck, wedge, or sedagon a vehicle, you may be required to cut a larger inspection hole.
14. Maximum material size is 5/16" x 4' chains or maximum 1" all-thread.
15. Factory hinges are not counted as mounting POINTS.
16. Hoods CANNOT be welded.
17. Must have a minimum 12" x 12" inspection hole in the hood unless inner fenders are removed.

## **SUSPENSION & AXLES**

1. No coil to leaf conversions
2. Only stock automobile springs.
3. OEM shackles only. Previously run derby cars with broken springs or shackles can be repaired but may not be stronger than stock. Subject to the official's decision.
4. Leaf springs may have (3) clamps per side (6) total on the car 1/4" in thickness and not over 1-1/2" in width, with two (2) bolts per clamp. These cannot exceed the thickness and width stated.
5. OEM control arms may be reinforced but may not be welded from frame to rear end.
6. No manufactured aftermarket rear control arms allowed.



7. Spring spacers and stuffed shocks or 1" all-thread in place of shocks are allowed.
8. Tire and wheel combination optional.
9. Valve stem protectors OK.
10. No beadlocks.
11. No liquid filled tires.

## **98 AND NEWER FOMOCO**

1. For Watts-link conversion on Fords, you may convert a Watts-Link to a standard 4 link system in the following way.
  - a. Use the upper and lower trailing arm brackets off an older Ford.
  - b. Aftermarket brackets are allowed, but no thicker than 1/4" and may be attached with a max of three (3), 1/2" bolts each side.
  - c. No shortening of trailer arms and no positioning of brackets to strengthen the front down-legs of the rear hump.
  - d. Must be mounted in the stock location.
  - e. You may use any automotive or fabricated spring bucket but it must not strengthen the frame in any way and cannot be larger than necessary to hold the coil spring. Must be mounted off 2 existing cradle bolts. DO NOT weld to frame in any way.
  - f. No bolts horizontally through the frame or "pinning".
2. To mount the steering box, you may weld a tube to the top and bottom of the frame.
  - a. Must be mounted in the same location as 02 and older FOMOCO.
  - b. Do not weld excessively.
  - c. 3 Bolts max. Top and bottom bolts may be within 1" of the top or bottom frame wall and not be considered pinning.
  - d. Other than allowed above, do not pin the frame in any way to mount the steering box.
3. Do not weld any seams behind the firewall, even if the factory skip-welded the seam, do not weld!
4. You may cut the excess frame off the front rails but you may not move the front body mount. All body mounts must remain in stock location.
5. In all cases other than stated above, 1998-2002 FOMOCO vehicles will follow **METRIC** car rules.
6. In all cases other than stated above, 2003 AND NEWER FOMOCO vehicles will follow **OLD IRON** car rules.
7. 2003 and newer FOMOCO frames may NOT be swapped to any car body other than stock 2003+ FOMOCO bodies.

## **ADDITIONAL PICK EM BUILD OPTIONS**

**\*\*\* OLD IRON MAY PICK 3 OF THE 18 OPTIONS FROM THE LIST \*\*\***

**\*\*\* METRIC CARS MAY PICK 5 OF THE 18 OPTIONS FROM THE LIST \*\*\***

**AT THE TIME OF TECH INSPECTION, THE DRIVER MUST INDICATE WHICH 3, OR 5, OF THE 18 OPTIONS THEY INTEND TO USE ON THE TECH SHEET. IF ADDITIONAL OPTIONS ARE FOUND DURING INSPECTION, THE DRIVER MUST AGREE TO**

**REMOVE ITEMS TO PASS INSPECTION**

**Lower engine cradle with pulley protector**

- a. Cannot be welded to frame.
- b. Your pulley protector may only be attached to the cradle and may not be welded or bolted to any part of the car.

**Distributor Protector**

- a. Distributor protector cannot be attached to or within 10" of the dash bar.
- b. Must have a relief cut in the firewall for distributor protector clearance.
- c. Protector may not be braced against the firewall.

**Transmission brace**

No transmission brace skid plates allowed.

**Steel transmission bellhousing with a steel tail**

**Slider shaft driveline**

**Stock 8 lug 3/4 ton truck rear ends (unmodified)**

**Any 5-lug rear end with back bracing and axle savers.**

**Hump plates**

Hump plates may not exceed 22"x4"x1/4"

If using 3/16" or 1/4" plates, they may not be bent. 1/8" or smaller plates may be bent to be stiffer.

**Stuff/load any OEM bumper**

Stuffed/loaded OEM bumpers must have factory backing. With a factory skin

**Manufactured replica bumpers from approved manufacturers.**

- a. Must follow general dimensions of a stock oem bumper.
- b. IF you are not sure about your manufactured or homemade bumper, please send pictures to the facebook page or to your local shows head tech inspector. Do not just show up with an unapproved bumper.

**Connect A-arms to the frame**

Use either chain or bolt or weld at point of contact with 2"x3"x1/4" strap on front and back side only.

**Re-weld frame seams from the firewall forward.**

- a. The firewall starts right in front of the body mounts at the firewall.
- b. You may re-weld frame seams behind the rear axle.
- c. Maximum 1/2" weld, no filler material allowed.

**Weld pinch frames together.**

You may remove the k member pucks, but must have a 1" gap between the K member and the pinch frame

**Hammer y-frames down on Chrysler and weld the seam.**

- a. No cutting or adding metal to do this.
- b. 1/2" filler material may be used.

**Rear "kickers"**

- a. A bar may be connected from upright bars or spreader bar to the rear frame in front of the back tires.
- b. Not to extend past the front of the speaker tray.
- c. Kickers NOT allowed to front frame.
- d. You may only weld an open tube to the top of the frame. No plates.

**Add two 6" x 6" x 1/8" plates anywhere on the frame.**

- a. Only 1 per frame rail.
- b. Must be painted white.

**2 rear window bars.**

- a. Max material size is 2" x 2" x 1/4" square tube or angle or 4" x 3/8" flat bar.
- b. You may use a plate or angle at each end to mount the window bar to.
- c. Max 4" x 4" x 1/4" plate or 2" x 2" x 1/4" angle.
- d. Mounting plate cannot extend completely past the front of the trunk lid seam in any way or it will be counted as a trunk mounting point.
- e. Window bars may only be 30"
- f. Rear window bar may not connect to the cage.

**Body creasing**

Any body creasing at all on the car will qualify this option.

**OTHER NOTES**

Pre-ran cars may use plates to repair damage only to restore to stock strength, subject to the above rules and subject to official approval. If deemed excessive you will have the opportunity to fix it. Must pass tech by specified time for that show. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, there will be absolutely no added metal or non-factory parts, or equipment added to any car.

No one under 15 is allowed to drive in the event (under 18 must have Parent/Guardian signature, both must have valid ID)

Must have a current, valid state driver's license or permit.

Must sign waiver and release form day of race.

**\$30 pre-registration and \$40 at the gate. Pit passes are \$20 each.**