

To: all coaches and Scrambler participants
Subject: Rigid block and flag placement

In the invitational competitions that I have supervised so far this season, I need to make you aware of the situation where most of the car is made using 3D printing, and some other cars. This communication is so that the state event supervisor is not put a bad position to have to deduct construction points and in case your previous event supervisors have not mentioned this to you.

3.e rule says that the backstop is to unpadding and flat and **rigid**.

The backstops, the 5x5 have built right and that has been good, but **not rigid**.

The back stop needs to be rigid so that if the egg hits the barrier there is no give and would soften the impact. By having a flexible backstop, it gives an unfair advantage compared to those who have a true rigid backstop.

I especially have seen cars that are built with plastic from 3D printers, where the 5 x 5 block is solid, but the car is not rigid enough to keep the block rigid. In other words, by placing your hand on the back axle and pushing the block back towards the back axle the block will move, thus allowing a cushioning effect at impact, if the egg was to hit the barrier, it possibly would not break.

One of the main problems I have seen with the plastic cars, is that the car is not rigid enough because the side rails connecting the rear axle to the front axle are not stiff enough and it allows them to bow. The other issue is the block is not mounted secure enough allowing the block to tip backwards.

Please address this issue so at regionals and at state so you will not get a construction violation. Event supervisors really do not like giving violations!

The other clarification I would like to make, is that the dowel that is coming out of the top of the block is to be 20 cm from the floor, so center of the flag will be measured at 17 cm from the FLOOR and NOT from the top of the block. There was some confusion about that earlier in the season.

Have a great rest of your season and I will see you at state.

Joe McConohy
State Scrambler Event supervisor.