



## **HOWELL MELON FESTIVAL BED RACES ENTRY FORM & RULES**

1. There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$25 per bed. Entrants are encouraged to find sponsorships for their beds. Sponsorships can be advertised as part of the bed design.
2. Participants must design, build and decorate their bed according to the following specifications. Bed must be a minimum of 54" wide, 75" long and 10" from the ground (from bottom of the bedspring or frame support). No part of the bed may exceed 90" in width or 100" in length. Distance between wheels may not exceed 80" measured from outside to outside of the wheels, front to rear, with an overall bed length not to exceed 100". Maximum height cannot exceed 96" from the ground.
3. Push bars are allowed but may not extend beyond the maximum dimensions of the bed as indicated above. Push bars should be designed for safety with no sharp or jagged edges allowed.
4. Beds must consist of a box spring and mattress (water bed mattresses & air bags are acceptable). Air mattresses must be full size or larger and must be fully inflated. Full bedding (sheets, pillows, blanket/comforter) is required.
5. Beds must have four wheels and be designed so that all four wheels make contact with the ground. All wheels must be load bearing but do not have to be the same size.
6. Steering mechanisms are permitted but not required. Motorized beds or mechanical means of motion are prohibited. All means of motion shall be provided by race team members.
7. Any decorative item attached to the bed must be left on during the bed race unless determined by the judges that it must be removed for safety reasons.
8. Race teams shall consist of five members: one rider and four pushers. Team members must be 16 years of age or older and must sign a waiver of liability. Substitutions on the day of the race are not allowed.
9. One member of the team must be on the bed at all times with the remaining four pushing the bed. Pushers must keep their bed from interfering with competing beds and are responsible for stopping their beds at the end of the race. Beds should be able to move in a straight line.
10. In order to qualify, at least four out of the five team members must cross the finish line in contact with the bed and three members must also be in contact with the ground when crossing the finish line.

11. Each team can have unlimited supporters acting as “pit crews” and cheerleaders. However, they cannot be actively involved in the race itself.
12. No sharp or dangerous objects may protrude from the bed. All beds must have protective bumpers.
13. All costs associated the bed race, including construction of the bed and entrance fees, are the responsibility of the entrants.
14. All teams must report for inspection at the specified time. Failure to report for bed inspection will result in disqualification and forfeiture of entry fee. All entrants failing to pass the bed technical inspection will have until race time to make the necessary alterations to their bed.
15. In the event of extreme inclement weather (lightening, tornadoes, etc) the Bed Race will be cancelled. However, the race will take place in rainy weather.

### RACE DAY PROCEDURES

1. Beds must be parked on Grand River Avenue adjacent to the Livingston County Court House by no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the race.
2. Team captains must report to their bed for inspection & judging at 2:30 p.m on the day of the race. Beds will be inspected to verify that the rules have been followed. Race starts at 5:00 p.m.
3. A parade of all beds along the race course will take place prior to the actual races, if time permits.
4. Beds will be raced in timed heats, two beds at a time.
5. Awards will be given in two categories
  - First & second place for bed design & crew costumes
  - First & second place for fastest time.In addition to a monetary prize, first place winner of the timed race & bed design/crew costumes will receive Breakfast in Bed on Sunday morning from Mark’s Midtown Coney Café at 208 W. Grand River.  
Additional specialty awards will be awarded in the following categories
  - Best use of the Howell Melon
  - Judges Favorite
  - Most Unique Bed
6. Upon completion of the race, all entrants are encouraged to park their bed on State Street and join in on the Pajama Party & Outdoor Movie. All beds must be removed from race area & State Street by 12:00 midnight.
7. Racers are reminded that Howell Melon Festival is a family friendly event and bed design and race costumes should be appropriate for a family oriented event.
8. The safety of the racers and spectators will take precedence over all other matters.

MELON FESTIVAL BED RACE ENTRY FORM

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee of \$25 & signed liability waivers for entire team must be included with registration form. Return registration from to Howell Melon Festival – Bed Races, 122 State Street, Howell, MI 48843, or FAX to 517-548-1068 and mail in registration fee.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned, have carefully read the rules and the following release of liability and fully understand and agree to its contents.

- I realize that the Howell Melon Festival Bed Race requires physical conditioning and I represent that I am in sound medical condition and have no physical or medical condition that would endanger either myself or others.
- I accept responsibility for the condition of my/our "bed" and agree to abide by all rules of the race.
- I understand that the race can be a hazardous activity that may have dangers and risks including injury from accident or physical exertion. In consideration of and in consideration for being permitted to participate in the race, I freely and expressly assume and accept any and all risks of injury to myself, the rider, the pushers or any property loss or damage.
- I agree to release the sponsors and promoters of the race, including the City of Howell, the Howell Downtown Development Authority, and the Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority, or other sponsors or affiliated organizations and their respective agents, directors, officers, employees and volunteers from any and all responsibility and liability for injuries or damages which result, either directly or indirectly, from my participation in the race. I agree that I will not make a claim or bring suit against the City of Howell, the Howell Melon Festival, the Howell Downtown Development Authority, or the Howell Area Parks & Recreation Authority or other sponsors or affiliated organizations for injuries or damages relating to racing and/or other activities during the race.
- I am aware that this is a release of liability and attest that I am signing it freely and of my own accord and I recognize that it is binding upon myself, my heirs and assigns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicant is under the age of 18, release of liability must be signed by parent/guardian. By signing below, I certify and warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ and that I understand and agree to the terms of the release of liability as state above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Parent/Guardian