



MINI EV PRIZE SOLAR SPRINT RACE Rules and Regulations -2018

INTRO

This solar car race is aimed at primary and high school students to learn the skills of engineering and photovoltaics. While the cars are simple in design they need to be accurate and fast. This race will provide students with an insight to Sustainability, Statistics and STEM learning plus plenty of room for fun.

THE CAR

In order to keep the race in line with the spirit of the competition there are some standards and some suggestions.

Standards

The car will be powered by one or two of the KM 2 volt 700mA panels.
The car will have a KM – F18 motor
The car will have a majority of student input in construction
Will be no wider than 260mm

Must Have

An on off switch – 3 positions (Solar, Off, Battery)
Installed a 2 X AA battery pack without batteries
14mm clearance under the car

A plate measuring 10cm x 2cm with your school name on it.

Must NOT have

Batteries or any electronic charge devices. **Battery option is for poor weather conditions ONLY.**
High tech/large dollar construction technique.

CONSTRUCTION

You can use any materials for the construction of the chassis, axles and wheels. The kit uses 5mm corflute for the chassis and 3mm rod for the axels with small plastic wheels. Other materials you may wish to consider are balsa wood, Perspex, and craft board. It is important to consider weight and size. Wheels can be made from all types of material. The diameter of the wheel has an impact on torque and the 14mm clearance.

There are a number of races you will need to complete to get to the final so your car has to last. It needs to be durable.

Please have a read of the suggested text. It might help point you in the right direction.



YOUR CHALLENGE

Your challenge, apart from being first across the line, is the accuracy of construction and strength. Alignment of wheels and motor are most important. The track is a straight line so you need the car to track straight. The motor has a small pinion gear that needs to line up smoothly with the main gear.

The aim of this race is fun and simplicity. If you make the project too complicated there will be more chance of failure due to breakdown. It is important to have a go at innovative ideas but this is about speed over a straight course.

The gear ratio will have a large impact on the speed and acceleration of the car. You will need to do some testing for different ratios and wheel size. You may even need to consider the ability to change the gear ratio on the day.

Using two solar panels will provide a good source of power but you will need to consider how to wire them up. It is a good idea to do some testing in different sunlight with different gear ratios.

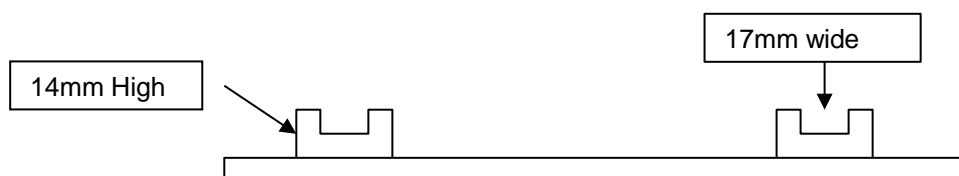
SCRUTINEERING

Prior to racing all cars need to be checked to establish if they comply with these rules. It is important that you read these rules carefully and take special note of the Standards, Must Have and Must Not have on page one. You need to fill out an online **registration form** at <http://www.hunterevfestival.net/mini-ev-prize-team-entry-2018.html> by the close of **Friday 10 August 2018**.

Cars will be checked and then given a race number. This number will then be used to call cars to the start line for racing. You will need to be alert so when your number is called we can get races started.

THE TRACK

There is a U channel stuck to a flat smooth board (Corflute). The length of the track is 20m. The car will need some form of guide pin to ensure it will run smoothly along the track, these guides will be on the outside of the U Channel. We will race two cars at a time. The track is joined every 2.4m and this creates small bumps. Your guides will need to take this into account. Please call me if you are unsure.





THE START

Students will be asked to place the car on the track and the guide mechanism on the car will be secure. Students will need a cardboard “paddle” to cover the solar panels and then turn the switch to the ON position on your car.

When the cars are ready the starter will call, Ready, Set, GO. The student will lift the cardboard paddle to expose the solar panels to the sun and the race will start. The race is to the other end of the 20m track. You may need a catcher at the finish line or else the car will run into the sand bags.

Points to consider.

1. The car needs enough power to start from a standing start.
2. The “paddle” needs to fully block the sun so the car will not move at the start line until the “paddle” is removed.
3. You need to get the car on and off the track as easily as possible.

THE RACE

The race will be a series of heats. The winners move forward to round two, the losers have another series of heats and the winners of these heats move into round two as well.

Round two will be a knock out series of heats. Winners move forward and losers cheer on the winners until we get an overall winner.

If there is not enough solar power on the day we will provide battery packs and the last four winners will be best of three races with changing over battery packs.

Suggested Reading

- Model Solar Car Racing by Peter Harley - Available from Kite Magic Coogee
- Model Solar Cars: Optimising Their Performance by Stan Woithe - Available – Give Kite Magic a call

The Venue

The Mini EV Prize race day is on **Saturday 18 August 2018** to be held at the University of Newcastle – Callaghan Campus – Car Park No 2 for the race and the CT Lecture Theatre for the Award Presentation. All cars participating in the competition are to be scrutineered on race day before the race begins.



Solar Car Kit – Supplied by Kite Magic

Item	Qty
Solar Panel – KM 2v 700mA Panel	2
Motor – KM F-18FS & Mount	1
Axel – Fibreglass rod 3mm & collars	2
Corflute sheet	1
Wheels	8
Gear Pack	1
Switch	1
Cable Ties	1
Wire – Red & Black, 2 pieces	2/.35m
2 x AA Battery Pack	1

Construction

You will need some glue and a soldering iron plus some tape to hold things in place.

If you have any questions or are unsure of any aspect please contact me before the day so we do not have troubles on the day.

Have fun and good luck.

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