BOAT RACE

Overview

Build a boat (using only LEGO parts, of course) and race against other boats in the hotel swimming pool. Use Technic motors (or MINDSTORMS if you dare). Race for first! Race for fun! A Technic set awaits the winner.

Venue and Timing

The race takes place at the pool in the BrickFair event hotel. We do not get a reserved time in the pool so the race is held early in the morning and racers should make sure they arrive on time. This should give participants enough time to compete in the race before the first hotel swimmers arrive, and get back to the venue before the first wave of public visitors hits.

Depending on the event, the pool size and shape will vary. Do not assume that you will be able to walk alongside your boat during the race.

Race Formats

BrickFair runs two different types of races: *Linear* and *Slalom*. Usually only one of these races will be run at any given event. Check the Game Page to see which format will be used at your event.
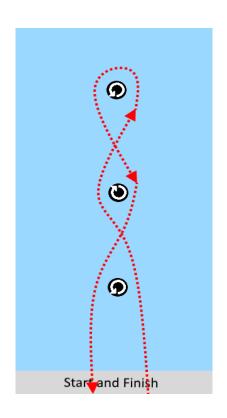
Two areas of the pool wall will be declared the *Start Line* and the *Finish Line*. For some races they may be the same area. As you might expect, boats must start at the Start Line and finish by touching the Finish Line.
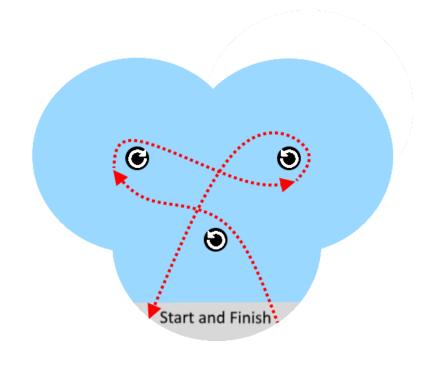
Races are run for speed against the clock. The object of the race is to travel from the Start line to the Finish line as fast as possible.

Linear races are set up with the Start and Finish lines at opposite ends of the pool. There is no set course for the boat to follow.

Slalom races require the boat to navigate between floating obstacles in the proper order and direction in order to complete the course. Often, the Start Line and Finish Line will be the same. The exact course will be determined by the game leader and will vary from event to event.

Here are two examples of a Slalom course:

Friendly Tips

- Test your boat at home in something bigger than a bathtub.
- Your boat does not have to have a steering mechanism but if it doesn't it may never see the finish line.
- LEGO IR receivers do not work well outdoors or when you cannot remain close to your boat. Both these conditions occur at the BrickFair Virginia venue.
- Building for speed is encouraged but if you aren't feeling in a competitive mood, build something interesting or fun: a novel propulsion mechanism or a well-decorated boat.

Official Rules

Construction

1. Boats must be built using 100% LEGO parts with the following exceptions:
   1.1. Non-LEGO **batteries** may be used.
   1.2. An **SBrick** may be used as a receiver/controller.
   1.3. Creative use of LEGO materials is allowed (e.g. a Pick-A-Brick cup or LEGO packaging).
2. All boats must be self-propelled and move without any external force.
3. Remote controls are allowed.
4. Any parts or items used by a boat are considered part of the boat.

Race

5. The boat must start within a handspan of the Start Line.
6. The entire boat must be within 3 feet of the Start Line at the start of the race.
7. The boat may be held in position at the Start Line by hand.
8. At the start of the race the boat must be released and move entirely under its own power throughout the race.
9. The boat must touch the Finish Line to complete the race.
10. Each boat will get two chances to race and the best time will be used.
11. If the boat does not negotiate the course correctly it will be scored as "Did Not Finish", the time will not count, and that chance to race will be used up.

12. An individual may only enter one boat per competition. If time permits, additional boats may be run "for fun" after the competition has concluded.

Officiating

13. The Game Leader is the sole judge and interpreter of the rules for the game. His or her word is the final say.