

OFFICIAL RULES & SPECIFICATIONS FOR COFFIN RACING TEAMS

32ND ANNUAL EMMA CRAWFORD COFFIN RACES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 • MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO



EVENT SCHEDULE (RACE DAY)

Time	Event Details
8:00 a.m.	Teams start to arrive, followed by check-in and safety/tech inspections for all coffins and Emmas.
10:00 a.m.	Coffin staging begins at the 700 block of Manitou Ave.
11:00 a.m.	Tech inspection complete. Deadline for all teams being checked in, cleared, and in position along Manitou Ave., for the Fan Zone and parade lineup.
11:30 a.m.	Driver meeting at Barker House steps, 819 Manitou Ave. (One member from each team MUST attend.)
12:00 p.m.	Parade starts down Manitou Ave.
~12:45 p.m. (Post Parade)	Coffin Races begin with great fanfare.
~1:45 p.m. (Coffin Off)	Final heat between Emma Crawford and Frozen Dead Guy Days teams to determine whether Manitou Springs or Estes Park claims the Coffin Cup.
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	After Party & Award Ceremony at Soda Springs Park (Bud Ford Pavilion), with music, vendors, food, and drinks. Teams stage their coffins at the park.

RACE PREPARATION & REGISTRATION

1. Select Your Possé: Each race team needs four pushers and one Emma. All racers must be at least 18 years of age. Entourage and parade participants can be any age but should be limited to twelve people at most (extra party members or pets must be pre-approved by the event manager). After the parade, only racing team members may remain in the race course area. Amateur racers only - NO professional athletes.

2. Build a Coffin: Each team will procure a coffin conforming to the Coffin Specifications. Race officials inspect all coffins before the race. Coffins that do not pass inspection may march in the parade, but not race. Any questions or disagreements will be forwarded to an event official.

3. Protect Your People: All racers are encouraged to wear protective gear (knee guards, helmets, etc.). Emma is REQUIRED to wear a helmet during the race. Emma with a helmet must be present at registration. Hard hats are not considered helmets.

4. Be on Time: All coffins, pushers, and Emmas must be registered and in the Fan Zone/parade lineup area by 11:00 a.m. If you are NOT registered by that time, you will be considered a no-show. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

5. Racers Must Sign Waivers: All pushers and Emmas must sign a Hold Harmless Agreement on race day. Everyone is required to sign—no exceptions.

6. Prizes: Awards are presented for the three teams with the fastest race times (1st, 2nd & 3rd place). The “Best Entourage” team wins an award, as well. Then there are awards for the Best Coffin and Best Emma. Awards are presented in Soda Springs Park at the Bud Ford Pavilion, after the races conclude.

ON RACE DAY

1. Be Judged: Coffin teams, entourages, and Emmas will be judged during lineup and from the stage during the parade. Leave space between parade participants and take time moving up the parade route.

2. Attend Driver Meeting: One racer from each team MUST attend the driver meeting to review rules, regulations, and parade procedures. The meeting is held at 11:30 a.m. sharp at 819 Manitou Ave. (Barker House steps)

3. Gather Your Possé: Racers and entourage must be in their assigned place in line by 12:00 p.m. (noon) sharp when the parade begins.

RACE RULES & CONDUCT

1. No Alcohol or Drugs: Public consumption of alcohol or marijuana is illegal and will be cause for immediate disqualification and/or possible ticketing.

2. How to Line Up: All Coffin Racers are required to participate in the parade. Line up in the reverse order of the assigned team number. The coffin and Emma will both display the team number given to the team at technical spec / check-in. Experienced volunteers help with the check-in and line-up processes, so please be respectful.

3. Don't Throw Parade Swag: In an effort to maintain a safe race course, parade participants and racers may not toss anything to the crowd during the parade. Any team that violates this rule will be disqualified. Teams are allowed to hand out items to the viewers, as long as they don't throw items. (No political materials are allowed to be handed out or shown on signs and in themes.)

4. Ready to Race: The race begins when the parade ends and racers have returned to the lineup. The teams assigned to #1 & 2 will kick off the races in the first heat. Teams line up on odd vs. even sides.

5. How the Race Goes: The race course is approximately 585 feet (195 yards) heading west on Manitou Ave. Racing times of each team are recorded as two teams race head-to-head. After the completion of all heats, the coffin with the fastest overall recorded time is declared the winner. To follow the finish times of all teams in real time, use this [live leaderboard app](#):



6. Hands on the Coffin: Three of the four pushers must keep their hands on the coffin until the coffin has crossed the finish line and stopped completely. Any coffin that has less than three pushers in direct contact with the coffin during the race will be deemed 'out of control' and will be disqualified for safety reasons. Changing pushers or Emmas after check-in is strictly prohibited. In case of injury, race officials shall have the authority to allow a substitute.

7. Stay in Your Lane: Pushers must keep coffins in their designated lane. Pushers may touch the center yellow line, but not cross over it. Pushers or coffins crossing the yellow line will be disqualified. Pushers and/or coffins interfering with the opposing team will be disqualified.

8. Disputes: Protests may only be made by race competitors and must be directed to a race official within 10 minutes of the completion of the heat in question. Protests must be logical, reasonable, and based on sound evidence. All decisions by race officials are final.

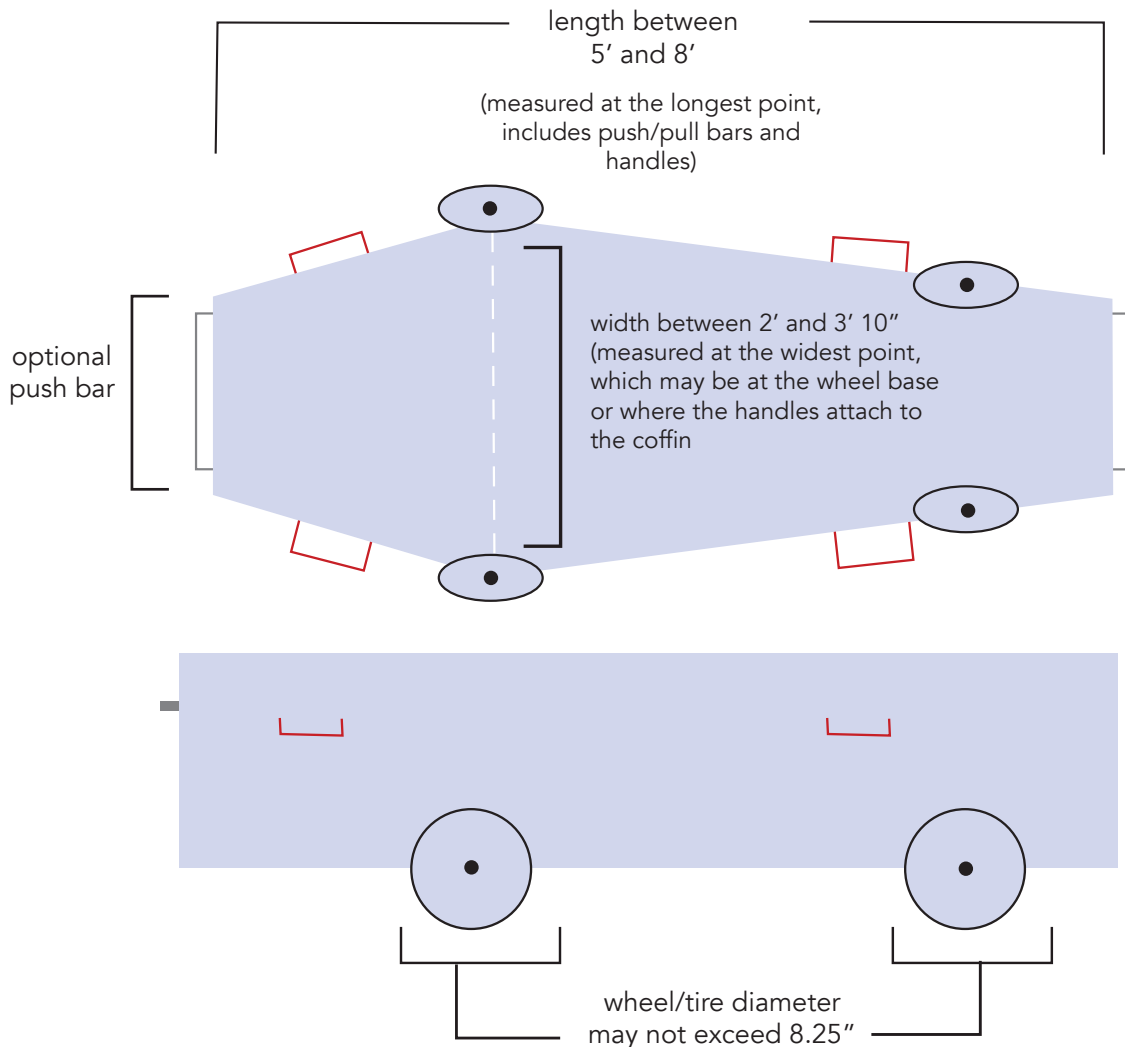
⚠ Safety & Sportsmanship First: The Emma Crawford Coffin Races celebrate historic Manitou Springs heritage. Ensure safety gear is fitted, stay aware of surrounding spectators, and honor the spirit of ghostly amateur competition!

COFFIN SPECIFICATIONS

All coffins must meet the following specifications.

Coffins will be inspected prior to the race during "tech inspect".

Coffins not meeting specifications will be disqualified at time of inspection.



1. The coffin measured at the widest point, including wheelbase and/or handles and/or push bars, must be between 2' and 3' 10" wide. Length must be between 5' and 8', including handles and push bars. There are no height restrictions for coffins, but decorations over 10 feet tall must be removeable. Decorative projections that exceed the maximum width and length of the coffin specifications are not permitted.

2. Four handles or two handles and push bar must be securely attached to coffin. Push bar on back of the coffin is optional and may be added instead of two of the four handles. Ropes are not permitted.

3. Each coffin must have four firmly attached wheels, attached in such a manner that coffin will roll on all

four wheels when propelled down the race course. Wheels may not exceed 8.25" in diameter, including tires. Wheels must be within the overall dimensions of the coffin. Casters may be used. For safety and steering ability, wheels or casters may rotate or swivel.

4. Functional steering mechanisms are prohibited.

5. Registration number must be visible on the front of your coffin & the back of Emma.

6. SAFETY IS IMPERATIVE! Race officials may disqualify any coffin they feel is dangerous.