

From: [Heidi Weiss](#)
To: [Heidi Weiss](#)
Subject: IFDA National Championship: The Leader Letter - September 12, 2024
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 3:33:22 PM
Importance: High



The Leader Letter

September 12, 2024

Keeping Team Leaders Informed

October 24 – 26, 2024

Orlando, Florida

Tick Tock! Just 6 Weeks Until The IFDA National Championship Competition!

This newsletter is designed to keep company Team Leaders and company contacts well informed as we prepare for what we anticipate will be the largest championship event yet with over 900 attendees! This year we have created a **dedicated email address** for Team Leaders and team members so that related event communications and questions are easily identified and responded to in a timely manner: TNC@ifdaonline.org.

If your communication is specifically regarding Housing information, please use: Housing@ifdaonline.org. Please consider sharing this newsletter internally to help keep YOUR team members informed and on track.

REMINDER! Registration Deadline 9/16

If you haven't done so already, please plan to have all competitor and guest attendee registrations submitted as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, September 16. This year we have introduced a deadline that will help us work with your teams to ensure that all competitors and guests are properly accounted for, and to confirm that all competitors are in the proper category. This process will allow us to catch any discrepancies in advance to avoid any last-minute complications onsite with changes to things like competitor categories. If you have questions or concerns about the upcoming deadline please contact us.

Call For Judges!

With a larger-than-ever event comes the need for more judges than ever. We truly appreciate our hardworking judges on the field course and in the warehouse arena. Please consider providing one or more judges for the event. All judges must review and accept the Judge's Code of Ethics. Registration fee for judges is \$595 and includes the Awards Banquet. Judges will receive additional communications from IFDA regarding assignments and onsite orientation. Deadline to register is September 16. If you have any questions about judging, you can reach David Coffield at TNC@ifdaonline.org.

REMINDER! Transportation Learning Exchange

This optional meeting is an intimate peer-to-peer forum that allows transportation professionals to discuss effective, practical solutions to and ideas around their everyday opportunities and challenges. Agendas are 100% peer-driven with a focus on transportation and driver management. The meeting is free but requires registration. If you haven't already registered and want to participate, please contact Annika Stensson at astensson@ifdaonline.org no later than September 16.

ALERT! New Protocol for Guest Photographers at The IFDA National Championship

This protocol outlines the guidelines for guest photographers (professional photographers who are coming with competitor teams) and includes photography and videography:

Additional Information:

- Specific areas of the event may have restrictions on photography and/or videography. Please be aware of and adhere to all posted signage.
- Official IFDA photographers will be capturing the event. Please be courteous and avoid obstructing their shots.
- For any questions regarding the media protocol or registration process, please contact Serena Moriarty, Senior Manager, Marketing & Engagement at smoriarty@ifdaonline.org.

Guest Photography Protocol here: <https://www.ifdaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/TNC-Guest-Photographer-Protocol.pdf>.

Media Consent Form here: <https://www.ifdaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/TNC-Media-Consent-Agreement.pdf>

REMINDER! Safety Footwear Policy

New policy for Warehouse PIT competitors only: *OSHA regulations state "the employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses protective footwear when working in areas where there is a danger of foot injuries due to falling or rolling objects". (OSHA 1910.136)* The IFDA National Championship is the premier industry event for the very best powered warehouse operators in the foodservice distribution industry. As such, we require all competitors to comply with the following:

- All competitors and judges are required to wear composite/alloy toe, steel-toe safety shoes during the skills competition portion of the event,
- All shoes worn during the competition must have a non-slip sole and must be closed-toe,

- If your company does not require safety shoes and you do not own a pair, IFDA will provide toe caps for use during the competition,
- An example of the toe cap that IFDA will provide can be found here: <https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/S-22258-L/Foot-Protection/Quick-Fit-Toe-Cap-Large>

Hotel & Destination

A discounted block of guestrooms has been established for attendees and participants at **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort**, located at *1000 West Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830*. Hotel rooms are available ONLY to registered attendees and accessed via IFDA room block link. The resort has two room types:

- Tower Rooms \$309/night, plus tax
- Campus Rooms \$239/night, plus tax

Key Dates

- **Sep 16** **Housing Cut-Off**
- **Sep 16** **Competitor and Attendee Registration Deadline**
- **Sep 16** **Judge & Volunteer Registration Deadline**

Oct 24-26 **The IFDA National Championship**

To learn more about the industry's premier championship event visit: [The IFDA National Championship - About - IFDA \(ifdaonline.org\)](https://ifdaonline.org).

IFDA Team Member Contacts

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