

From: [Heidi Weiss](#)
To: [The National Championship](#)
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The Leader Letter

May 23, 2024

Keeping Team Leaders Informed
October 24 – 26, 2024
Orlando, Florida

Welcome to The IFDA National Championship Competition!

This bi-weekly newsletter is designed to keep company Team Leaders 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, including:

- General Managers
- Transportation and Warehouse Managers/Supervisors
- Senior Operations
- Competitors
- Any team members planning to attend

ALERT: Warehouse Competition Safety Footwear Policy

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 industrial truck operators in the food distribution industry. As such, we require **all warehouse PIT competitors** to comply with the following:

- All competitors and judges are required to wear 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>

Warehouse Competitor Criteria

1. The competitor must have at least 90 days of continuous full-time employment operating the class of equipment they will be competing in, with a food distribution company (i.e., foodservice distributor, foodservice manufacturer, grocery wholesaler, convenience distributor, etc.). They must not be currently employed in a supervisory capacity.
2. The competitor must not have had any safety related incidents in the 90 days prior to registering for The IFDA National Championship.
3. The competitor must hold a certificate to operate the class of equipment being operated at The IFDA National Championship, and must pass an on-site “skills check” prior to competing.
4. The competitor has distinguished themselves by embracing a culture of safety, continuously seeks to improve as a professional and possesses the skills and abilities to be competitive at The IFDA National Championship.

Group Housing Sub-Blocks

Company Leaders will be responsible for coordinating their group’s housing reservations at Disney Coronado Springs Resort & Spa. Sub-blocks will be assigned to participating companies in need of **10 or more guest rooms** for the event.

Reminder: If your company will be coordinating a **group of 10 or more** and has not yet notified IFDA, please send a message to:

Housing@ifdaonline.org as soon as possible. It is important for us to know how many rooms you think you will need so they may be set aside in IFDA’s inventory.

Key Dates

- Due Housing Sub-Block Requests **(for 10+)**
- May 31 Registration & Housing Launch
- Aug 30 Recommended Company Rodeo Deadline
- Aug 30 Group Affiliate Details Finalized with Hotel & Disney

- Aug 30 Housing Sub-Block Rooming Lists and Guarantees Due
- 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 \(ifdaonline.org\)](#).

IFDA Team Member Contacts

Heidi Weiss (*Team Leader POC*)

Sr. Director, Membership
703-962-9935 | [Email](#)

Shaun Surette (*Tech & Registration Support*)

AMS Specialist & Support
703-962-9934 | [Email](#)

Andrea Streat (*Housing & Event Logistics*)

Sr. Director, Meetings & Events
703-962-9946 | [Email](#)