



The Leader Letter

...Keeping Company Leaders Informed...

Confirm Your Competitor List: Due September 30

Team leaders will receive a separate email with their full list of warehouse and truck driving competitors as well as on-site leaders by Friday, September 26. Please review the list to confirm that all details are correct. The information will be used for all competition materials, so it's critical that we have the correct information. **Updates/Changes are due to IFDA by Tuesday, September 30.** We cannot accommodate changes after the deadline or at the championship.

Children's Contest: What to Know

Thanks once again to our generous sponsor, FLEET Advantage, the [Children's Contest](#) will continue to be an exciting and fun part of this event! The Children's Contest has two parts depending on grade level:

- 1) The Drawing Contest is open to children in 2nd grade and below.
- 2) The Writing Contest is open to children in 3rd grade and above.

All contestants **MUST HAVE** a parent or relative participating as a competitor in The IFDA National Championship. Contestants have the option to complete their entry in advance; however, all entries must be submitted on-site. Visit our [website](#) for the 2025 Contest Guidelines, Drawing Contest Entry Form, and the Writing Contest Entry Form.

Sign Up to Attend the Free Transportation Learning Exchange – Oct. 23, 9-11:30 AM

The Learning Exchange meeting is a peer-driven discussion forum for Transportation Managers or similar positions. Participation is open **ONLY** to Distributor/Redistributor member companies registered for The National Championship. [Learn more](#) about the meeting format. To sign up, contact Annika Stensson - astensson@ifdaonline.org.

Written Exam in Spanish - Warehouse Only

IFDA will provide the written exam in English and Spanish for the Warehouse competition only. Although the competitor's preference was collected during the registration process, the request will be confirmed when competitors check in on-site. For those who requested it, they will receive the Spanish written exam on Friday.

IFDA will not provide live translation services during the practical course components of the competition. All verbal instructions, demonstrations, and real-time guidance during the practical portions will be conducted in English only. If translation is needed during the course walk-through, it is up to each company to provide it.

Technology Policy

The 2026 National Championship will have a strict *no technology* policy for competitors. During Orientations, Written Exam and the competition at Osceola Heritage Park, competitors cannot have their technology, including but not limited to:

- Mobile Phones
- Smart Watches
- iPads
- E-Readers
- Headphones/Earbuds

What should competitors do? We recommend that they leave all technology in their guest room or with family. If competitors bring technology to any of the competition events, they will have to drop it off at the IFDA Tech Desk (Thursday) or Staff Desk in the Sequestered Lounges (Friday). **Competitors found with technology will be disqualified.**

Safety Shoe Policy: 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 industrial truck operators in the food distribution industry. As such, we require all competitors to comply with the following:

- All competitors and judges are required to wear safety-toe footwear (composite/alloy toe, steel toe) 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: [Quick Fit Toe Cap - Large S-22258-L - Uline](#)

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Event
August 29	Recommended Company Rodeo Deadline
August 29	Affiliate Events Confirmed with Disney*
September 1	Housing Sub-Block Rooming Lists Due
September 22	Registration and Housing Close
October 23-25	The 2025 IFDA National Championship (Orlando, FL)

Information & Resources

All 2025 National Championship Resources are posted to IFDA’s Website. Bookmark this page and check back regularly for the latest updates: [2025 National Championship Resources](#)

- NEW! We recently posted a list of [frequently asked questions](#) to support you and your team.
- NEW! Need to ship materials to Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort? [Download the guide.](#)

Contact Us

events@ifdaonline.org

You are receiving this newsletter because you are currently serving – or previously served – as your Company’s Leader for The National Championship. If you are not the point of contact for your company, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our records. We encourage you to share this resource with your team to help them prepare for IFDA’s 2025 National Championship.