



# The Leader Letter

...Keeping Company Leaders Informed...

## NEW! Banquet Dinner – Table Assignments and Seating

This year's National Championship banquet seating will follow a different process than previous years. Each company will be assigned a number of tables, each seating ten guests, and company leaders must decide which group of ten will sit at each table. We're awaiting the final rendering of the ballroom and will notify your company of the table numbers associated with your allotment once we have received that information. If a company does not provide a seating assignment, employees will be told to seat themselves at any of the tables assigned to their company. **We strongly recommend assigning your team members a seat.** You do not need to notify IFDA of the seating assignments. Please communicate arrangements directly with your team. Please contact Jelena Matic at [jmatic@ifdaonline.org](mailto:jmatic@ifdaonline.org) to hear about your seating options.

## Technology Policy

The National Championship has 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.**

## Company Photographers and Videographers

If you're planning to bring photographers or videographers to the IFDA National Championship, please reach out to Kristen Petersen at [kpetersen@ifdaonline.org](mailto:kpetersen@ifdaonline.org) in advance. Kristen will share our media policies, provide you with the necessary consent form, and issue a media registration code to ensure your team has the appropriate access and credentials for the event. We look forward to working with you to capture this exciting competition!

## Dress Code

Whether you're competing, judging, or volunteering, we want you to feel comfortable, confident, and ready for action. Visit our [Dress for Success](#) page for what to wear to the competition and the awards banquet.

## 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 [astensson@ifdaonline.org](mailto:astensson@ifdaonline.org).

## Weather Policy

The IFDA National Championship is a rain-or-shine event. The event will be held as scheduled unless there are clear and evident severe weather conditions that arise on the day of the outdoor championship that could endanger attendees. We're watching the forecast closely. As of now, we anticipate the event to proceed as scheduled. We will provide updates if anything changes.

## 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.

## 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 Thursday.

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.

## 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](#)

## Onsite Adult Supervision

All children under 18 who are accompanying competitors or judges must have additional adult supervision at all times during the event.

## Agenda

As of 10/9/2025. Agenda is subject to change.

**All competitors and judges should arrive by 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 23** to allow enough time to check-in, pick up registration materials and arrive at the Orientations and Exams on time. Badges must be worn at all times to participate in IFDA events and meals.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23				
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open - General/Judges/Volunteers	Hotel	Acapulco
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open - Warehouse Competitors & Families	Hotel	Baja
8:00 AM	6:00 PM	Registration Open - Transportation Competitors & Families	Hotel	Cancun
9:00 AM	11:30 AM	Transportation Learning Exchange	Hotel	Lantana 2-3
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Raymond Skills Check	Hotel	Porte Cochere
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Transportation Orientation	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom K
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Warehouse Orientation	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom J
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Judges Orientation - Transportation	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom K
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Judges Orientation - Warehouse	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom J
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Transportation Vehicle Familiarization	Hotel	Porte Cochere
6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Written Exam (Transportation & Warehouse)	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom L-T
7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Family Orientation	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom H
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24				
5:00 AM	5:30 AM	Breakfast Refreshments for Competitors & Judges Available	Hotel	North Foyer
5:30 AM	5:45 AM	Drivers and Judges Bus Loading for Osceola Heritage Park	Hotel	Porte Cochere
6:00 AM	7:00 AM	Guest Breakfast at Hotel	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom L
6:30 AM	7:00 AM	Driver and Judges Breakfast at OHP	OHP	Silver Spurs Arena
7:00 AM	7:45 AM	Competitor/Judges Course Walkthrough	OHP	Silver Spurs Arena and Lot
8:15 AM	8:30 AM	Opening Ceremony	OHP	Silver Spurs Arena Flag Pole
8:45 AM	3:00 PM	Competitions and Family Activities	OHP	Silver Spurs Arena and Lot
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25				
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Reception & Photos with Disney Characters	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom L-T
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Banquet Seating ( <i>Doors Open</i> )	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom J-K
6:30 PM	8:30 PM	Banquet	Hotel	Coronado Ballroom J-K

## 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](#)

## Contact Us

[events@ifdaonline.org](mailto:events@ifdaonline.org)

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