

## TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY RULES

In order to participate in any ATA-approved Truck Driving Championships (TDC), you must meet the guidelines set forth in the ATA Truck Driving Championships State and National Rules and Procedures (Rulebook), including, but not limited to the following criteria:

1. Every driver entering TDC competition shall have an **Accident-free record for 12 months prior to entry and participation**. The only accidents which need not be counted against the contestant's criteria are those in which:
  - The contestant's vehicle was legally and properly parked.
  - The Contestant's vehicle was stopped in traffic in compliance with a traffic sign or signal or at the direction of a police officer.
  - Waived by the NTDC Committee in accordance with Appendix I-A of the Rulebook.
2. Every driver entering TDC competition shall meet the medical qualifications of the U.S. Department of Transportation and hold a CDL with proper endorsements as set forth in 49 CFR 391.41 which is Section 3941.41 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. You must submit evidence that you meet the DOT minimum qualifications.
3. Except as otherwise provided in the Rulebook, a driver eligible for State or National TDC competition must have been continuously employed by - or regularly and exclusively contracted to - the entering motor carrier for at least 12 months prior to the entry in any TDC and shall have driven and performed the regular duties of a professional truck driver for the entering motor carrier for at least 11 of the 12 months prior to entry. There are only two exceptions to this 11 of the 12 month rule - when the contestant's employer goes out of business and when the contestant has been on active military duty for a full term of active duty. The Rulebook explains the parameters of these exceptions in detail.
4. To compete, "performing the regular duties of a professional truck driver" shall have constituted a minimum of 1200 hours annually and no less than 60% of the contestant's hours worked for the entering motor carrier. This competition is for professional truck and professional step van drivers not for spotters, hostlers, switchers, yardmen, dock workers, and/or driver trainers. The required time spent performing the regular duties of a truck driver is intended to include time spent driving a commercial motor vehicle on streets and highways and loading/unloading his or her own CMV and is not intended to include driving a non-commercial vehicle, moving vehicles around in the yard, loading other trailers, or instructing other drivers. Though a contestant may perform these other tasks (hustling, loading other vehicles, training, etc.), those other tasks cannot constitute more than 40% of the contestant's time spent working for the entering motor carrier.

5. Drivers may participate in only one class, i.e. straight truck; three-axle tractor semi-trailer van; four-axle tractor trailer; five-axle tractor semi-trailer; flatbed; tank truck; twin-trailer; five-axle sleeper berth semi-trailer; or any specialized equipment class that may be added such as step van or automobile transporter.
6. Contestants may only participate in one state TDC per year and may only participate in a state TDC if he/she is either occupationally domiciled or holds a CDL in that state. Occupationally domiciled means where the driver's operational base is, in other words where the driver normally and usually works out of and/or is supervised. It is not the state where the corporate office is, unless the contestant is a long haul driver whose direction, supervision, and training all comes from/happens at the corporate office and there is no other company location where the driver regularly picks up, meets, trains, etc.
7. If a contestant has won two consecutive state TDCs in the same class of competition OR has competed twice at the National TDC in the same class of competition, he/she may not compete in that same class of competition for at least two consecutive years. This is considered the Retirement Rule. One exception: If a contestant has won two consecutive state TDCs in the Step Van class or has competed twice consecutively at the National TDC in the Step Van class, he/she may not compete in the Step Van class in the next year.

These and other eligibility requirements apply to all levels of ATA approved Truck Driving Championships competition: local; state; or regional. This not an exhaustive list and anyone who plans to participate in a TDC should acquire, read and comply with all of the eligibility and competition rules in the ATA Truck Driving Championships Rules and Procedures, published annually.

To order the rulebook go to [www.atabusinesssolutions.com](http://www.atabusinesssolutions.com) and click on Truck Driving Championships in the left column.