

Truck Driving Championships Rules and Eligibility for Drivers

ATA Membership/Exemptions

1. Participation in the ATA National Truck Driving Championships is limited to State Truck Driving Championships winning Drivers who are contracted or employed by motor carrier members of an ATA-affiliated state trucking association.

Job Status

1. The entering employer must be the Driver's primary employer.
2. The regular duties of a professional truck Driver must be the Driver's primary duties for the entering employer.
3. The Driver must have performed the duties of a professional truck Driver for the entering employer a minimum of 1200 hours annually.
4. The Driver must have performed the duties of a professional truck Driver for no less than 60 percent of the 1200 hours annually.
5. The regular duties of a professional truck Driver must include driving a commercial motor vehicle on streets and highways, as opposed to non-commercial motor vehicle or driving within the terminal.

The following Drivers are not eligible:

- a) Those employed principally for the movement of vehicles on private property (hostlers, spotters, switchers, or yardmen).
- b) Owner-operators, Driver-owners except those that have been performing duties of a professional truck Driver and exclusively under agreement of a single motor carrier a minimum of 12 months before entering the state truck driving championships.
- c) Employees or contract Drivers used occasionally or intermittently as Drivers.
- d) Employees or contract Drivers who drive trucks incidental to the performance of their principal duties including supervision, training or maintenance, managing the operation and/or business.

Length of Employment

1. The Driver must be continuously employed by the entering employer at least 12 months prior to entry of the state and national truck driving championships.
 - a) This requirement may be waived if the Driver's change in employment resulted from the motor carrier company going out of business. All employers must verify the driver's accident-free record.
 - b) This requirement may be waived if the Driver was on active military leave for a full-term of active duty. See State and National Rules and Procedures book for active military duty requirements.
2. The Driver must have performed the duties of a professional truck Driver 11 out of the 12 months.
3. Time off from normal duties more than 30 calendar days will render the Driver ineligible for entry. In other words, if the Driver has missed more than 30 calendar days within the 12 months prior to the completion, the Driver will be ineligible to compete.

4. The following time off from normal duties does not count towards the 30 days:
 - a) Normal days off, vacation, and holidays to which the employee is entitled to by company policy.
 - b) Bereavement leave resulting from a death in the immediate family is limited to 2 days.
 - c) Jury service properly verified to the employer.
 - d) An assignment as a member of America's Road Team or the Road Team of an ATA-affiliated state trucking association.
 - e) A Driver's birthday.

Safe Driving Record

1. The Driver must have an accident-free record from the day immediately following the previous state or National truck driving championships until and including the date of the current year's state truck driving championships.
2. The following accidents are not counted against the Driver's record:
 - a) The vehicle was legally and properly parked.
 - b) The Driver's vehicle was stopped at a traffic light or signal, or at the discretion of a police officer.
 - c) Waived by the ATA National Truck Driving Championships committee in accordance with Appendix I-A.

Appendix I Guidelines for Determining Motor Fleet Vehicle Accidents will be used to determine eligibility. National Trucking Driving Championships committee reserves the right to disqualify a participant.

Owner-Operator vs. Motor Carrier

1. A motor carrier driver will be eligible to participate in the state and national truck driving championships if the Driver's employer is operating as a motor carrier, and the Driver is not an owner-operator providing service to a multiplicity of motor carriers
2. The following evidence will be reviewed for each entering Driver to confirm eligibility:
 - a) Appropriate evidence of conduct of a motor carrier business.
 - b) A copy of the Driver's motor vehicle record from the state in which the Driver is domiciled.
 - c) A statement from the insurance carrier that the Driver has not been involved in any truck accidents in the 12 months prior to entry.
 - d) Evidence of compliance with the requirement that the Driver has driven and performed the duties of a professional truck driver 11 out of the 12 months prior to entry such as copies of driver logs, shipping documents, etc.

Physical Qualifications of Contestants

1. The Driver entering the competition must meet the medical qualifications of the U.S. Department of Transportation and must hold a CDL with proper endorsements as set forth in 49 CFR 391.41 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Residence Requirements

1. The Driver may participate in the state truck driving championships where he/she is occupationally domiciled, or, in the event the Driver is eligible under the ATA National

Truck Driving Championship rules, he/she may participate in the state Truck Driving Championships in the state in which the Driver holds a CDL.

- a) Occupationally domiciled refers to the terminal, garage, or other operating base from which the driver normally and usually works and/or is supervised or where the Driver holds a CDL.
 - b) A driver may not be transferred from one state to another for the purpose of being entered in the state Truck Driving Championships of the latter state.
2. A Driver cannot compete in more than one official state Truck Driving Championships in a given year.

Limits on Participation

1. Each year, drivers may only participate in one class (straight truck; three-axle tractor semi-trailer; four-axle tractor semi-trailer; five-axle tractor semi-trailer van, flatbed, or tank truck; twin-trailer; or any specialized class).

Practice Time

1. Time spent in practice will not count towards the minimum requirement of 1200 hours performing the duties of a professional truck driver annually.
2. No driver participating in a state or ATA National Truck Driving Championship shall receive any form of pay, bonus, prize, or other consideration for time spent in practice.
3. No driver shall participate in driving practice of any nature after the official opening of the competition, with the official opening of the ATA National Truck Driving Championships deemed to be 12:00 midnight on the Sunday immediately preceding the driver registration and orientation.

Entering Drivers in the Truck Driving Championships

1. Each contestant must properly complete and sign the official entry and release form which must be witnessed and signed by the entering employer. Forms shall be obtained from the state trucking association. For the ATA National Truck Driving Championships, the forms must be witnessed and signed and sent to the ATA SMC.
2. Each year, each driver shall enter a Truck Driving Championships at the basic level of competition established for the state Truck Driving Championships in which the driver is competing.

Retirement of Champions

1. A contestant who has appeared, competed, and/or won the same class of competition in two (2) consecutive ATA National Truck Driving Championships shall not be eligible to compete in that class of competition at the following two (2) consecutive ATA National Truck Driving Championships. After the required period of retirement has elapsed, the contestant may enter in the competition in the class he/she retired from.
2. A contestant who has appeared, competed, and/or won the same class of competition in two (2) consecutive state Truck Driving Championships and then competed in that class at the National Truck Driving Championship in the same two (2) years shall not be eligible to compete in that class of competition at the following two (2) consecutive state Truck Driving Championships. After the required period of retirement has elapsed, the contestant may enter in the competition in the class he/she retired from.

Disqualification

1. Any contestant that has a collision during practice or competition in a company, state, ATA Truck Driving Championship shall be disqualified from further participation if it results in damage to the power unit or trailer being driven by the contestant, damage to any other vehicles or combination on or off the skills test course, damage to building walls or other stationary objects, or injury to any persons.
2. The TDC committee chairman shall disqualify any contestant in the state competition who has been guilty of obvious misconduct, or violation of the rules governing eligibility, competition, and/or practice for state and ATA NTDC competition.
3. A State Champion may be disqualified from participation in the ATA NTDC if she/he have attempted, on his/her own initiative, to commercialize his/her winning of the state or National TDC.
4. In the event the State Champion is unable to compete due to disqualification, ineligibility, or personal reasons, the second place winner in the same class may compete in the ATA NTDC if so qualified.