



2026 Truck Driving Championships Competition Information

May 15-16, 2026
Kalahari Resort & Conference Center
7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870
877-525-2427

Questions? Contact:

Bradie Berry, Ohio Trucking Association
bradie@ohiotrucking.org or 614-519-6462

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** Driver registrations must be made online or via the forms sent by the Ohio Trucking Association through email and are due no later than **Friday, April 17, 2026**. Payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after this date except in extreme circumstances.*

Contestant Eligibility & Certification Requirements

To compete, a contestant must:

- ✓ Have driven and performed the regular duties of a truck or step van driver since August 23, 2025. *Note, those who drive professionally and also serve as driver trainers are required to spend 60% of their time serving as a professional driver and must perform the regular duties of a professional truck driver for a minimum of 1200 hours annually.*
- ✓ Have been continuously employed by their entering motor carrier, and away from work no more than 30 days starting August 23, 2025 until May 15, 2026. The following days should not be counted towards a driver's 30 days. *Note that sick days must be counted towards a driver's 30-day count.*
 - Normal days off, vacation, and holidays to which the driver is entitled by company policy.
 - Bereavement leave resulting from a death in the immediate family is limited to two days.
 - Jury service properly verified to the employer.
 - An assignment as a member of the America's Road Team, the Road Team of an ATA-affiliated state trucking association or a company Road Team.
 - A driver's birthday.
- ✓ Have not been involved in a fleet motor vehicle or motor carrier vehicle accident since August 23, 2025.
 - Drivers who have been involved in a non-preventable accident based on ATA's [Guidelines for Recording Vehicle Accident & Determining Preventability](#) may be eligible to compete if approved by the ATA Safety Management Council / NTDC Eligibility Review Committee. If you would like to submit an accident for review, please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the official Eligibility Request form. *Note that the approval process will be handled by the ATA Safety Management Council / NTDC Eligibility Review Committee. The committee will need 5-7 business days to make their decision. A driver cannot be registered for the Ohio TDC until the committee has made their decision. Please plan accordingly.*
- ✓ Have the proper class CDL (not required if the applicant is a SVDC applicant), plus required endorsement(s) for the class of competition.
 - "N" endorsement to compete in the Tank Truck Class
 - "T" endorsement to compete in the Twin Trailer Class
 - Straight truck class competitors must have a minimum of Class B CDL
- ✓ Hold a CDL from or have been occupationally domiciled in the state of Ohio. *Occupational domiciled is defined as the terminal, garage or other operating base from which the driver normally works is supervised and/or where the employer is corporately headquartered.*
- ✓ Understand that the class of competition selected in 2026 is not a class in which the driver won at the Ohio TDC and/or competed at the National TDC in 2024 and 2025. Driver and company understand that after winning two consecutive years at the Ohio TDC and/or competing two consecutive years at the Nationals in that same class of competition, the

driver is not eligible to compete in that same class for two years if a competitor is in any other class.

- ✓ Have not received any form of pay, bonus, prize, or other consideration for time spent in practice as set forth in the Truck Driving Championships Rules & Procedures.
- ✓ Agrees that if the driver competes and wins the Ohio TDC, that driver will compete at the National TDC or SVDC (as applicable), unless disqualified or detained due to a medical emergency, in which case the driver will notify the Ohio Trucking Association immediately.
- ✓ Acknowledges that any misstatement made with respect to the driver's eligibility for the TDC or SVDC competition may result in the forfeiture of the driver's right to compete, or in the disqualification from said competition.
- ✓ Be employed by a member of the Ohio Trucking Association. Owner-Operators are not eligible to compete in the TDC program unless they are contracted to a single company.

Ground Rules and Expectations

Event Registration

Companies will complete the official 2026 Ohio Trucking Association Truck Driving Championships registration spreadsheet or register their drivers online at ohiotrucking.org. The safety manager of that company will certify on the registration form that the registered drivers meet the above eligibility qualifications. Copies of the MVR or CDL license are not required.

Competitor registrations must be received by **Friday, April 17, 2026**. Payment is due at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after this date except in extreme circumstances. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Bradie Berry at bradie@ohiotrucking.org or 614-519-6462.

Competition Check-In & Driver Orientation

All TDC contestants must report to the Kilimanjaro Ballroom on Friday, May 15, 2026, by 8:00 am for competition check-in and orientation. Failure to register or attend orientation will result in disqualification. Do not sit next to another competitor from your company.

Attendance & Roll Call

TDC contestants must attend all roll calls. The initial roll call will be on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 8:00 am during competition check-in. Bullpen monitors will conduct roll calls for drivers upon entering the bullpens and throughout the competition.

Written Exam

All TDC contestants will be required to complete the written exam on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 8:30 am. The Ohio Trucking Association strongly recommends studying the American Trucking Association's *Facts for Drivers Handbook*. This is the study guide for the written exam and the driving competition. For a printed, digital, or audio version, visit the ATA Business Solutions website at <https://www.atabusinesssolutions.com/Shopping/>. *Facts for Drivers* books, notes, note cards, and any other preparatory materials are not allowed on the testing tables and should not be

utilized during the test. These items must be handed over to a committee member upon entering the orientation room.

Classes & Schedule

Drivers compete in one of the following classes: 3-Axle, 4-Axle, 5-Axle, Flatbed, Sleeper, Step Van, Straight Truck, Tank Truck, or Twin Trailers.

Half of the classes will complete their pre-trip and course competition on Friday, May 15, and the remaining classes will complete their pre-trip and course competition on Saturday, May 16. Drivers and safety managers will be notified via email of their course and pre-trip competition days no later than two weeks prior to the Truck Driving Championships. A sample schedule is included in this packet. No class or driver changes, including onsite, will be accepted after April 17, 2026.

Bullpens

Drivers must be in their designated class bullpen at the scheduled times. These times will be emailed to competitors and safety managers in advance, and announcements will be made during the event.

The room to which classes are assigned for both pre-trip and course events will be clearly marked outside of the room, as well as in the final schedule sent out before the event. Once called to a staging area, you may only bring the items necessary to complete that portion of the competition. Backpacks, study materials, notes, and similar items must remain in the bullpens.

All contestants must report back to the area they are advised to go to after finishing their pre-trip or course event. Drivers are not permitted to leave a designated area until a TDC representative has instructed them to do so.

Teams

Teams will consist of all drivers from the same company. Terminal teams are not permitted.

- ✓ Teams consisting of 3-4 drivers will be entered in the Small Team Competition, and only the top three competitors' scores will be considered.
- ✓ Teams consisting of five or more drivers will be entered in the Large Team Competition, and only the top five competitors' scores will be considered.

Meals

All drivers receive breakfast on Friday morning; those drivers completing their pre-trip and course competition on Friday will also receive lunch that day. Competitors completing their pre-trip and course competition on Saturday will receive breakfast Saturday morning.

Weather

TDC is a rain-or-shine event. The driving course and pre-trip area are outside; please dress appropriately according to the weather.

Safety Protocols

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, are waiting for COVID-19 test results, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for or who has symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend the 2026 Ohio Truck Driving Championships.

Code of Conduct

Professionalism is required of all contestants, judges, volunteers, staff, and company and industry representatives. The Code of Conduct must be adhered to at all times, or the competitor could risk disqualification.

1. No alcohol is permitted in or around the competition area during the entire event; alcohol must not be consumed at any time during competition days, until the competition is over.
2. Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is a smoke-free area. Smoking is allowed only in designated areas.
3. No abusive or profane language will be tolerated.
4. Respect will be shown to all fellow contestants, judges, and volunteers.
5. No destruction of personal or private property will be tolerated.
6. All contestants and their families are expected to behave responsibly and in a professional manner.
7. Cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses (including any electronic or camera-enabled eyewear), headphones, and earbuds are not permitted at any time during the competition (including the written test, pre-trip, course, and bullpens). Competitors may not possess or wear these items. Additionally, hats or headwear that cover the ears are not permitted.
Volunteers must take calls outside of the competition area.
8. Any driving accident will result in immediate disqualification.
9. For all situations not addressed in this code, or for more stringent company policy, please see your company official or representative for clarification.

Violation of the Code of Conduct will result in immediate disqualification from this year's event. If a driver has completed any or all of the competition when the violation occurs, the driver's scores will be voided. Company officials will be notified, and depending on the severity of the violation, an individual or company may be denied entry to further TDC events.

The Contestant Ground Rules and Expectations and the Code of Conduct have been implemented to ensure safety for drivers, their families, and volunteers, as well as fair and equal opportunities for all drivers competing.

If a contestant has a concern or problem, it is to be reported to their bullpen monitor, a course or pre-trip judge, or an Ohio Trucking Association staff member. These individuals will be marked as such on their name badges. These individuals will then notify the TDC Chair and/or the committee if necessary.

2026 Ohio Truck Driving Championships Schedule

Friday, May 15, 2026

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Orange Room
8:00 AM	Registration & Orientation	Kilimanjaro Ballroom
8:30 AM	Written Test	Kilimanjaro Ballroom
10:00 AM	3-Axle Sleeper Berth	Report to Course Bullpen in the Leopardwood Room
10:00 AM	Flatbed Twin Trailers	Report to Pre-Trip Bullpen in the Zebrawood Room

4-Axle, 5-Axle, Step Van, Straight Truck & Tank Truck classes are released for the day following the written test.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:00 AM	Breakfast	Orange Room
7:00 AM	4-Axle Straight Truck	Report to Course Bullpen in the Leopardwood Room
7:00 AM	5-Axle Step Van Tank Truck	Report to Pre-Trip Bullpen in the Zebrawood Room
6:00 PM	Reception & Awards Banquet	Kilimanjaro Ballroom

Note that ALL classes are running on a continuous schedule. Competitors are not permitted to leave the competition area until their bullpen monitors release them.

All times are subject to change based on the pace of the competition.

Additional Information

Facility Information

Weather and Spectators

TDC is a rain-or-shine event. The driving course and pre-trip area are outside; please dress appropriately according to the weather. Bleachers will be available; spectators are permitted to bring their own chairs.

We want to keep the competition family-friendly. However, children should not be running, throwing balls, or doing anything around the course that may compromise their safety or distract the competitors. Please advise the families with children to monitor their activity around the course, or they could be asked to leave the area.

Restricted Areas

During the competition, family members and company representatives are not permitted inside the competition areas or restricted areas unless escorted by a committee or staff member, and only in the event of an emergency.

No one is allowed in the TDC course area, pre-trip area, written test room, or bullpen area unless it is during the hours of the competition. Competitors are only permitted in these areas on their day of competition. Anyone found in the restricted areas before or after hours will be subject to disqualification of themselves and/or their company. This includes competitors, spouses, children, friends, company officials, or anyone who should not be in the competition area.

Drones

Flying drones in and around the Ohio Truck Driving Championships competition is strictly prohibited unless you have received prior, written approval from the Ohio Trucking Association and TDC Committee. Violating this policy may result in competitor or team disqualification.

Outside Food and Beverage Policy

All food and beverages associated with the Ohio Truck Driving Championships must be provided, prepared, and served by the Kalahari and must be consumed on Hotel premises.

Company Tent Policy

If your company plans to bring a tent to the Truck Driving Championships (TDC), the Ohio Trucking Association (OTA) must be notified by May 1, 2026 to reserve space. Tent locations will be determined through a random raffle drawing on May 4, 2026, and companies will be notified of their assigned location before the event.

Tent Specifications and Placement

- Tents are limited to a maximum size of 10' x 10'.
- All tents must be secured with appropriate weights and anchors to ensure safety and prevent movement due to weather.
- If bringing more than one tent, additional tents must be placed in the second or third row.
- Tent tops must be removed by 6:00 pm on Friday to prevent damage overnight.

Setup and Teardown Guidelines

- Setup is permitted on Friday morning between 6:00 am and 9:00 am. Competitors are not allowed to set up tents.
- Thursday setup is strictly prohibited due to course preparation. Any company tent set up on Thursday may result in driver disqualification.
- Teardown should not begin until the last competitor has completed the course on Saturday.

Volunteer Information

Registration

Volunteers will need to register through their company via the form sent to their company's representative by email or online at ohiotrucking.org.

Meals

Volunteers will receive meals on the days that they work except for the banquet on Saturday night, for which they must pay the standard banquet meal price. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026.

Hotel Information

Hotel Reservations

Room reservations will be made through the company representatives. Room availability is on a first-come, first-serve basis and will sell out very quickly.

For companies booking **less than ten** sleeping rooms, please contact the Kalahari Reservation Department at 877-525-2427 or book online [here](#)

For companies booking **more than ten** sleeping rooms, contact Jerry Simon, Director of Sales, 419-433-7081 or jsimon@kalahariresorts.com

The sleeping room rate starts at \$159/night. Please be aware of all deposit and cancellation policies. All reservations must be made on or before Friday, April 10, 2026. When contacting Kalahari, ensure they know you are calling for the "2026 Truck Driving Championships" room block.

Hotel Key Pickup

Company representatives should direct each competitor to check-in directly with the front desk. If you have any questions regarding check-in, please call the Kalahari Reservation Department at 877-525-2427.

Water Park and Amenities Information

Each sleeping room reservation receives four complimentary water park passes. Additional passes may be purchased through Kalahari.

Banquet Information

Drivers

Each driver competing receives one banquet ticket as part of their registration fee. Drivers will be seated with their company.

Family Members and Guests

Family members and guests must have a banquet ticket, which can be purchased online or by contacting Bradie Berry at bradie@ohiotrucking.org or 614-519-6462. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026.

Volunteers

Volunteers must purchase a banquet ticket if they wish to attend the banquet. These tickets can be purchased online or by contacting Bradie Berry at bradie@ohiotrucking.org or 614-519-6462. The banquet registration deadline is Friday, April 17, 2026.

Dress Code

The dress code for the banquet is business professional. A photographer will be present to take pictures of the audience as well as sponsors and award winners.

Truck Driving Championships Sponsorship Information

Our Truck Driving Championships are made possible through the generous support of sponsors. Contact Director of Business Development Deb Seiple at 614-653-1991 or deb@ohiotrucking.org to secure your spot! *Sponsorships are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

National Truck Driving Championships

All first-place winners in each class, as well as the Grand Champion, will be eligible to go to the National Truck Driving Championships held August 11-14 in Pittsburgh, PA. Driver companies will be advised of the registration cost, and each driver will receive a packet of information. The American Trucking Association's NTDC registration form must be completed, and a check must be sent to the Ohio Trucking Association for the registration to be forwarded to ATA along with registration information.

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions Map

