



IDS 2026 INTERNATIONAL DOCK DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Criteria Document

OVERVIEW

Each approved IDS facility will host the Championship at their dock on the same day, at the same time, where all IDS competitors who have earned an invite throughout the season will face off against their peers near and far! The results coming from each dock will be updated and posted LIVE as they happen, acting as a “virtual” Championship event. The top dogs in the World, in each division, including the Open, Lap, and Legend classes will be awarded based on a bracket style tournament to determine the 2026 International Dock Diving Champions in all 3 dock diving games: Horizon, Eclipse and Velocity.

WHEN

September 11–13, 2026

WHERE

Your closest IDS dock! Each participating IDS facility will host the Championship at their locations on the same day(s) and the same time(s) so you will not have to travel far and can compete at your normal home dock. IDS facilities can apply to host the Championship May 15th–May 31st annually. If you do not see your favorite IDS facility on the list, be sure to let them know that you want to participate next year!

2026 IDS Dock Diving Season Dates: September 15th, 2025 – September 13th, 2026

2026 Participating Locations

Facility	City	State / Province
Carousel Diving Dogs	Mount Airy	MD
Country Roads Canine Activities	Thornton	WV
Duke's K9 Dash N Splash	Windham	OH
K-9 STAC of South Dakota	Rapid City	SD
PepperJack's Plunge	Pflugerville	TX
Sea Dogz	Ogden	UT
Sliding G Ranch	Chapel Hill	NC

Facility	City	State / Province
The Northern Border	Washingtonville	OH
Triple Play Dog Sports	Galt	CA
Youngblood's Dive In	Wilkinson	IN

WAYS TO EARN AN INVITE

QUALIFIERS: The top 3 dogs in each division, in each class, of each game, at each IDS qualifier, during the 2026 season, who have not already received an invite, will earn an invitation to compete at the 2026 Championship. In the event of a tie that cannot be broken via the tie breakers outlined in the [guidelines](#), both dogs will be invited. Invites roll down to the next dog who does not have an invite. Qualifier invites will usually be emailed within 7–10 days post event. There is a 2 round minimum needed in Horizon, at the qualifier, in order to be eligible to earn an invite.

RANKINGS: The top 10 dogs in each division, in each class, of each game, based on the end of the year rankings and the dog's season average, will also earn an invite. If dogs in the top 10 have already earned an invite, invites will roll down up to the top 20. Rankings invites will be emailed within 48 hours of the season end.

JUNIORS: Top 3 Juniors, in each Junior division, at each qualifying event will earn an invite to the Championship. See the Junior Handler Showcase section of this document for complete details. Junior invites will usually be emailed within 7–10 days post event.

2025 CHAMPIONS: All dogs that placed in the top 3 during the 2025 Championship received auto invites to the 2026 Championship. Prior year champion invites were emailed the week after the 2025 Championship. Please note: A dog must have a valid season average for every game in which they are invited for the invitation to be official. This means the dog must compete in at least one event in the 2026 season to be eligible to accept their invite.

FRONTIER AWARD: Any dog traveling and competing at 3 or more different IDS locations, across 2 or more states throughout the 2026 season, will earn an invitation to the 2026 Championship. Frontier Award invites will be emailed within 48 hours of the season end.

If you are unsure if your dog has earned a 2026 invite, check the [Invitee Report](#) on the IDS website.

ACCEPTING YOUR INVITATION

Registration for the 2026 IDS Championship opens August 1, 2026 at Noon EST on the IDS website and closes September 2, 2026 at 11:59pm EST. Please ensure you are registering at the correct location before submitting. The entry list becomes final at the close of registration. Out of fairness to all competitors, no additions, substitutions, or modifications will be permitted after that time. **Dogs not registered prior to the deadline are not eligible to compete.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in honoring this process.

Registration opens August 1, 2026 at <https://internationaldogsports.com/2026championship/>

CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FEES (PER DOG)

Game / Entry	Fee Per Dog
Horizon	\$100
Eclipse	\$60
Velocity	\$40
Junior Handler	\$15 (per Junior only, not per dog)

HOW THE CHAMPIONSHIP WORKS

Velocity & Eclipse (specialty games) will be held across all locations on Friday. Both will be an all-in-one finals format. For Eclipse: the soft white double string Dokken bumper will be used across all locations and only the handler is permitted to throw a toy to their dog to encourage the dog to exit the pool during the Championship. All of the scores, from all locations, will be compared side by side and the top 3 dogs in each division, in each class will be named the 2026 IDS Champions. Awards will be mailed by IDS via USPS after the event.

Horizon (distance) qualifying rounds will be held across all locations on Saturday. Each facility will report all of their scores from those rounds, in real time, to IDS. The average of both of the dog's recorded scores from the qualifying rounds AND the dog's season average will be used to determine which dogs move to the Championship Bracket Tournaments. The top 8 dogs in each LAP and LEGEND division and the top 24 dogs in each OPEN division will face off in the Horizon Championship Bracket Tournament. See additional game specific information below.

TIER (DIVISION) PLACEMENT

In an ongoing effort to maintain the integrity of the competition and to encourage everyone to do their best throughout the season and at the Championship, the format for tier placement during the 2026 Championship is as follows: a Floating Bubble format will be used to determine Championship tiers. Each dog's average (as determined during the qualifying rounds on Saturday) will be reported to IDS and ranked from highest to lowest. A bell curve will then be applied to determine which Horizon bracket the dog will be competing in. A standard distribution of Tier 1 = 10%, Tier 2 = 15%, Tier 3 = 12.5%, Tier 4 = 12.5%, Tier 5 = 25%, Tier 6 = 15%, and Tier 7 = 10% will be used to determine the 7 Horizon tiers (6 for Lap and Legend). The top 24 dogs in each OPEN tier and the top 8 dogs in LAP and LEGEND will advance to the bracket tournament, seeded highest to lowest. Tie breakers are listed in the "Tie Breaker" section below.

HORIZON CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET TOURNAMENT

A single elimination, 24 dog bracket will be used to determine the jump order and placements for the OPEN Horizon International Championship Bracket Tournament. A single elimination, 8 dog bracket will be used for LAP and LEGEND classes. Those top dogs will face off at the same time and complete 1 more jump. Dog #1 could be in Ohio facing off against Dog #2 in Utah.

The dog with the higher score moves onto the 2nd round of the bracket and jumps 1 more time and so on. The top 3 dogs making their way all the way to the end of the bracket, in each Horizon division and class, will be named the 2026 IDS Champions. Awards will be mailed by IDS via USPS after the event.



DOUBLE TITLE POINTS

All dogs earn DOUBLE the Skill points for each qualifying score during the Championship. This includes Horizon, Eclipse, and Velocity. All skill points earned during the Championship will be calculated using the standard IDS point schedule and divisions, not the Championship Floating Bubble tier divisions. The Floating Bubble divisions used during the Championship are for bracket assignment purposes only. Double points apply to all recorded scores during the Championship, including the Horizon brackets. For example: if a dog jumps 17'6" they would normally receive 5 skill points towards their title for that round; during the Championship, 17'6" will earn them 10 skill points. In addition, all dogs placing in the top 3 at the Championship receive a Major towards their titles as well.

SPORTSMANSHIP

IDS expects every team to exercise good sportsmanship and jump to the best of their ability. IDS strictly enforces a no sandbagging policy. IDS will review any suspected sandbagging accusation and will withhold Championship title points and/or awards if we believe sandbagging has occurred.

PRACTICE

There is no practice at the Championship during the actual Championship rounds. Each facility may offer practice times outside of the Championship schedule, if they wish, as time allows.

JUMP / SWIM ORDER

The jump orders for Horizon and Velocity will be 2 jumps/swims back to back in alpha order A-Z by dog's name. for the Championship across all facilities. Exceptions can be worker dogs or multi dog handlers. No practice during any rounds. The jump order for Eclipse will be "All-In" (the team stays on the dock until they are out). Eclipse starting distances will be no more than 3 feet below the dog's current average.

TIE BREAKERS

Horizon tie breakers will be based on all 4 qualifying round scores, highest to lowest. The dog with the highest season average coming into the Championship will advance. The dog with the most accumulated skill points in the current season will advance if the tie remains. Eclipse ties will follow the normal season tie breakers listed in the [guidelines](#). Velocity tie breakers will be based on both qualifying scores, lowest to highest. If the tie is still not broken, the dog with a faster season average will win.

LIVESTREAM AND BROADCAST

Each participating facility will livestream all of the action from their location during the Championship. Viewers will be able to see scores and results LIVE as they come in. Be sure to pin the [2026 IDS Championship page](#) to your favorites.



IDS JUNIOR HANDLER SHOWCASE

Celebrating Progress, Consistency, and Teamwork

The IDS Junior Handler Showcase at the IDS Championship is all about personal growth and partnership with your dog. Instead of competing solely on distance, juniors are rewarded for improvement, control, and consistency.

Juniors who have received an invite to the Championship can compete in any or all of the 3 dock diving games offered at the Championship with a dog of their choosing, so long as the dog has also received and accepted an invitation in said game(s).

Juniors' Horizon points will be earned during Sunday's Showcase only. The Showcase will consist of 2 Horizon jumps. Points will be awarded for both scores.

Juniors who wish to earn additional points at the Championship for Eclipse and/or Velocity should be prepared to attend Friday for those games in addition to Sunday's Showcase.

Juniors are not required to use the same dog for every game, but must designate which dog(s) they will be competing with for scoring purposes at the time they accept their invitation — on a per-game basis. Facilities are responsible for verifying that each Junior Handler is paired to the correct dog(s) in the IDS scoring system prior to competition. The dog(s) designated at registration must be the dog(s) used during the Championship. Exceptions will only be considered for circumstances outside the handler's control, such as the loss of a dog.

The Junior Handler fee of \$15 is per Junior Handler regardless of how many games they play or the number of dogs they compete with.

Each dog can only be entered into Eclipse and Velocity once. The same dog cannot be entered multiple times with different handlers.

The same dog can be used by multiple Juniors during the Junior Handler Showcase assuming they have met the criteria mentioned above.

The Junior will earn points based on where the dog scores relative to the dog's season average. The objective is to score higher than the season average, demonstrating the Junior's handling abilities and overall improvement throughout the season. Scores below the season average will be worth less and scores above will be worth more.

Juniors can accumulate points in all 3 games with Horizon being the most heavily weighted.

The top 3 Juniors in each division will be announced Sunday and awarded a rosette and will receive a portion of the 2026 IDS scholarship fund (prizes will be mailed post event).

Note: The \$15 Junior Handler Championship entry fee is for the Junior, not the dog(s) they are handling. All dogs entered need to have paid the normal entry fee for each game entered. The Junior fee is a one-time fee for the Championship regardless of how many games they play or dogs they compete with. The full \$15 Junior Handler entry fee is owed to IDS as all Junior fees go directly to the IDS Junior Handler Scholarship Fund.

JUNIOR SHOWCASE SCORING SYSTEM

How It Works

Improvement = Points. Jumping above your dog's season average earns points. Jumping below the average loses a few points (less than you can gain). A Consistency Bonus is awarded when two jumps are close in distance. This system means that every junior can succeed, regardless of their dog's maximum jump.

Why This System?

- Focuses on improving your own performance
- Levels the field — all juniors have the chance to excel
- Rewards the skills that make strong competitors: control, teamwork, and adaptability

HORIZON

- Catches = 1 point each
- 1 point = below season average
- 2 points = equal to season average
- 3 points = above season average
- 4 points = new personal best
- Consistency Bonus = +5 points if both jumps are within 6 inches

Horizon Performance Points: Each Junior starts with 50 baseline performance points per jump.

- +1 point for every inch above season average
- -1 point for every 2 inches below season average

ECLIPSE

- 1 point = below season average
- 2 points = equal to season average
- 3 points = above season average

- 4 points = new personal best

VELOCITY

- 1 point = below season average
- 2 points = equal to season average
- 3 points = above season average
- 4 points = new personal best

Tie Breakers

- Highest skill points earned in the 2026 season
- Highest lifetime skill points earned

Example Scoring

Timmy & Lassie (Season Averages: Horizon 10'3", Eclipse 10', Velocity 6.543 sec)

- Horizon Jump 1: 9'11" with catch = 1 showcase + 1 catch = 2 points; 48 performance points
- Horizon Jump 2: 10'6" = 3 showcase points; 53 performance points
- Eclipse: 11' = 3 showcase points
- Velocity: 6.321 sec (below average) = 1 point
- Total = 106 (Horizon) + 3 (Eclipse) + 1 (Velocity) = 110 points

JUNIOR AWARDS & PRIZES

The 2026 IDS Junior Handler Scholarship Fund will be divided among the top Junior Handler teams with checks being mailed after the Championship along with their IDS rosettes and sponsor prizes.

IDS is always looking for any businesses or individuals that may be interested in contributing to the scholarship fund. Please email IDS for more info or if you know of interested parties at info@internationaldogsports.com.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, September 11th, 2026

- Velocity — All-in-One Finals
- Eclipse — All-in-One Finals

Saturday, September 12th, 2026

- Horizon Qualifying Round #1
- Horizon Qualifying Round #2
- Horizon LEGEND, LAP & OPEN Bracket Qualifiers Announced
- Horizon LEGEND — 8 Dog Bracket Tournament (Tiers 1–6)
- Horizon LAP — 8 Dog Bracket Tournament (Tiers 1–6)

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

- Juniors Showcase — Little Lunars, Global Gems, Jupiter Juniors, Solar Seniors
- Horizon OPEN — 24 Dog Bracket Tournament (Tiers 1–7)

Actual start times will vary by location based on each location's number of entries. The jump order and actual start times will not be available until the week of the event. Consult your facility the week of the Championship for more precise times. All times are EST and TBD.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [IDS Dock Diving Divisions](#)
- [IDS Dock Diving Guidelines](#)
- [IDS Junior Handler Program](#)
- [IDS Title Program](#)
- [2026 Score & Rankings](#)
- [2026 IDS Championship Web Page](#)
- [2026 IDS Championship Invitee Facebook Group](#)

Check back closer to the event for all of the livestream information you will need to watch the [2026 IDS Championship Broadcast!](#)

The Championship Criteria is subject to change without notice. IDS reserves the right to reevaluate the rules and Championship criteria as needed, at any time.