**Participating in the DVG National Championship**

**General Criteria and Scorebook Requirements**

To trial at the National Championship, you must:

* Be a member of LV DVG America in good standing by July 1st the year of the Nationals (so you must apply by June 1).
* Have a valid DVG scorebook for your dog with room in the scorebook for the Nationals’ scores.
* Present the original scorebook no later than the draw. The Trial Chair may approve exceptions in unusual circumstances.

If the dog is handled by someone other than the owner, both owner and handler must be DVG members.

We will enter scores in all outside organizations’ scorebooks, so long as those scorebooks are given to the Trial Secretary before the trial begins. We will also enter scores in your Sports pass.

## Qualifying for Participation in the DVG America Nationals

To compete at the IPO 1 level, the dog and handler team must have earned a BH or earned an IPO 1 title with an “a” TSB rating at any time following the previous Nationals.

To compete at the IPO 2 level, the dog and handler team must have earned an IPO 1 or IPO 2 title with an “a” TSB rating at any time following the previous Nationals.

To compete at the IPO3 level, the dog and handler team must have earned an IPO 2 or IPO 3 title with an “a” TSB rating at any level at any time following the previous Nationals.

Note: For dogs who have not yet earned an IPO 3 title, at least one title must have been earned in a DVG Trial.

**Entering the Nationals**

* Follow the directions listed on the Nationals event website.

**Drawing for position**

* All competitors must attend the draw.
* If for some reason you cannot attend, notify the Trial Chair. The Trial Chair will draw for you when all the other competitors have drawn.
* If you have a bitch in season, notify the Trial Chair. You will do obedience and protection after the last flight.

**Practice**

Practice on the trial field will be Thursday morning starting at 8AM. All equipment, both obedience and protection, will be in place for you to use. You have 5 minutes but we encourage you to schedule as a group so you can each have more time on the field.

Please practice good sportsmanship in sharing the jump, wall, etc. You must provide your own helper and their equipment.

A judge (not a judge for the championship) or member of the LV Board will be present during practice to keep handlers on schedule.

During practice sessions on the trial field you must conduct yourself in a sportsmanlike manner both with others and with their dogs. Any unsportsmanlike conduct may be grounds for expulsion from the trial, as well as for additional penalties.

You may use food and toys on the field during practice. Please be careful not to leave any food on the field. E-collars and pinch collars may be used in a proper sportsmanlike manner during the practice session, as may other normal training equipment such as leashes and long lines.

## Dress Code

You must wear black pants and a plain white collared shirt in the obedience and protection phases. The shirt may be either short or long sleeved. No club insignia or logos are allowed. You can wear whatever you like for tracking. Black pants and a white shirt should be worn for the closing ceremonies as well. Outerwear for inclement weather is allowed.

## Championship helpers

LV Championship Helpers may not work any dogs that are entered in the Championship from 12:00 midnight the Sunday before the Championship until the Championship trial activities are completed, except during the Championship itself.