

2018 MA Truck Driving Championship  
New England Tractor Trailer Training School  
1600 Osgood Street \* North Andover, MA  
Sunday, June 3, 2018

**Massachusetts Truck Driving Championship  
Information & Entry Form**

Date: March 2018  
To: Managers / Safety Supervisors / Drivers  
From: Fred Schenk, Chair, 2018 TDC Committee

**Re: 2018 Massachusetts Professional Truck Driving Championship**

The 2018 Massachusetts TDC will be held on **Sunday, June 3, 2018** at **New England Tractor Trailer Training School 1600 Osgood Street, North Andover, MA.**

As always, this is an important **SAFETY EVENT** and we look forward to you and your company's participation.

**Sign-up Procedure Checklist**

STEP #1 Company Representative - Fill out the attached driver sign-up sheet.  
Enclose a check for the total number of entries (Preliminary Entry Form).  
**Study guides will be sent when the Preliminary Entry form & payment is received.**

STEP #2 Drivers - Complete the ATA Entry & Release form (2 pages). Signed by Company  
Attach a copy of your driver's license  
Attach a copy of your MVR (no more than 6 months old)  
Attach the Eligibility, Rules, equipment, t-shirt & hotel info FORM

The Driver Sign-up Sheet and payment for each driver entered is the first step.

**Important:** Upon receipt of your payment, the **necessary** Facts for Drivers study guide will be sent to each driver.

Drivers must fill out the ATA Entry & Release form (2 pages) and return it to the Entry & Eligibility Chairman **POSTMARKED** no later than **Friday, May 25, 2018.**

All of the forms may be sent at the same time, but the ATA Driver Entry & Release form **MUST** be received before the deadline.

**ENTRY FEE SCHEDULE**

\$95.00 Trucking Association of Massachusetts members  
\$190.00 Non-TAM member

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Welcome to the 2018 Massachusetts TDC. This year's competition is being held at NETTTS- 1600 Osgood Street in North Andover, MA. **We will attempt to follow the "Schedule of Events" as close as possible. However, please keep in mind, times and events are subject to change throughout the day. PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 7:00– 7:30 AM  | Driver sign-in / registration<br><b>(25-point deduction if you are NOT registered by 7:30AM)</b> |
| 7:30 – 8:00 AM | Welcome Remarks & Course Overview (Drivers & Judges)   |
| 8:00 – 9:00 AM | Written Test (one-hour time limit)   |
| 8:00-9:00 AM   | Course Walk through Judges/Assignment for Judges   |
| 9:00 – 9:30 AM | Course walk through for drivers  |
| 9:30 AM        | Competition Begins   |
| 3:30 PM        | Awards Ceremony  |

Pre-trip inspections will be conducted throughout the day. Listen for your class to be announced.

The schedule for the field course will be announced on Sunday Morning.

The Awards ceremony will be held **after** the completion of the competition. Lunch will be available on site and **complimentary**.

**Families will NOT be allowed to see competitors while they are in the bullpen waiting to drive or waiting for their turn at Pre-Trip.**

The TDC is a rain or shine event. Bring your lawn chairs, umbrellas, pop up tents, etc.

**WHAT MAKES UP THE TRUCK DRIVING COMPETITION?**

Written test: There is a 40-question multiple choice test worth a total of 80 points. There are 4 sections: Trucking Industry, Rules, First Aid, and Fire Fighting. All questions will be taken from the "Fact for Drivers Manual".

Pre-Trip Inspection: Drivers will have a time limit (approximately 8 minutes-time will be announced on Sunday) to conduct a pretrip inspection. Defects will be planted on the various vehicles. Points will be given for defects found and procedure. Total points possible – 100.

Field Course: Drivers in all classes will negotiate their way through 6 problems. Each problem has a value of between zero and 50 points. Most problems have a scoring zone of 18 inches. Problems simulate situations drivers deal with every day. Typical problems on a TDC course: Front Stop, Side Stop, Right and Left Turns, Alley Dock, Rear Stop, RR Crossing, Parallel Park or anything the course design chairman may think up. It's always different and challenging!

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**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Entry in the state competition is open to any driver or company regardless of State Trucking Association affiliation.

**State Eligibility: One or two drivers per class, per terminal are allowed to compete this year.**

1. Driver(s) must be continuously employed by the entering employer for at least 12 months prior to entry.
2. Owner Operators must be leased to one company for the full 12 months prior to entry.
3. The driver(s) must have driven or performed duties of a professional truck driver for at least 11 of the 12 months prior to entry. (Yardmen and occasional drivers are not eligible).
4. The driver(s) must be accident free, regardless of fault, for the same 12-month period. There are three instances when a non-preventable accident is NOT disqualifying: 1. when the vehicle is stopped at a traffic light and is hit from behind, 2. when the vehicle is stopped at a stop sign and hit from behind and 3. when the vehicle is stopped at the direction of a law enforcement officer and is hit from behind. (all must be approved by the NTDC Committee)

The winners of each class are invited to participate in the National Competition.

**National Eligibility:**

NEW RULING: All companies, regardless of membership to the American Trucking Association (ATA) are eligible to compete in the ATA National Truck Driving Championship, which will be held on August 15-18, 2018 in Columbus, OH.

**Note:** The fee for participation in the National Competition is **\$250.00**. This fee is required from the driver's employer to TAM before the class winner can be certified to compete in the Nationals.

**Awards:**

Trophies will be awarded at a ceremony, which will be held after the conclusion of the event. Please call with any questions:

**Fred Schenk – 2018 TDC Chair**      **Work (781) 599-6660 x106**      **Cell (781) 469-5988**  
**Email: fschenk@jandstrans.com**

**TAM Office:**      **(617) 695-3512**      **fax 617-695-0173**

**Please note TAM's NEW address: 12 Post Office Square, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02109**

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Drivers please note **changes** to this year's rules (Please read carefully):

**Step Van**: The Committee approved the creation of a National Step Van Driving Championships. Here are the details:

- a. Although it is a separate competition it will be run at the same time and place as the NTDC. Depending on how many competitors we have (how many State TDC's hold a Step Van competition and send winners), the step vans may be integrated into the existing course or on a separate course. For now, there will not be a separate rulebook. There will be a supplemental document that will accompany the TDC rulebook that will refer to the qualifications/eligibility rules of the TDC rulebook that apply to the SVDC competition. Facts for Drivers will be the study tool for SVDC competitors.
- b. It will be an open competition – that is a driver does not have to be a step van driver to compete in the Step Van championships, although he/she does have to perform the regular duties of a truck driver (as set forth in the NTDC Rulebook). Note: Having it an open competition will no doubt guarantee we have the level of participation and commitment to warrant its continuance.
- c. Can be a CDL or non-CDL driver but if non-CDL he/she must drive step van or other Commercial Motor Vehicle (must be employed by a motor carrier or be a dedicated owner operator in accordance with the current rulebook). No driver may drive his/her own company's equipment (at NTDC).
- d. The SVDC competitor will have the same areas of competition: written exam, pre-trip inspection and skills course. (See "Personal Interview" decision below). The SVDC written exam will be the same as the NTDC exam. The time constraints for the pre-trip and skills test will be the same as straight truck. Skills test course will be left up to the course designer.
- e. There will be a SVDC finals competition run on Saturday.
- f. Because technically it is a separate competition, it is not counted in the NTDC Grand Champion or the other "special awards" – it will not be counted toward the Team Trophy – at least for year one.
- g. Three points of contact and "normal driving position" will be required (i.e., no hanging outside the step van door).
- h. The step van to be used in competition should have a GVWR of more than 10,001 lbs. but less than 26,000 lbs. (will be at NTDC).
- i. The SVDC is now subject to the "retirement rule". Anyone who has won two years in a row will now have to "retire" from the SVDC for one year.
- j. The SVDC has its own wildcard and first timer (doesn't count towards TDC's).

**Summary of Rulebook Changes:**

- k. Chapter V, Section B- clarifies that in order to be eligible to compete, owner operators, driver owners and the like, as well as driver trainers and driver supervisors must meet the

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requirements set forth in bullets 2-5 (in short, perform the regular duties of a truck driver at least 1200 hours and 60% of the time, and for 11 of the 12 months), and further states that those whose primary duties are supervising, and/or managing the operation and/or business are not eligible. Also language will be added to recognize that the professional truck driver may and often does perform functions in addition to the “regular duties of a truck driver” as set forth in this paragraph 2 and that it is just as important that such driver perform these additional responsibilities safely and professionally; therefore, the accident-free, safe driving requirements and definitions set forth in this Chapter V, Section D (below) shall apply to those additional functions that involve the operation of equipment, including but not limited to hosting or driving the company automobile. (We will be adding language further defining commercial motor carrier vehicle.)

- l. Chapter V, Section J, No 13: Entering Drivers in the Truck Driving Championships- Minor shifting and rewording of language were made to make it consistent with other sections of the Rulebook. It addresses the entry and release form (TR-1-2), which must be witnessed and signed by the entering employer as well as the driver and mailed or presented to the TDC Committee Chairman by the final entry date set by the State TDC Committee.
- m. Chapter V, Section L: Adding language (as bolded) to further clarify. In the event that a State Champion is unable to compete due to disqualification, ineligibility or for personal reasons, the second-place winner in the same class may compete in the ATA National Truck Driving Championships if otherwise qualified. For purposes of this rule, disqualifying acts are defined in Chapter V, Section M paragraphs 17-19; acts or situations that render a State Champion ineligible are defined in Chapter V; and personal reasons are intended to include family emergencies, financial circumstance and/or a desire not to compete. For further clarification, in the case of a State Champion who is a non-ATA member and neither subparagraphs (a) nor (b) of Chapter V, Section A, paragraph 1 apply, the second-place winner in the same class may compete.
- n. Chapter V, Section C: The NTDC Committee determined that an exemption to (a “relaxation of”) the “Length of Employment” rule was necessary and appropriate during times of significant economic difficulties. Therefore, for 2012, a driver who has been laid off due to “the economic conditions of [his/her] employer” will still be eligible to compete if he/she performs the normal duties of a truck driver for at least 11 of the 12 months and 1200 hours; he/she meets all of the other eligibility requirements; and he/she is performing the regular duties of a truck driver at/during the time of the State and National TDCs. In other words, the Committee is allowing a driver to be laid off for as many as 30 days as long as he/she meets all the other rules and is working full time as a truck driver for the entering employer at the time of competition.
- o. Retirement Rule: ATA will be sending a note to those drivers (and their supervisors) who have competed at NTDC in the same class for two years in a row or who competed at NTDC in the same class in 2014 and 2015 and sat out in 2016 to remind them that they must sit out of that class of competition for two years. ATA will also provide the states with the complete list of those drivers (who we know about) that must select another class in order to be eligible to compete in 2017; however, State TDC may want to remind those who competed and won at the State TDC two years in a row (who might not have gone to NTDC).

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**Past Champions Clause:**

Periodic retirement of Past State and ATA National Truck Driving Championships Champions shall be invoked to encourage participation by greater numbers of eligible drivers in accordance with the provisions set forth below:

- (a) A contestant, who has appeared, competed and or won the same class of competition in two consecutive ATA National Truck Driving Championships. After the required period of retirement has elapsed, the past National Champion may again enter a Truck Driving Championships and compete in the class of competition from which he/she was retired, provided he/she is otherwise eligible.
- (b) A contestant who has won the same class of competition in two consecutive State Truck Driving Championships shall not be eligible to compete in that class of competition at the following two consecutive state Truck Driving Championships. After the required period of retirement has elapsed, the past State Champion may again enter a Truck Driving Championships and compete in the specific class of competition from which he/she was retired, provided he/she is otherwise eligible.
- All contestants are reminded that if they competed and won in the same truck class in 2014 and 2015 at the state TDC (and/or National TDC), the contestant cannot compete in that same class in 2016 and/or 2017.
- The use of a cell phone or any other portable electronic device (PED) is strictly prohibited throughout the duration of the event. Drivers cannot use or possess a cell phone or PED at any time during competition. If a driver is seen with a cell phone or PED, it will result in disqualification. If a driver chooses to bring their cell phone or PED to the event, there will be plastic bags at the registration table and they may be picked up when they have completed all phases of competition.
- Drivers do NOT get to choose their equipment however, there WILL be a course walk through this year.
- Drivers are not allowed out on the course at any time during the event. If a driver steps on to the course at any time during the competition, they may be disqualified. (with the exception of their turn driving in the competition). Drivers shall remain in the bull pen until they have completed all phases of competition.
- At registration, all drivers will receive a pre-printed score sheet with their name and contestant number, if you lose your score sheet you will be disqualified.
- **All required paperwork must be postmarked by Friday, May 25, 2018, if not, then the driver CANNOT compete**
- All paper work must be updated to include "Past Champions" clause; including a reference that we follow ATA's Entry & Eligibility guidelines. Additionally, make sure on the form that it is clear if a driver is a past champion. **All MVR Reports must be pulled within six months of the competition.**
- All drivers must provide an email address to the TAM for periodic updates on the 2018 TDC.

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**DRIVER SIGN UP SHEET (to be completed by the company) 1 or 2 drivers per class per terminal.**  
**\*\*IMPORTANT – Please return this form to TAM ASAP\*\***

**CLASS   DRIVER NAME                      ADDRESS                      PHONE NUMBER                      EMAIL**

Straight \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3AxleVan \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 AxleVan \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Axle Van \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 AxleSleeper \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Axle Tank \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Axle Flatbed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Twin Trailer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Step Van \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Manager/Safety Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$95 TAM member or \$190 non-member, per driver)

Please make your check payable to: **TAM TDC Committee**

And return it with this form, **postmarked by Friday, May 25, 2018** to:

**TAM TDC Entry & Eligibility 12 Post Office Square, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02109**

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**DRIVER CERTIFICATION OF RULES AND PROCEDURES**  
**\*\*IMPORTANT – Please return this form to TAM\*\***

I have read the TDC requirements for entry into the Massachusetts Truck Driving Championships and the National Truck Driving Championships.

I have read and understand the Summary of Rule Book Changes and the Past Champions Clause.

**Please identify the make and model of the tractor/truck you normally drive:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a first-time competitor? (Circle one)

Yes

No

**Overnight Accommodations**

If you plan on spending the night in the North Andover area, we have negotiated a special rate with the LaQuinta Inn. Please note that this rate is subject to availability, as there are a limited number of rooms available. ***Please mention Massachusetts TDC when booking.*** Reservations must be made before **May 5, 2018.**

LaQuinta Inn- 131 River Road N. Andover

**Phone:** (978) 685-6200

**Please return this information to the TAM office by Friday, May 25, 2018 by fax 617-695-0173**

Registrant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Shirt Information** (This is a t-shirt; please circle the size you wish to receive)

L

XL

2-XL

3-XL

4-XL

5-XL