



2018 DockDogs® Road to World Championship Qualifying Criteria

The following is a detailed breakdown of how teams can qualify for an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. All final invitations are dependent upon the team's participation during the 2018 season at (2) National DockDogs® events and depending on the discipline(s) that the team is earning an invite – the team will be required to have achieved a minimum of (5) scores within Big Air; (2) scores within EV or SR, on or before September 17th, 2018. The team must also hold an Active 2018 DockDogs® Worldwide membership in order to be considered for an invitation.

Invitations for teams are determined based on the following Avenues in the order that they appear below:

1. Sanctioned Facility Dog House League

The successful Dog House League will continue this year at participating Sanctioned Facilities.

There will be (2) World Championship invites offered based on DHL rankings. The Overall top one (1) ranked team from each division of each discipline will receive an invite. The second invitation will be by lottery of the remaining top ranked teams from the series. If an invitation is declined, that invite will be passed down to the next one qualifying team.

Prior to Worlds, a team may be re-assigned to a higher competition division based on the higher of: Worldwide rankings, League rankings, Club rankings and National title (Club title if no National title).

For this avenue **ONLY** a team does not have to attend a second event prior to Worlds.

2. Blue Buffalo Retail Series

In order to be considered for the Blue Buffalo Retail Series you must have attended a minimum of (2) of the 2018 Blue Buffalo Retail Series events (*separate event locations*).

Upon completion of the above noted requirements the top (3) ranked teams within each Division of each Discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical) will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler; Lap Dog; Veteran Dog; Legend Dog).

Rankings are based on a team's best two qualifying scores within each discipline of all 2018 Blue Buffalo Retail Series events they have attended (i.e. there will be individual rankings for one top score per event for Big Air, Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical). Please note that only the 2 best qualifying scores of all 2018 Blue Buffalo Series events will be considered for this ranking, and not all jumps from each event.

3. Canadian Pet Expo Series

In order to be considered for the Canadian Pet Expo Series you must have attended a minimum of (2) of the 2018 Canadian Pet Expo Series events (*separate event locations*).

Upon completion of the above noted requirements the top (3) ranked teams within each Division of each Discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical) will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler; Lap Dog; Veteran Dog; Legend Dog).

Rankings are based on a team's best two qualifying scores within each discipline of all Canadian Pet Expo Series events they have attended (i.e. there will be individual rankings for one top score per event for Big Air, Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical). Please note that only the 2 best qualifying scores of all Canadian Pet Expo Series events will be considered for this ranking, and not all jumps from each event.

4. Scheels Series

In order to be considered for either the Scheels Series you must have attended a minimum of (2) of the 2018 Scheels Series events (*separate event locations*).

Upon completion of the above noted requirements the top (3) ranked teams within each Division of each Discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical) will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler; Lap Dog; Veteran Dog; Legend Dog).

Rankings are based on a team's best two qualifying scores within each discipline of all 2018 Scheels Series events they have attended (i.e. there will be individual rankings for one top score per event for Big Air, Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical). Please note that only the 2 best qualifying scores of all 2018 Scheels Series events will be considered for this ranking, and not all jumps from each event.

5. Wild Card & Wild Card Double Header Events

The Wild Card & Wild Card Double Header event(s) will consist of events selected by DockDogs® Worldwide; and the top (4) Ranked teams per event, within each division of each discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical), based on event rankings, will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. Event Rankings for these Events will be based on the average of all qualifying Waves & Finals scores. This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler, Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog).

6. Year End Rankings

Overall by Country

Overall Rankings by Country take into consideration a team's (5) best jumps (including Finals) within Big Air, and the (3) best scores within Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical to date for National caliber events within a Country. The top (2) ranked teams within each Division in each Discipline (including Specialty Classes) will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. Country specific invites will be based on specific Countries including USA/Canada/Australia.

Note: If a team were ranked within the parameters of a division higher than which they are titled, they would not be considered for a Rankings invitation based on their titled division; however, they could potentially qualify for an invite for the higher division within which they are ranked.

Overall Worldwide

Overall Rankings take into consideration a team's (5) best scores (including Finals) within Big Air, and the team's (3) best scores within Speed Retrieve & Extreme Vertical to date. The top (2) ranked teams within each Division in each Discipline (including Specialty Classes) will receive an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships. *(If a team were ranked within the parameters of a division higher than which they are titled, they would not be considered for a Rankings invitation based on their titled division; however, they could potentially qualify for an invite for the higher division within which they are ranked.)*

IMPORTANT - Additional World Championship Qualifying & Competition information

- I. *An invitation will be passed down to the "Next Qualified Team" in the instance that the original Qualifying Team does not accept their invitation for that specific qualifying avenue.*
- II. *If a team turns down an invite, they will not have the opportunity to qualify for an invite within that division through another qualifying avenue. However, a team could qualify for an invite within a higher division than the original "declined" invitation.*
- III. *If a Youth Handler competes and earns an invitation to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships within the Youth Handler division, and they turn 16 years of age prior to the start of the World Championships, they will still compete as a Youth Handler at the World Championship event.*
- IV. *In the case of Specialty Class Invitations (Youth Handler, Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog):*
 - a. *If a Youth Handler qualifies with multiple dogs for multiple invitations to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships for the Big Air Youth Handler Division, they may only accept one invitation (their qualifying team of choice). Youth handlers may still accept additional invitations for regular Big Air Divisions. (ie.: Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, Elite & Super Elite)*
 - b. *If a Dog qualifies with multiple handlers for multiple invitations to the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships for the following Big Air specialty classes, (Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog), they may only accept one invitation per Specialty Class with their qualifying team of choice. Any entry fees previously paid will follow the dog. The teams may still accept additional invitations for regular Big Air Divisions. (ie.: Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, Elite & Super Elite)*
- V. *If a team feels that it is unfair for them to compete in their invited division for Worlds because of improvement during the season, they may contact the office within two weeks of Worlds to request re-assignment to a higher division.*

- VI. *Prior to the start of the 2018 DockDogs® World Championships, all teams competing will be cross referenced and potentially re-assigned to a higher Competition Division based on their current ability. This will be based on the highest of the following (regardless of the Division in which they earned & accepted their invitation):*
- i. *Title: Current National title*
 - ii. *The Worldwide ranking (which is an average of the highest 5 scores for a team) as well as the Performance rankings (average of all scores from that avenue of qualification) ie: the average of all scores from that discipline including any Finals scores will be averaged and if higher than the current title or the original invitation, the team will be reassigned to that division.*
- VII. *Once all invitations have gone out for Year End Rankings, up to (2) additional Overall Worldwide based rankings invites will be issued to any divisions not having the full complement of invitations.*
- VIII. *Teams will not “Jump Out” of their competition division for the purposes of Finals selection. (ie.: if a Team competing in the Senior Division jumps a Master jump in Qualifying, the Team will remain in the Senior Division & potentially compete in the Senior finals).*