



2021 DockDogs® Road to World Championship Qualifying Criteria

The following is a detailed breakdown of how teams can qualify for an invitation to the 2021 DockDogs® World Championships. **DUE TO THE COVID19 CRISIS the following amendments will be made for the 2021 SEASON ONLY:** All final invitations are dependent upon the team's participation during the 2021 season at (1) National DockDogs® event and depending on the discipline(s) that the team is earning an invite – the team will be required to have achieved a minimum of (3) scores within Big Air; (1) scores within EV, SR and ID, on or before September 21st, 2021. **NOTE: this criteria must be met. If you accept an invitation and have not met the qualifications by the end of the season you will forfeit your invite with no refund!** The team must also hold an Active 2021 DockDogs® Worldwide membership in order to be considered for an invitation. **All other required qualifications still apply.**

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

1. Sanctioned Facility DogHouse League

The successful DogHouse 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. Specialty divisions are not included in possible invites.

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).

2. Scheels Series

In order to be considered for the Scheels Series you must have attended a minimum of (2) of the 2021 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 & Iron Dog) will receive an invitation to the 2021 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 2021 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, Iron Dog). Please note that only the 2 best qualifying scores of all 2021 Scheels Series events will be considered for this ranking, and not all jumps from each event.

3. 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 & Iron Dog), based on event rankings, will receive an invitation to the 2021 DockDogs® World Championships. **Event Rankings for these Events will be based on the average of the two top scores from Waves & any Finals.** This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler, Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog). **Please note that to be ranked for a possible invite in Big Air a team must have at least three (3) Big Air scores from competition waves from that event. Also, if a division is unfilled (4 qualifying teams) we may fill the division with a team whose average is within one (1) division of its title to fill out.**

4. 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 & Iron Dog 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 2021 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 & Iron Dog to date. The top (2) ranked teams within each Division in each Discipline (including Specialty Classes) will receive an invitation to the 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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 2021 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. *All discipline Finals selection (aside from the Specialty divisions) will be based on the floating bubble system debuted in 2020. There will be no re-assignment of divisions based on current titles or rankings prior to Worlds; however a team may possibly qualify for a different final at Worlds based on the team’s qualifying scores at Worlds.*