

IV. LANDESVERBAND CHAMPIONSHIP

A. HOW IS HOST CLUB DETERMINED?

Each region of LV America is responsible for overseeing the Nationals one year in four, on a rotating basis, in this order: North, Southeast, Western, Midwest. Clubs within each region wishing to host the event must submit written applications to the LV Board, and the LV Board makes its choice according to previously determined criteria. Consideration is given to the club's location, accessibility, support by club to previous Nationals, and so on. Rules for the Host clubs, as well as all rules for participants are included below. Rules for obtaining permission to host the LV America Nationals can be found under General Rules/Informaiton for Host Clubs .

B. HELPERS FOR LV CHAMPIONSHIPS

The LV OfS has the job of determining who of the Level 1 rated helpers are suitable both physically and mentally to provide the helper work for the VPG 1, 2 and 3 Championships. The LV OfS presents the list of candidates he has chosen to the LV America Board and only upon the approval of the Board are the candidates officially appointed as helpers for the LV America Nationals. If the board does not approve one or more of the nominated helpers, the LV OfS is to provide an alternate candidate or candidates.

If the LV OfS intends to enter the LV America Nationals as a competitor, then he no longer is a part of the trial committee and may not recommend the helpers for the Nationals. At that point, the LV Board becomes responsible for selecting the helpers for the LV America Nationals. The senior Kreisgruppen OfS and the LV LRO will select the candidates and present the list to the LV Board. Upon approval of the Board, the candidates will be officially approved and assigned.

Usually a single helper will be used for VPG 1 and 2, with two helpers used in VPG 3. The VPG 1 and 2 helper will act as the alternate for the VPG 3 helpers and the LV OfS will choose one of the VPG 3 helpers to act as an alternate for the VPG 1 and 2 helper, should he be unable to perform because of injury, illness, etc.

Because of the increased donation from LV America to the host club in the single amount of \$5,000, the LV will no longer assume any costs associated with the expenses of the helpers at the LV America National Championship. The host club is to assume this responsibility, including the helpers' travel expenses (airfare or mileage, whichever is less) and a meal allowance of \$25 per day for the days working. The maximum travel/meal costs is set at \$500. Additionally, the helpers receive lodging for days working plus one day. This means the two VPG 3 helpers receive lodging for Thursday night (the night prior to working) plus Friday and Saturday nights. The VPG 1 and 2 helper receives lodging for Wednesday (the night prior to working) and Thursday. Additionally, the VPG 1 and 2 helper is to receive his lodging paid for Friday and Saturday nights when he acts as the alternate should either of the VPG 3 helpers be injured or become ill.

It is emphasized that all Helpers are expected to initially pay for their own travel costs (either airfare or driving expenses) and rooms by credit card, cash or whatever. They are to turn in lodging receipts to the host club for reimbursement. Any lodging charge(s) over and above the night before and the nights of the days working or the alternate-specific lodging nights (additional occupant(s) in the room, such as family traveling with the helper) should this incur additional charges, are completely the responsibility of the individual helper.

1. Helper Participation as a Competitor:

The LV Board addressed the subject of Helpers chosen for the LV Championship also participating as competitors. The Board decided that working as a Helper in the Nationals should be a Helper's primary focus and that Helpers would no longer be permitted to compete.

C. GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE LV CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following rules governing the LV Championship have been formulated over the a number of years in an effort to provide comparable competitive conditions each year and fair and equitable rules for all competitors. Some deal with the actual running of the trial and others deal specifically with the conduct of

the competitors. Any infraction of those rules governing competitors' conduct will be grounds for dismissal from the trial and will be stringently enforced by the Trial Chairman.

1. RULES FOR COMPETITORS

- a. All participants are required to wear tan or khaki slacks and a white, collared shirt in obedience and protection, weather allowing. The shirt may be either short or long-sleeved. No club insignia or logos are allowed. "Grubbies" may be worn during tracking. Of course, raingear is permitted in the event of bad weather.
- b. The trial field will be open to the competitors for obedience and protection practice prior to the opening day of the Nationals. No other practice times will be allowed, unless agreed upon by the LV Board. Practice on the trial field will be allowed only during designated, assigned times. There will be a sign-up sheet available. All equipment, both obedience and protection, will be in place at that time for the use of the competitors during practice. Each handler will be allowed 5 minutes on the field and may, at that time, practice obedience and/or protection. Group participation is encouraged. Please practice good sportsmanship in sharing the use of the jump, wall, etc. Handlers will provide their own helper and equipment. The host club and/or LV will not be responsible for providing helpers for practice. Designated persons, i.e., a judge or member of the LV Board, will take turns overseeing the trial field practice sessions. The temperament test will be conducted after the handler and dog have practiced. During practice sessions on the trial field, all participants are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner both with others and with their dogs. Any unsportsmanlike conduct may be grounds for expulsion from the trial.

Food and toys will be allowed on the trial field during practice sessions. Handlers are requested to please be careful that no food is left on the field. E-collars, as any other approved training tool, may be used in a sportsmanlike manner during the practice session. Unsportsmanlike conduct can/will result in expulsion from the trial, as well as further disciplinary action. There will be either a Board member or a judge monitoring practice sessions on the trial field during the day to insure compliance.

- c. Both the competition trial field AND the tracking fields are completely off limits to all handlers and dogs for two weeks prior to as well as during the competition. Clubs within the location of the Nationals are asked to caution their non-competing members to refrain from tracking on the fields to be used for the competition in fairness to competitors. The host club will provide comparable tracking grounds of a similar type of cover for competitors' practice.
- d. All VDH rules concerning conduct, sportsmanship, etc. (see pages regarding participant conduct in LV/DVG America, translation of the VDH trial rules) will be strictly enforced. Disregarding for these rules will be grounds for dismissal. Making inconsiderate or critical remarks on the sidelines of any trial about the scores, competitors, performances or judging is considered unsportsmanlike behavior and is grounds for expulsion from the trial grounds. This is true for spectators and trial participants alike. If the behavior is sufficiently offensive, a report may be made by the presiding judge to the governing organization (DVG) and can result in a suspension and loss of membership privileges for a period of time.

2. GENERAL RULES FOR THE TRIAL

- a. Only those handlers who are currently paid up members of LV/DVG America and hold dhv/DVG scorebooks on their dogs may compete in the LV Championship, which, at the VPG 3 level, determines our dog/handler team(s) going to Germany for the DVG Bundessiegerprüfung. Though photocopies of scorebooks are required to accompany entry forms, nonetheless, the handler must present his/her original scorebook to the Trial Chairman/Trial Secretary prior to competing.
- b. A member shall be defined as a person who is a member of a member club of DVG America in good standing, as shown on the rolls of the Organization, who is a Permanent Resident or has applied to become a Permanent Resident, as defined by the rules of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (i.e., holds or has applied for a Green Card), living within the boundaries of the LV.
- c. In order to compete in the LV Championship, a participant's LV member club membership application must have been received for processing by the LV Membership Officer (the LV

Treasurer) prior to January 1 of the year in which the LV Championship is held. Sammelgruppe, or individual members, are prohibited by DVG rules from competing in any elimination trials. Only those who hold current membership in LV America member clubs may participate in the LV Championship.

d. The requirements for VPG 1 & 2, are:

1. Starting with the 2010 LV Championships, the LV Board has approved the following: qualified DVG America members (those who were club members as of January 1st) will be allowed to earn new titles at the VPG 1 and VPG 2 levels providing that they have earned at least one title with the dog in a DVG trial. There is no change to the qualifications for the VPG 3 competitors whose requirements remain the same as in previous years. Those repeating and attempting a new VPG 1 and VPG 2 title would compete for placings on an equal basis.
2. No handler may compete in VPG 1 or 2 with the same dog with which he/she competed in the same classification in a previous Nationals, and no dog may compete at a VPG 1 or 2 level if a higher degree has already been earned.
3. Handlers attempting a VPG 1 for the first time, must have the signature of their club's Training Director on their entry form.

e. The requirements for VPG 3 are:

1. The dog/handler team must earn the title in a DVG trial at the same VPG level in which they are to compete in the Nationals, qualifying in the period between the previous year's Nationals and the present year's Nationals.
2. The dog must have earned a minimum score of 80 points (G) and an "a" TSB rating in protection in a successfully passed trial during the period between the previous year's nationals and the present year's Nationals, with the handler competing with the dog.
3. In the case of a titled import dog or any purchased titled dog, the handler must have successfully repeated the title in the class in which he or she is competing, with a minimum of 80 points in protection and an "a" TSB rating, during the period between the previous year's Nationals and the present year's Nationals, with the same handler competing with the dog.

f. Scorebook Requirements

1. Any participant entering the LV Championship **MUST** have a dhv/DVG scorebook on that dog, showing the handler as the owner. If the dog is owned by one person and handled by another, **BOTH** owner and handler must be DVG members. The original scorebook must be presented to the appropriate trial official prior to competing. No photocopies are accepted.
2. If the dog entered is imported with an existing dhv, SV, ADRK, etc., scorebook, the new owner **MUST** obtain a dhv/DVG scorebook on the dog in the new owner's name. This can be done by photocopying the existing scorebook and sending it to DVG in Germany for registration of the titles and issuance of a new dhv/DVG scorebook, before he/she can enter the Nationals (or any DVG trial, for that matter).
3. Scores may be entered in all scorebooks held on the competing dog, so long as those scorebooks are given to the Trial Chairman/Trial Secretary prior to the beginning of the trial. Scores may also be entered in the dhv Sportpass.
4. **Participants are responsible for making certain there is space remaining in their scorebooks on which to enter the trial results.** If a handler discovers late that the scorebook is full, he/she should immediately fax a copy of the full scorebook to the DVG office and request a second book. This information should be relayed to the trial chairman and the handler will be permitted to enter. Once the new book is received, the handler has

the responsibility to send the scorebook to the judges to have the trial results entered in the book and signed off on

5. Participants must present their scorebooks to trial officials no later than the day of the draw. If a participant has forgotten his/her scorebook, participation in the Nationals will not be permitted. In special cases, a participant may be allowed to participate if arrangements can be made for the scorebook to be sent overnight to arrive during the Nationals. This will be dealt with only on a case by case basis and is not to be considered a "given".

g Entry Forms

All entrants **MUST** include photocopies of BOTH their current DVG membership card and scorebook along with their mailed-in entry form and entry fee check. All entry forms are required to show the participant's membership number and LV/KG/Member Club numbers as well as verification of prior title(s). **All information regarding club affiliation and member number on the entry form MUST be the same as that on the scorebook and membership card.** Because of the volume of paperwork required for the Nationals, this information must be available to the Trial Chairman/Trial Secretary prior to the opening of the LV Championship so that verification of membership and title(s) can be made. The host club has the right to return any incomplete entry forms to members and require proper paperwork to be submitted before honoring the entry.

h. Drawing for Position

1. At the handlers' meeting prior to each division competition (some divisions will last more than one day, but there will be only one handlers' meeting), each competitor will draw for order of position for the following day(s). For example: if there are 20 VPG 1's or 2's, at the handlers' meeting, the competitors will draw numbers 1 through 20. That number will determine the order for obedience and protection and the tracking "flight". A "flight" will consist of perhaps 5 competitors, and on the morning of tracking, after the tracks have been laid, the first flight (numbers 1 through 5) will then draw for tracking position within that flight. If there are 20 dogs competing that day, there may be 4 flights of 5 dogs each (numbers 1 through 5, 6 through 10, etc.). Each flight's tracks will be laid at different times, to control the age of the tracks, and each flight will draw for position only within the group. Tracks are then run according to the number drawn.
2. For obedience and protection, the order will then revert to the original position number drawn at the handlers' meeting.
3. The VPG 3's will be slightly different. Depending on the total number of VPG 3 entries, the number drawn will determine not only position, but also the day a handler will compete. For example: day 1 could be number 1 to 20; day 2, numbers 20 through 40, and so on. The number drawn determines the order in which you compete, as well, depending on how many dogs compete on which days. Tracking will be done in flights, just as for the 1's and 2's, with the day of tracking determined by the draw number.
 - a. Once tracking order within flights is determined, handlers should understand that the order for obedience and protection will revert to the number originally drawn.
4. There will be **NO** exchanging of position numbers, either for day of competition, order of competition within a day, or tracking order within a flight. Any competitors found doing this will be excluded from competition.

EXCEPTIONS: If there are two dogs from the same household, or two handlers who for a good reason do not want to be on the obedience field at the same time, these handlers must notify those running the drawing of the problem **PRIOR** to the drawing, and it will be announced publicly. The Trial Chairman, or whoever is officiating the drawing, is directed to ask at the beginning of the drawing if there are any handlers who do not wish to be on the field at the same time with any other handler. At that time, after the first of the two handlers draws, the second handler will then draw, and **IF** the second handler draws a number that will place both on the field at the same time, the second handler will immediately redraw. There is no exchanging of numbers, but rather a redrawing. These competitors will have to draw early enough so they will not be last.

Bitches in season: The Trial Chairperson should be notified if a bitch is in season as soon as possible. All bitches in season, regardless of the level at which they are competing, will be scheduled to trial in the obedience and protection phases on the last day of competition after all other competitors have trialed. They will draw for tracking flights with all of the other competitors at their level and will be tracked in the order which their draw indicates.

5. If, for ANY reason, a competitor cannot attend the handlers' meeting and draw for him/herself, no one other than the Trial Chairman will be allowed to draw for the competitor. After all competitors have drawn, any numbers left over will be assigned to those not attending the meeting. The Trial Chairman will simply draw numbers for those missing competitors and assign them in alphabetical order in order to be fair.

i. Style of Judging

1. At present, judging for the LV America Championship is done with a single, separate, judge each in tracking, obedience and protection. This can be changed at the determination of the LV Board. At no time will there be fewer than 2 judges assigned. If the host club receives more VPG 3 entries than the number of days allowed for the LV Championship, there are options: 1) the host club can request an additional day for the LV Meisterschaft competition, or 2) entries will be closed after the maximum number of entries for the days allowed are received. The LV/LRO and the LV Board should be consulted should this occur.
2. The VPG 1 and 2 competitions are to be held on a single day and judged in the same manner as the VPG 3 competition. Should there be more entries than are permitted in a single day, the host club should consult with the LV Board and the LV/LRO as to whether the entries should be closed or an additional day requested.
3. The LV Board has determined that holding an FH competition during the Nationals causes difficulties both for the host club and the judges. Therefore, FH competitions will no longer be permitted during the Nationals

j. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. The host club, in conjunction with and by conferring with the Trial Chairman (LRO), will have the option of setting up the number of dogs per flight for tracking based upon total number of entries, length of time anticipated for tracking, etc. There will be no set number designated.
2. In the event of a disagreement, the decision of the senior judge is final.
3. If competitors wish scores entered in more scorebooks than the dhv scorebook, they must turn in any other scorebooks to the Trial Chairman/Secretary at the same time as their dhv book. Otherwise, the judges are not obligated to sign the books.
4. dhv Handler Sportpass books also should be turned in at the same time as the scorebook(s) in order to have the trial results entered.

Compilation of these rules made from minutes of both General and LV Board meetings held between 1984 and 1994. Dated: May 1, 1987, Revised February and April, 1988, and June, 1994, and revised in 2000 for inclusion in the 2001 LV Handbook. Additional revisions as of February, 2006 and November, 2007.

3. TROPHIES and the Awards Ceremony

- a LV/DVG America will provide funds in the amount of \$75.00 for a High Handler/OwnerTrained (HOT) trophy to be presented to the high VPG 3 dog/handler team who titled his or her dog from BH through VPG 3.
 1. If the host club/region wishes, sponsored HOT trophies at the VPG 1 and 2 levels may be added.

The Host Club is responsible for providing trophies suitable for a Championship for the first four winners of all divisions, VPG 1, 2 and 3.

- b. Additionally, the host club will accept donations for the following trophies, should such donations be made:

- 1. **High Scoring Participant from each Kreisgruppe**

- The Kreisgruppen trophies are awarded according to the specific rules determined by the individual Kreisgruppen. Each KG determines whether its trophy will be presented to the KG participant with the highest overall score, regardless of level of competition, or to the KG participant competing at the VPG 3 level only. The host club is to be informed at the time the KG trophy donation is made as to exactly which participants are qualified to receive it.

- 2. **High Tracking, Obedience and Protection**

- At the host club's/region's discretion and expense, High Tracking, Obedience and Protection trophies may be awarded. These trophies and the qualifications for these trophies must be announced in advance of the start of the Championship.** The LV Board has determined that only one High Tracking, one High Obedience and one High Protection trophy will be permitted. The trophy in each category will be awarded to the participant with the highest score in each category, **regardless of competition level.**

- c. The plaques on all trophies awarded at the Nationals must indicate the year of the Nationals and that the trophies were won at the LV/DVG America Championship. The location and the name of the host club may also be included
- d. Under VDH trial rules, the award ceremony is considered to be part of the trial and all participants are expected to attend. To leave a trial prior to the award ceremony without requesting permission from the judge/trial chairman is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and can be grounds for censure. This is true of all trials, whether local, regional or national in scope.
- e. The Host Club must submit a financial report on the Nationals to the LV Board no later than 60 days after the event. The Host Club is allowed to subsidize costs by raffle ticket sales, sale of T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc., but all sales, income, donations, etc., must be reported.

Originally compiled May 1, 1987, and subsequently revised in March, 1992, and May, 1992, and minor clarification revisions made in 2000 for inclusion in the 2001 LV Handbook. Additional revisions for 2006 and in November, 2007].

4. ADDITIONAL ADOPTED GUIDELINES

- a. Rules - The following are rules have been adopted by the LV America Board concerning the conduct of all LV Championships. These rules supplement those rules listed previously.
- b. General Conditions
 - 1. All obedience and protection portions of the Championship are to be held in the evening, unless holding a day trial has been previously approved by the LV Board. The hour will be chosen by the host club, but the trial should not start until the temperature moderates as much as possible.
 - 2. All events must start on time.
 - 3. Arrangements must be made by the club to transport the judges and trial chairman to the trial field and tracking.
 - 4. Two escort cars must be used to guide the tracking competitors to the tracking fields, one in front and rear.
 - 5. To mark positions for handlers and helpers, the club must have white chalk, marking paint or flour available before the commencement of obedience. The location of position marks will be made by the LV/OfS and the judges.
 - 6. The club must have a veterinary doctor on call for the emergency care of the dogs and this information should be announced before the trial.
 - 7. There will be either a Board member or a judge monitoring practice sessions on the trial field during the day to insure compliance with all rules set for those sessions.

8. Lighting must be of some standard quality of excellence.
 9. The LRO must be the trial chairman for all LV Championship events (VPG 1, 2 and 3). If the LRO is to be a participant in the Championship or is judging or absent, another LV Board member may be appointed as the trial chairman. This appointment must be made at least 40 days in advance in order to facilitate good communication between the host club and the trial chairman, as well as to aid in obtaining the best airfares. (Note: The LRO is not expected to be trial chairman for both tracking and the trial field events. Another LV Board member or judge can perform this function and requests for volunteers to do so will be made.)
- c. Tracking
1. Tracking articles for VPG 1, 2 and 3 must be consistent with the size, shape and materials designated by the trial rules ((materials: leather, fabric, wood). The size of the articles should be about 10 cm (4 inches) long by 2-3 cm (3/4 inch to 1 1/4") wide by 0.5-1 cm (3/8 inch to 5/8 inch) thick. They may not differ substantially in color from the terrain.
 2. More than one tracklayer is allowed, but each must be experienced.
 3. Tracking conditions must be of a difficulty consistent with a championship, but conditions should not be so difficult that tracking becomes the sole determining of the winner. Tracking cover or conditions do not have to be identical, but all must present an equal challenge to the tracking dogs.
 4. The type of tracking fields (i.e., grass, plowed dirt, hayfields, etc.) to be used must be advertised far enough ahead of time for participants to prepare and must not be changed.
- d. Obedience
1. The milling group should wear matching outfits, consistent with the image of a national championship.
 2. During obedience, there must be a dumbbell stand, preferably high enough off the ground to avoid confusing the dog. The host club is to provide a full set of dumbbells (650 gram, 1 kilo and 2 kilo) for use in all levels, including a 650 gram dumbbell on the field for VPG 1. The 650 gram and 1 kilo dumbbells are to be on the field for VPG 2 retrieval exercises and the 650 gram and 2 kilo dumbbells on the field for the VPG 3 retrieval.
 3. To achieve the correct angle on the wall, the distance between the two sides at the base should be 130 cm or 51.2 inches.
 4. Per the 2004 VDH trial rules, the one meter jump is to be a solid jump, level across the top, with no soft material.
- e. Protection
1. In keeping with the procedure followed during the DVG Bundessiegerprüfung and the Deutsche Meisterschaft, VPG 3 obedience and protection will be worked up to 6 at a time (i.e., up to 6 teams work obedience and protection, then the next teams up to 6, etc.). For that reason, all 6 blinds are to be in place on the trial field at the beginning of the VPG 3 competition and remain up throughout each day of trial. If the same procedure is followed for VPG 1 and 2 (up to 6 teams working obedience and protection), the blinds are to be in place during both obedience and protection -- 4 blinds for VPG 2 and 2 blinds for VPG 1.
 2. The jump and wall will remain up during VPG 3 protection (as is done in Germany during the championships). The jump and wall will be located in a position designated by the trial chairman or LV/OfS.
 3. Prior to the commencement of each class of protection, the host club will arrange to have two dogs present for testing the trial helpers. These dogs cannot be entered in the championship, but must have sufficient training to allow the trial judges to properly evaluate the helpers' skills
 4. Foliage around the blinds shall be optional. If the club exercises the option to use foliage, the fact should be advertised well ahead of time.

Adopted by the LV Board in January, 1992, and revised in May, 1992. Revised again in 2000 for inclusion in the 2001 LV Handbook. Additional revisions made for the 2006 LV Handbook and in November, 2007. Additional revisions made June 2009, May 2010.