

Member Handbook

How to Join LV DVG America

Join a DVG club

DVG is a club-based organization. To join, you must be a member of a local DVG club. There are many local DVG clubs throughout the United States and Canada - to find one near you go to the [Club Locator page](#).

Once you find your club, the club's membership officer will help you fill out the [membership application](#). Do not fill this out yourself. We also have [instructions](#) about the form.

If there is no suitable club near you, contact Melissa Hepler for assistance at jmhepler@comcast.net.

Types of membership

There are several types of membership in the LV.

Type	Abbreviation	Criteria	Receives magazine
Member	VM	19 years and older	Yes
Spouse or partner	P	18 years and older and is tied to a VM membership	No
Child	K	Under 19 and is tied to a VM membership	No
Youth	JGDL	14 up through 18	Yes

Cost of joining the LV

The [current dues schedule](#) is posted online. If you have questions, email the LV membership officer at LVMembership@fastmail.com.

The local club will have fees to join. These fees are determined by the local club, and are not regulated by the LV.

Changing your personal information

If you need to change your name, address, email, or other personal information, notify the LV Membership officer at LVMembership@fastmail.com.

Replacing a lost membership card.

If you lose your membership card and can't wait till the following year for a new one, contact the LV Membership Officer at LVMembership@fastmail.com. DVG charges extra for a replacement card. The Membership Officer can tell you the current charge.

Moving to a different club

If you want to move to a different club, have your current club notify the LV Membership Officer that you are cancelling out of that club. Germany accepts cancellations only at the end of the calendar year, so regardless of when you notify us of your change, you will remain a member of your original club until December 31. Also have your new club notify the LV membership officer of the change during the annual renewal period. If for some reason you must join your new club before January 1 of the next year, you can take out another membership in your new club. You have to pay for the second membership.

Cancelling your membership

To cancel your membership in DVG, have your club notify the LV Membership Officer during the annual renewal period. You will remain a member through December 31 of that year.

DVG Scorebooks

There are three steps to ordering your dog's scorebook:

- 1) Fill out the scorebook application form **electronically**.
- 2) E-mail (fastest, cheapest and preferred) or snail mail the application to Germany.
- 3) Pay for your scorebook.

DVG members must have a DVG scorebook to enter a DVG trial.
Only DVG members can purchase a DVG scorebook.

Step 1. Fill out the application

<http://www.dvg-america.com/DVGAmericaScorebookApplication2015.pdf>

Once you have filled out the form, save it again. Print a copy and have your club president or other scorebook representative review the information to ensure the form is filled out correctly and sign and date it. By signing, the president affirms that all of the information on the form is correct.

Save the form to your computer before filling it out.

Step 2. Submit the application

Once the form is signed, send it to Germany.

Germany mails new DVG scorebooks to club presidents.

To e-mail:

Scan the completely filled in form and save it, using your dog's name and your DVG membership number for the file name (for example: Fido #####).

E-mail it to DVG Germany at karl-heinz.holtkamp@dvg-hundesport.de

To send by regular mail:

Send the original to Germany to:

Karl-Heinz Holtkamp
DVG Hauptgesschaeftsstelle
Ennertsweg 51
58675 Hemer
Germany

Step 3. Pay for your application

The scorebook costs \$18.00.

To pay for your scorebook electronically, click on the "paynow" button on the application. This will take you to Paypal, which accepts all major credit/debit cards. You do not have to have an account to use their service.

If you would rather send a check, mail the check and a copy of the application to the LV Treasurer. You can get the name and address of the current treasurer from the website [contact](#) tab.

Although scorebooks normally come within 2 weeks, it's best to allow up to four weeks for processing.

Update scorebook information

Changing information on a scorebook sometimes requires sending the book back to Germany, but sometimes can be done by any DVG judge, depending on the type of change needed.

If you need to change your scorebook, fill out the [scorebook change form](#) and take it with you the next time you participate in a DVG trial. The judge will change your scorebook and will send the changes to Germany, along with the trial results.

Save the form to your computer before filling it out.

If the scorebook needs to go to Germany for the change, the judge will tell you what to do. Be sure to keep a copy of your scorebook.

Replace a lost scorebook

Send the same information you would send for a new scorebook to Germany, at the address given above. Note on the application that this is a replacement. The cost for a replacement scorebook is \$28.

Replace a full scorebook

When you fill your scorebook, send a complete copy back to Germany to the address given above and ask for a new scorebook. There is no charge to replace a full scorebook. A scanned copy in an email is acceptable.

Find a trial

All DVG trials are listed on [the events calendar](#).

Participate in the Nationals

General Criteria

To trial at the National Championship, you must;

-) be a current member of LV DVG America in good standing
-) if you are new member, you must apply by June 1 and be on the membership rolls by July 1
-) have a DVG scorebook for your dog
-) have qualified at a DVG trial within a year before the Nationals.

For all addresses relevant to entering the Nationals, and for more detailed information and the venue, motels, etc., see the Nationals website at: <http://www.dvg-america.com/championship.html>

Entering the Nationals

-) Use the on-line entry form on the [Nationals website](#).
-) Pay for your entry. If you cannot pay online, mail your check to the person listed on the Nationals website.
-) Email a copy of your scorebook and entry card to the Trial Secretary listed on the Nationals website.
-) If you cannot email your scorebook and membership card copies, send them by mail to the Trial Secretary.
-) Make sure all of the information on your entry matches the information on your entry form and membership card. If it does not, the Trial Chairman will decide whether you may trial or not.
-) If your entry is incomplete, the host club is authorized to return it to you.

Qualifying for and earning titles at the Championship

IPO3:

-) To qualify for the IPO3 event you must have a qualifying score and an "a" TSB rating in protection (pronounced) at the IPO 3 level in a DVG trial between last year's Nationals and this year's Nationals.
-) You may also qualify for the DVG Nationals at the AWDF Championship, as explained below.
-) If you have imported or purchased a titled dog, you must successfully repeat the IPO3 title with an "a" TSB rating in protection (pronounced) in a DVG trial between last year's Nationals and this year's Nationals.

IPO1 and 2:

-) You must have earned at least one IPO title at a DVG trial (BH counts).
-) You may earn an IPO1 or IPO2 title at the Championship.
-) You may not compete at the IPO1 or 2 level with the same dog with which you competed in the same level in a previous Nationals.

-) You may not compete at a level below the top level you've earned with the dog.
-) If you are attempting an IPO1 for the first time, you cannot use the on-line entry form. Use the [standard form](#). Send it to the contact information listed on the Nationals website. You must have your training director's signature.

Using your AWDF Nationals score as a qualifying score:

-) To use a score earned at the AWDF championship as your qualifying score to enter the Nationals, you must have entered AWDF through DVG.
-) Scores earned by DVG members who entered AWDF through their breed or other IPO club do not count as qualifying scores to enter the DVG Nationals.
-) The AWDF championship must have been the same year as the DVG Championship you are entering.
-) You must pass all three phases and receive an "a" TSB rating in protection.
-) At the IPO3 level, you must have earned a qualifying IPO 3 score and an "a" TSB rating in a DVG trial at any time previously.

National's Scorebook Requirements

-) You **must** have a DVG scorebook on the dog you are titling.
-) If the dog is owned by one person and handled by another, both owner and handler **must** be DVG members.
-) You may not enter with a full scorebook. There must be room in the scorebook for the National's scores. If the scorebook is full follow the directions in the section of this manual on replacing a full scorebook.
-) You must present your DVG scorebook at the draw or earlier. Photocopies are not accepted. If you have forgotten to bring your scorebook the Trial Chair may allow you to participate if you can arrange to have it there before the trial starts. This will be the Trial Chair's decision.
-) We will enter scores in all outside organizations' scorebooks on the competing dog, so long as those scorebooks are given to the Trial Secretary before the trial begins. We will also enter scores in your Sportspass.

Drawing for position

-) All competitors must attend the draw.
-) If for some reason you cannot attend, notify the Trial Chair. If the Trial Chair accepts your reason for not attending the draw, the Trial Chair will draw for you when all of the other competitors have drawn. This is at the discretion of the Trial Chair.
-) If you have a bitch in season, notify the Trial Chair. You will do all 3 phases with the last flight.

Practice

Practice on the trial field usually is Thursday morning starting at 8AM. All equipment, both obedience and protection, will be in place for you to use. Every competitor has at least 5 minutes on the field (depending on the number of entries). 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 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 tan or khaki slacks 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. Of course, you can wear raingear in bad weather.

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.

DVG Medals

DVG awards two series of medals:

Sports medals

Honor pins

DVG members are also eligible for VDH Handler Sport Medals. The VDH is the German Kennel club, an umbrella organization with over 150 member organizations, including DVG.

1. DVG sports medals

Sports medals are awarded for achievements in DVG-sponsored competitions.

Level 1: DVG Sport Medal in Bronze	for	2,000 Points
Level 2: DVG Sport Medal in Silver	for	5,000 Points
Level 3: DVG Sport Medal in Gold	for	10,000 Points
Level 4: DVG Sport Medal in Gold with Wreath	for	15,000 Points

If a handler is awarded the DVG Sport Medal in Gold with wreath several times, the number of times it has been awarded is included on the pin.

Applying for a sports medal

If you are eligible for a medal, the club that issued you your Sportspass can apply to DVG Germany for the pin. Submit a copy of the Sportspass to demonstrate that you have earned the points claimed. If you don't have a Sportspass, submit copies of your scorebooks showing the points earned. If you don't have either, consult with the LRO about what alternatives you might have.

Schedule of points

You can earn points as follows. In all cases, you must have qualified to earn the points.

Sport and level	Points
IPO 1-3	Points earned
IPO-ZPT, VO	Points earned
FH, FH2	3X points earned
IPO-FH (with 2 successfully passed tracks)	6X points earned
BH	150 points
AD	150 points
StPr 1-3	Points earned
SAR	Points earned
Mantrailing	150

2. DVG honor pins

DVG honor pins are awarded for service to the organization, and for longevity in the organization.

VDH Medals

The German Kennel club, also has medals available to DVG members.

First time IPO3 & FH1.

V rated IPO3 at club bronze, regional silver, and national gold.

Points earned in IPO, 2k bronze, 5k silver, 10k gold, and 15k gold with wreath.

Jubilee pins for 10 years, 25 years, 40y, 50y, 60y, and 75 years.

Also honor medals in bronze, silver, gold, and gold with wreath.