

= TNA X Division Championship =

The TNA X Division Championship is a professional wrestling championship owned by the Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA) professional wrestling promotion . It is primarily defended in TNA and (as per a talent exchange agreement) also formerly in Wrestle @-@ 1 as well . It debuted on June 19 , 2002 at the taping of TNA 's second weekly pay @-@ per @-@ view (PPV) event .

Like most professional wrestling championships , the title is won as a result of a scripted match . There have been 68 reigns among 30 wrestlers . The title has previously been known as the NWA X Championship , the NWA ? TNA X Championship , and the NWA ? TNA X Division Championship .

= = History = =

= = = X Division = = =

The TNA X Division was established on June 19 , 2002 at Total Nonstop Action 's first weekly PPV event with a Six Man Tag Team match resulting in Jimmy Yang , Jorge Estrada , and Sonny Siaki ? collectively known as The Flying Elvises ? defeating A.J. Styles , Jerry Lynn , and Low Ki . Later that day at the taping of the next weekly PPV event , TNA introduced the X Division Championship ? then known as the X Championship ? to showcase the division more prominently . The division is described as wrestling reinvented , as it takes traditional wrestling and mixes it with the fast paced , high ? risk style of wrestling incorporated in cruiserweight divisions and lucha libre . The division was until 2011 promoted under the motto " It is not about weight limits , it is about no limits " by commentator Mike Tenay . On the August 11 , 2011 , edition of TNA 's primary television program , Impact Wrestling , TNA authority figure Eric Bischoff announced that from that point onwards the X Division would have a weight limit of 225 lb (102 kg) . Following Hulk Hogan becoming the new on @-@ screen General Manager in March 2012 , the weight limit was ignored on June 10 , 2012 , at Slammiversary when the 280 lb (130 kg) Samoa Joe was allowed to challenge for the belt . On October 2012 , the weight limit was officially repealed when 237 lb (108 kg) Rob Van Dam challenged for , and eventually won , the title at Bound for Glory . In March 2013 , the X Division was given a new set of rules , which meant all matches were wrestled in Triple Threat format , and a new weight limit of 230 lbs . This proved to be extremely unpopular with fans , and the rules and weight limit were repealed once again in August of that year .

= = = = Speciality matches = = = =

The Total Nonstop Action X Division has multiple styles of match types used to showcase the talent within the division and to defend the TNA X Division Championship in more marketable matches . Three of the matches used in TNA are the Ultimate X match , The Steel Asylum , and the Xscape match .

The Ultimate X match was introduced in 2003 . It involves multiple competitors racing to retrieve the X Division Championship or a giant red letter " X " , which is suspended above the ring by two cables . The cables are attached to posts that stand behind the turnbuckles of the ring . These cables intertwine to form an " X " over the center of the ring . This match has become successful in TNA ; it was featured in the 2008 DVD " TNA : Ultimate Matches " , released by TNA Home Video .

The Steel Asylum made its debut in May 2008 at TNA 's Sacrifice PPV event , under the name " The TerrorDome " . It was used once again in October 2008 at their Bound for Glory IV PPV event , under the new and current moniker " The Steel Asylum " . As of July 2016 , this match has only been used to determine the number one contender to the TNA X Division Championship . The layout of the match involves the ring being surrounded by a giant red steel barred cage with a domed ceiling . The only way to achieve victory is to escape the cage through a hole in the center of the ceiling .

The Xscape match is the third specialty match primarily used in TNA . It is held annually at TNA 's

Lockdown PPV event in April ? an all ? steel cage format PPV event . The first two Xscape matches were held to determine the number one contender to the TNA X Division Championship , while , since 2007 , it has been contested for the X Division Championship . The contest involves four to six participants . To win this match , two or more participants ? depending on how many are involved in the encounter ? must be eliminated by pinfall or submission leaving only two participants . These two men then race to see who escapes the cage first to claim victory .

= = = Creation = = =

The championship was created and debuted before the main event at the taping of TNA 's second weekly PPV event on June 19 , 2002 ; the event aired on June 26 , 2002 . Later , A.J. Styles defeated Low Ki , Jerry Lynn , and Psicosis in a Four Way Double Elimination match to be crowned the inaugural champion ; this match was announced as being for the NWA X Championship on the onscreen graphic while the ring announcer stated it was for the " NWA ? TNA X Championship " . Afterwards , the title was renamed the NWA ? TNA X Division Championship and then shortened to just the TNA X Division Championship . This is the oldest title in TNA .

= = = Option C = = =

Option C is a concept in which the current X Division Champion may voluntarily vacate the championship in exchange for a TNA World Heavyweight Championship match at that year 's Destination X event . It began in June 2012 when then @-@ champion Austin Aries said that he was not satisfied with being just the X Division Champion , which led to then @-@ General Manager Hulk Hogan offering him a match for the World Heavyweight Championship , but only if he first vacated the X Division Championship (as Hogan didn 't want the same wrestler holding both titles) . Aries agreed to Hogan 's terms , on the condition that the X Division Champion be given the same opportunity in future years . Aries would then relinquish the X Division Championship and successfully defeated Booby Roode for the World title .

The following year , Hogan asked then @-@ champion Chris Sabin if he wanted to vacate the championship and challenge for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship , which Sabin accepted , and later defeated Bully Ray to win the title . On June 24 , 2014 , a mere five days after regaining the X Division Championship for his fifth reign , Austin Aries invoked Option C once again , but failed to defeat then champion Lashley . On May 10 , 2015 , one day after regaining the title for his second reign , Rockstar Spud invoked Option C , and was defeated by then champion Kurt Angle . On the July 5 , 2016 episode of Impact Wrestling , TNA World Heavyweight Champion Lashley offered a winner take all match to X Division Champion Eddie Edwards in lieu of Edwards invoking Option C. The match ended in a no @-@ contest after an interference from Mike Bennett and Edwards was attacked the debuting Moose .

= = Unifications and outside defenses = =

In July 2002 , the X Division Champion AJ Styles defended the title against Adam Jacobs and David Young at Ring of Honor 's Crowning a Champion , the first defense outside TNA . In May 2003 , before the professional wrestling promotion World Wrestling All @-@ Stars ' (WWA) foreclosure , then NWA ? TNA X Division champion Chris Sabin defeated WWA International Cruiserweight Champion Jerry Lynn , Frankie Kazarian , and Johnny Swinger in a Four Corners championship unification match to unify the X Division Championship with the WWA International Cruiserweight Championship . On Winter 2004 , Petey Williams defended the title in various IWA @-@ Mid South events .

During Christopher Daniels ' first reign in mid @-@ 2005 , he defended the X Division Championship at several Pro Wrestling Guerrilla shows . The first defense happened at All Star Weekend - Night One on April 1 against Alex Shelley , while the second occurred at All Star Weekend ? Night Two on April 2 against Chris Hero ; Daniels won both encounters retaining the

championship . At Jason Takes PWG on May 13 , Daniels fought A.J. Styles for the X Division Championship and Styles ' PWG Championship to a one @-@ hour time @-@ limit draw . Daniels successfully defended the X Division Title two more times in PWG ; once at Guitarmageddon on June 11 against El Generico , while once at The 2nd Annual PWG Bicentennial Birthday Extravaganza - Night One on July 9 against fellow TNA wrestler Chris Sabin . In September 2005 at TNA 's Unbreakable PPV event , the TNA X Division Championship was defended in the main event for the first time at a monthly PPV event ; then @-@ champion Christopher Daniels defended the championship against A.J. Styles and Samoa Joe .

The title was once again defended in the main event of a monthly event at TNA 's August 2007 Hard Justice PPV event , where Kurt Angle defeated Samoa Joe to win the TNA X Division and the TNA World Tag Team Championship and retain the TNA World Heavyweight and IGF 's version of the IWGP World Heavyweight Championship . This win made Angle the only person in the history of TNA to hold every active championship at the same time ; TNA World , X Division , and World Tag Team .

On March 4 , 2014 , The title was defended in Japan as part of Kaisen : Outbreak - a supershow event promoted by Wrestle @-@ 1 in partnership with TNA - where the title was won by Wrestle @-@ 1 star Seiya Sanada . On March 22 , Sanada defended and successfully retained the title on a Wrestle @-@ 1 show .

= = Belt designs = =

In May 2007 , the National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) ended their five @-@ year partnership with TNA , which allowed the NWA to regain control over the NWA World Heavyweight and World Tag Team Championships that TNA had controlled since June 2002 . TNA then introduced a new TNA X Division Championship belt on the May 16 , 2007 edition of TNA 's online podcast TNA Today . Jeremy Borash and Management Director Jim Cornette , TNA 's on @-@ screen authority figure at the time , unveiled the new belt and awarded it to then @-@ champion Chris Sabin .

On July 19 , 2013 , TNA President Dixie Carter unveiled a new design for the championship , with blue accents to match the color scheme of the company .

On June 16 , 2015 , TNA tweaked the title 's design by recoloring its accents from blue to green .

= = Reigns = =

The inaugural champion was A.J. Styles , who won the championship by defeating Low Ki , Jerry Lynn , and Psicosis in a Four Way Double Elimination match on June 19 , 2002 at TNA 's second weekly PPV event . At 301 days , Austin Aries ' first reign holds the record for longest in the title 's history . At less than one day , Eric Young 's only reign , and Chris Sabin 's sixth reign and Rockstar Spud 's second reign are the shortest in the title 's history . Chris Sabin holds the record for most reigns with eight .

The current champion is Lashley . He defeated previous champion Eddie Edwards on July 13 , 2016 , in Orlando , Florida during the Impact Wrestling tapings .