DSDCTA YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM

Eligibility/Submitting Scores

- Members of DSDCTA are eligible for Year End Awards within the competition year, which is from October 1st of one year to September 30th of the following year.

- A minimum of four (4) volunteer hours is required from all members age thirteen (13) and older (as of the beginning of the competition year) for a member to be eligible for DSDCTA Year End Awards.

- If for any reason you are unable to fulfill your volunteer requirements you can participate in the DSDCTA buyout program. The buyout program is a $75.00 fee that can be paid in exchange for volunteer time. Buyout option must be completed by October 15 of the award year.

- Scores earned at DSDCTA events are not automatically submitted.

- **All scores must be submitted within 30 days of the show date.** Scores may be submitted by email to submitmyscore@gmail.com or through the score submission form on the DSDCTA website.

- No scores and/or corrections will be accepted after October 15 of the award year.

- All Levels will be awarded Champion through Sixth Place.

- Simultaneous competition in multiple divisions (i.e. Adult Amateur and Masters) is not allowed. To be eligible for awards, participants must be a DSDCTA member in good standing at the time scores are earned.

- All divisions will be awarded separately, and no Horse/Rider combination will be considered for awards in more than one division per competition year.

- Each horse/rider combination winning a Championship at any given level, with the exception of the Leadline division, will NOT be eligible for further competition awards at that level or below in any division again, ***but may qualify for a Past Champions Dressage Award*** *as described further in the awards disciple section of this document*. Riders in the Leadline division are eligible to receive year end championship awards over multiple years up through the rider's 10 year old year.

- Scores from Schooling Shows and Recognized Shows will be awarded together.

- Online shows will be awarded separately, and **at least one score** must be from an online show hosted by DSDCTA.

- Scores earned at Shows with a United States Equestrian Federation licensed judge or a USDF "L" Graduate, or higher, judging will be eligible for Schooling Show Year End Awards. Scores earned under the DSDCTA Emergency Substitute Judge Policy at Schooling Shows hosted by DSDCTA will be eligible for Schooling Show Year End Awards.

- For scores earned under a panel of judges, only the final score (averaged from each judge's score) will be eligible for Year End Awards.

- Member must participate in at least 2 events hosted by DSDCTA (shows, clinics, camps, etc.).

- At least one score per award category/level must be earned at a DSDCTA hosted show.

- A running tally will be published on the DSDCTA website, deepsouthdressage.com on a quarterly basis on or around these QUARTERLY dates: December 15th, March 15th, June 15th, and September 30th with the scores being finalized by October 15th. DSDCTA Board of Directors reserves the right to alter deadlines due to unforeseen circumstances including but not limited to technological issues or natural disasters.

- It is the Member's responsibility to check the website and ensure scores were received and posted correctly. If any discrepancies are found, Member should work with the Awards Chair to rectify the error as soon as it is discovered and no later than October 30th.

- The data submitted MUST include: name of show, date of show, horse's name, rider's name, score and name of JUDGE(s).

- Score Reductions: All eligible scores will be recorded. Once a member meets the minimum score requirements for a given level, their lowest score(s) will be dropped. If a level requires at least one score from its highest-level test, the highest score earned at the highest-level test will always be protected and included in the median calculations.

- Award Calculations: All awards are determined by the MEDIAN score (the exact middle value of your results).
  - **Odd number of scores:** The median is the single middle score.
  - **Even number of scores:** The median is the average of the two middle scores.

- DSDCTA Board of Directors reserves the right to divide, combine, or create divisions or categories as it sees fit during the competition year.

Divisions

JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER

- Open to juniors and young riders who must meet the USEF Dressage definition of JUNIOR or YOUNG RIDER.
- A competitor is a JUNIOR RIDER until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches age eighteen, and a YOUNG RIDER until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches 21. For the purpose of DSDCTA YEAR END AWARDS, if the rider is a JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER as of October 1st of the award year all scores earned during the DSDCTA awards year will count towards JUNIORS/YOUNG RIDER awards.
- For the purpose of DSDCTA Year End Awards, JUNIOR RIDERS will be split into two age categories and awarded separately:
    - 13 & Under
    - 14 & Over

  Age shall be determined by the rider's age as of October 1 of the award year.

ADULT AMATEUR

- Open to AMATEURS who meet the USEF Dressage definition of ADULT.
- For competition purposes, in Dressage Division, competitors shall compete as Adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 22.
- For the purpose of DSDCTA YEAR END AWARDS if the rider is a USEF ADULT AMATEUR as of October 1st of the AWARD YEAR, all scores earned during the DSDCTA AWARD YEAR will count towards ADULT AMATEUR AWARDS.

MASTER

- Open to Members 50 years or older. Members must declare intent to compete in the Master's division at the beginning of the competition year.

OPEN

- OPEN to ALL. There are no restrictions based on the horse (age, breed, sex, size, residence, or membership of owner) or rider (experience, qualifications, sex, residence, or membership.) Scores may be from OPEN, ADULT AMATEUR USDF Qualifying or Championship classes and most restricted classes.

Classical Dressage Awards

Scores must be earned at a minimum of two (2) Shows, with two (2) different judges.

A Minimum of four (4) Scores are needed for Second (2nd) Level and below.
A minimum of Three (3) Scores are needed at Third (3rd) Level and above and for the FEI Young Horse Division.

To be eligible for awards at Introductory through Second Level, one (1) score must be earned at the highest level test for that level.
To be eligible for awards at Third Level and higher, scores can be earned from ANY test in that level.

Walk-Trot Introductory Dressage Awards

Scores must be earned at a minimum of two (2) Shows, with two (2) different judges. A Minimum of four (4) Scores are needed. This division will recognize scores from USDF Introductory Level – Test A and USDF Introductory Level - Test B. To be eligible for Walk-Trot Introductory Dressage, one (1) score must be earned at USDF Introductory Level - Test B.

No scores from USDF Introductory Level - Test C will be accepted for this division. Horse/Rider combinations participating in this division for year end awards are not eligible for awards in other divisions that include the canter. (i.e. Horse/Rider combo may receive a Puddle Jumper Combined Training Year-End Award during the same awards year as Walk-Trot Introductory Dressage but **may not** receive awards in Walk-Trot Introductory Dressage and in Introductory Dressage in the same awards year.)

Past Champions Dressage Awards

These awards are open to horse and rider combinations that have won a DSDCTA Year End Championship Award at their level in a past year.

This division gives Horse/Rider combinations the opportunity to earn a year-end award while continuing to compete at a level that they previously won (or a previously won level that they have moved back down to).

The Past Champions Dressage Awards will be classified by riders “Under 25” and riders “25 & Older”; the levels will be combined and awarded in five categories, as follows:

- Walk-Trot Introductory and Introductory Level
- Training Level and First Level
- Second Level
- Third Level and Fourth Level
- FEI

Scores must be earned at a minimum of two (2) Shows, with two (2) different judges.

A Minimum of four (4) Scores are needed for Second (2nd) Level and below. A minimum of Three (3) Scores are needed at Third (3rd) Level and above and for the FEI Young Horse Division.

To be eligible for awards at Walk-Trot Introductory Level, one (1) score must be earned at USDF Introductory Level – Test B.

To be eligible for awards at Introductory through Second Level, one (1) score must be earned at the highest level test for that level.

To be eligible for awards at Third Level and higher, scores can be earned from ANY test in that level.

Combined Training Awards

Scores from Horse Trials (Three Phase) and Combined Tests (Two Phase) shall be combined for the purpose of Combined Training Year End Awards.

Three (3) Scores minimum required in Pre-Amoeba through Preliminary Divisions.
Two (2) Scores are required for the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions.

The following divisions will have year-end awards:

- **Puddle Jumper Division** – Intro A, ground poles.
- **Pre-Amoeba Division** - Intro A, < 18" cross country jumps and/or stadium consisting of cross rails
- **Amoeba Division** - Intro B, 18" cross country jumps and/or 18" stadium jumps
- **Tadpole Division** - Intro C, 2' cross country jumps, and/or 2' stadium
- **Starter Division**- USEA Starter Test, 2'4" cross country jumps, and/or 2'4" stadium jumps
- **Beginner Novice Division** - USEF Beginner Novice Test A or B, 2'7" cross country jumps and/or 2'7" stadium jumps
- **Novice Division** - USEF Novice Test A or B, 2'11" cross country jumps, and/or 2'7" stadium jumps
- **Training Division** - USEF Training Test A or B, 3'3" cross country jumps, and/or 3'3" stadium jumps
- **Modified Division** – USEF Modified Test A, B, or C, 3'5" cross country jumps, and/or 3'5" stadium jumps
- **Preliminary Division** - USEF Preliminary Test A, B, 3'7" cross country jumps and/or 3'7" stadium jumps
- **Intermediate Division** - USEF Intermediate Test A or B, 3'9" cross country jumps and/or 3'11" stadium jumps
- **Advanced Division** - USEF Advanced Test A or B, 3'11" cross country jumps and/or 4'1" stadium jumps

Para Equestrian Dressage Awards

If you have a permanent, measurable disability, you may be eligible to compete in Para Equestrian (PE) Classes. PE classes are held at either FEI/USEF PE Shows (For riders with disability) or at Open USEF-Licensed/USDF-Recognized competitions.

If you require compensating aids or adaptors to allow you to compete, you must apply for a US Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dispensation Certificate which must be shared with DSDCTA Board Members. This Dispensation Certificate is only for permanent measurable disabilities, not those that are temporary. The Dispensation Certificate will list all appropriate compensating aides and adaptive equipment the particular athlete will be permitted to use in competition.

The aids are compensatory in nature, not providing any advantage to the athlete.

Grade I-Most Severely Impaired through Grade V for the Least Impaired will be awarded on skill of the individual competing on their horse without regard to the competitor's impairment. Para Equestrian athletes may participate in Rated Dressage Shows without Para Equestrian Classes and must have a Dispensation Certificate.

Due to the restructuring of the USEF/USDF Rules and Regulations for Para Equestrian Dressage, the DSDCTA Board of Directors will review and revise as is deemed necessary.

Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) Awards

Awards will be offered in the following age categories (date of birth is necessary):

- Ponies 14.2 & Under
- Current Year Yearling Two Year Old
- Three Year Old
- Four Year Old and Older Maiden Mare/Yeld Not Bred and Broodmares in Foal as of January 1st.
- Four Year Old and Older Gelding/Stallions Material Dressage Horse Under Saddle

The horse needs a minimum of three (3) Scores, from at least two (2) different judges, from two (2) different competitions in the categories listed.

The horse owner must be a DSDCTA member in good standing at the time the scores are earned.

Scores from Amateur or Junior/Young Rider group and under Saddle classes are not eligible for DSHB all-breeds awards.

Awards shall be offered for IN-HAND HANDLERS responsible for showing the horse In-Hand at Dressage Sport Horse In-Hand classes in the following divisions:

- Junior Handler
- Amateur Handler

Handler needs a minimum of three (3) scores, from at least two (2) Judges, from two (2) different competitions in the Sport Horse In-Hand Class.

The Handler must be a DSDCTA member in good standing at the time the scores are earned. No limit to the number of times a member may win this award.

The Judge for the In-Hand Awards MUST have a USEF Sport Horse Judge License.

Western Dressage Awards

USDF recognizes the USEF Approved Affiliate WDAA for the new discipline Western Dressage and refers those interested in the specifics of their rules and competitions to the USDF's Rule Book.

WDAA Recognized Shows would be considered Recognized Shows for DSDCTA. Recognized and Schooling Shows will be awarded separately. Online shows will be awarded separately and must be hosted by DSDCTA.

WDAA Levels are Intro, Basic, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3.

Scores must be earned at a minimum of two (2) shows, with++ two, (2) different Judges.

A minimum of four (4) scores are needed for Level 2 and below.

A minimum of three (3) scores are needed at Level 3 to be eligible for awards.

Intro through Level 2, one score must be earned at the HIGHEST test for that LEVEL.

To be eligible for awards at Level 3, scores can be earned from any test in that level.

Achievement Awards

Horse of the Year – Recognizes performance excellence in three categories – Dressage, Western Dressage and Combined Training. Awarded to the horse with the highest **average** after submitting five scores for consideration. Scores must be sent before October 15 of each year. The five scores can be any level and/or test combination and may be earned across multiple riders.

Rider of the Year - Recognizes performance excellence in three categories – Junior, Amateur and Open. Awarded to the rider with the highest **average** after submitting five scores for consideration. Scores must be sent before October 15 of each year. The five scores can be any level and/or test combination and may be earned across multiple horses.

Perfect Year: Awarded to the rider with the highest **average** score. DSDCTA members must submit at least one eligible score from every DSDCTA-hosted competition event during the award year. This award celebrates dedication and consistent participation throughout the show season. Members must submit a minimum of 5 scores, and scores may be earned across multiple horses and eligible divisions. DSDCTA-canceled events are excluded.

Volunteer of the Year: Presented to the member with the most volunteer hours logged with DSDCTA for the applicable show year. DSDCTA Executive Board Members are excluded from eligibility for this award.

Special Awards

Nominations, including a description of why the nominee deserves the award, must be submitted by email to submitmyscore@gmail.com. Finalists will be selected by the DSDCTA Board of Directors.

The Barbara M. Petti Heart and Spirit Award - Each year a member of DSDCTA who exemplifies the mission of DSDCTA in their daily lives and distinguishes themselves by their actions is recognized by the Board of Directors through the Barbara M. Petti Heart and Spirit Award. Their accomplishments extend beyond the competition arena to DSDCTA service, community service and service to others.

Jan Fernald Memorial Award - The Jan Fernald Memorial Award will be presented to a member who has displayed exceptional leadership, guidance, and mentorship throughout the past year. We will never forget Jan's exceptional contributions and leadership, and we are proud to honor those who continue to fill such a critical role in our organization.

Eeyore's Mission Award – Inspired by Linda Lester's beloved pony Eeyore, who brought many new riders to the world of dressage. This award will be presented to a Junior/Young Rider who demonstrates the true spirit of horsemanship both in and out of the arena. Examples of this spirit include: putting the horse first; demonstrating perseverance; encouraging others; a positive attitude; volunteering; good sportsmanship; growth as a horseperson and individual; a drive to learn and have a positive impact on others; and otherwise contributing to the dressage community.

Sportsmanship Award – The Sportsmanship Award is presented to an individual who embodies the integrity and true spirit of good horsemanship toward their equine partners, and good sportsmanship toward their fellow competitors.

Gerard Kirsch Memorial Instructor Award - Gerard Kirsch Memorial Instructor Award recognizes a member that is an Instructor who is supportive of their students and efforts regardless of goals; has a broad variety of experience in training students at different levels; continues their own education in dressage; is involved locally and/or regionally in the horse community; attends and supports students in their competitions; retains students over a period of years, and shows leadership in the dressage community.