

Deep South Dressage and CTA, Inc.
2026 By-Laws

1. NAME.

The legal name of the organization is, DEEP SOUTH DRESSAGE AND CTA, INC. (Hereinafter referred to as DSDCTA.)

2. DESCRIPTION

DSDCTA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational organization. Its place of business and official address shall be that of the current President, or at a location designated by the President.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of DSDCTA shall be to promote dressage, combined training, western dressage and the education of its membership. Dressage is the gradual, harmonious development of the horse's physical and mental condition with the aim to improve its natural gaits and develop a perfect understanding with its rider. Combined training, the complete test of the horse and rider, tests both horse and rider in dressage, cross-country (endurance) and stadium jumping. The cross-country test, originally the measure of the horse as a military courier, follows a prescribed course over natural obstacles within a specified time. To test the horse's ability to continue following previous demands on his endurance, the stadium test requires obedience, accuracy, and frequent changes of direction over a course of show jumping fences. The Western Dressage Association® of America ("WDAA") training discipline is a melding of Classical Dressage training methods and Western Horsemanship. It is the art of riding and training a horse in a manner that develops obedience, flexibility, and balance.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the association shall be educational and shall be designed primarily to offer a framework in which individuals can progress with the schooling of themselves and their horses. Activities shall be directed towards a better understanding of dressage, western dressage and/or combined training.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- A. The membership shall be composed of those persons interested in advancing the objectives and goals of DSDCTA; willing to subscribe to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of DSDCTA and who are otherwise qualified under the provisions set forth in these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of DSDCTA.
- B. Membership is open to all persons, regardless of race, creed, sex, national origin, or ability.
- C. The official DSDCTA membership year shall be December 1 through November 30

- of any given year. Renewals or new memberships shall be achieved annually by paying dues according to terms established by the Policies and Procedures created by the Board of Directors. Dues become payable November 1st of each year.
- D. All dues must be current for a member to be eligible to participate in DSDCTA sponsored activities.
 - E. Each qualified member, as established by the Policies and Procedures, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the general membership. In order to vote in any matter, the member must be considered current, having paid dues for the current year.
 - F. The Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the voting members of the Board, may take appropriate disciplinary action against a member of DSDCTA for cause, after a full and fair hearing, as specified in the Policies and Procedures of the Board of Directors.
 - G. If a new member joins the Association after September 1st, dues for the remainder of the year shall be waived and the dues shall apply for the forthcoming year. USDF Membership shall become effective after December 1st of the year to which the dues apply. (Member's scores are only eligible after the date their dues are submitted.)
 - H. Membership in DSDCTA is not transferrable or assignable.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The management and business of DSDCTA shall be governed exclusively by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Board to carry out the objectives and goals of DSDCTA as outlined in the Mission Statement.
- B. DSDCTA shall have a Policy and Procedure manual maintained by the Board of Directors and may be added to, amended or otherwise revised by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Board of Directors of DSDCTA shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and others as specified in the Policies and Procedures.
- D. The Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of DSDCTA. Elections shall be held every two years, and Board members shall hold office for a two year term or until their successors have been formally elected or appointed. Election criteria and rules are outlined fully in the Policies and Procedures. All Board members must be members in good standing.
- E. Should a vacancy on the Board of Directors occur, said vacancy will be filled according to the Policies and Procedures.
- F. Resignation/Termination from the Board of Directors - any members of the Board of Directors may resign by giving notice to the Board. Any member of the Board may be removed for cause in accordance with the Policies and Procedures.
- G. Meetings of the Board - The Board of directors shall meet at regular intervals, as established in the Policies and Procedures.
- H. Quorum - a majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. A majority of the quorum is required to pass any

motion, unless a greater proportion is required by law, these bylaws, or the Policies and Procedures.

7. COMMITTEES AND CHAIR PERSONS

- A. The Board of Directors retains the right to create Committees and appoint Chairpersons to aid in developing specific programs and address any specific goals created by the Board. The aforementioned chairpersons and committee members will be appointed to their position by a majority decision of the Board of Directors and shall serve at the will of the Board or until the position is no longer warranted.
- B. There shall be such standing and temporary committees as are deemed necessary to carry on the work of DSDCTA.
- C. A Committee Chair must be in good standing, over 18 years of age, unless it's a Junior Committee. Committee Chairs may be appointed from the General Membership as long as they are in good standing.
- D. Committee Chairs can attend DSDCTA Board of Directors meetings, but do not have voting privileges, unless also Board Members.

8. MEETINGS

- A. Annual Meeting: The Annual Membership Meeting of the general membership shall be held in August of each year, at which time the annual reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, and all committees shall be presented. The date shall be set by the Board of Directors with no less than fifteen (15) days' electronic notice to the general membership. In the event of postponement, the meeting may be held within thirty (30) days of the original date, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- B. Other Meetings: Championship Awards shall be presented within the first quarter of the calendar year. The Board of Directors reserves the right to call other meetings as outlined in the Policies and Procedures.

9. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and shall be voted on by mail ballot, electronic ballot, email or in person at the Annual Membership Meeting or a General Membership Meeting. For in-person meetings, a simple majority of the DSDCTA membership in attendance is required to pass Amendments. For votes conducted outside of an in-person meeting, a simple majority of the responding DSDCTA members is required to pass Amendments.

10. DISSOLUTION

If at any time DSDCTA dissolves, any funds remaining in the treasury shall be distributed to such organizations as the Board of Directors shall designate, providing such organizations have purposes, goals and aims consistent with the expressed intention of DSDCTA.

11. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Revised and most recent edition shall govern the Board of Directors meetings and Membership Meetings, when not in conflict with these By-Laws.

12. GENERAL

- A. Indemnification - No member, director, officer, employee, or agent of DSDCTA shall be personally liable for the debts or liabilities or expenses (including judgments, fines, penalties and reasonable attorney's fees) provided the Board of Directors determines that such person was acting in good faith within what he/she reasonably believed to be the scope of his/her employment or authority and for a purpose which he/she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of DSDCTA or its members.
- B. The Board of Directors has full power and authority to interpret these By-Laws and any Standing Rules (Policy and Procedures) and its decision on all such questions shall be final, binding and conclusive.