

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> of one year to September 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 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.
- Schooling Shows and Recognized Shows will be awarded separately.
- Online shows will be awarded separately and must be hosted by DSDCTA.
- Scores earned at Recognized Shows with a United States Equestrian Federation

licensed judge will be eligible for Recognized Year End Awards.

- Scores earned at Schooling 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](http://deepsouthdressage.com) on a quarterly basis by these QUARTERLY dates: December 15<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, and September 30<sup>th</sup> with the scores being finalized by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 by October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The data submitted MUST include: name of show, date of show, horse’s name, rider’s name, score and name of JUDGE(s).
- All eligible scores will be recorded. The lower score(s) will be dropped after the member has met the minimum number of score requirements at a given level.
- All awards will be based on the MEDIAN score. The median score is the score exactly between the highest and the lowest scores. When there is an odd number of eligible scores, the median is the middle score. When there is an 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 & OverAge 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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 (2<sup>nd</sup>) Level and below.

A minimum of Three (3) Scores are needed at Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) 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.

## Combined Training Awards

Awards shall be offered in two (2) different categories: Horse Trials (Three Phase) and Combined Tests (Two Phase). *The Horse Trials (Three Phase) awards category is exempt from the requirement to earn at least one score from a DSDCTA hosted event.*

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

**HORSE TRIALS:** (a Three Phase contest consisting of Dressage, XC, and Show Jumping) the following divisions will have year-end awards:

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

**COMBINED TESTS:** (a Two Phase contest consisting of Dressage and either one of the following: Cross Country OR Show Jumping OR the "Derby Format" of the second phase, which may consist of both cross country and stadium jumps in one phase) the following divisions will have year-end awards:

- **Puddle Jumper Division** – Intro A, ground poles.
- **Pre-Amoeba Division** - Intro A, < 18" cross country jumps OR stadium consisting of cross rails
- **Amoeba Division** - Intro B, 18" cross country jumps OR 18" stadium jumps
- **Tadpole Division** - Intro C, 2' cross country jumps, OR 2' stadium

- **Starter Division**- USEA Starter Test, 2'4" cross country jumps, OR 2'4" stadium jumps
- **Beginner Novice Division** - USEF Beginner Novice Test A or B, 2'7" cross country jumps OR 2'7" stadium jumps
- **Novice Division** - USEF Novice Test A or B, 2'11" cross country jumps, OR 2'7" stadium jumps Training Division - USEF Training Test A or B, 3'3" cross country jumps, OR 3'3" stadium jumps
- **Modified Division** – USEF Modified Test A, B, or C, 3'5" cross country jumps, OR 3'5" stadium jumps
- **Preliminary Division** - USEF Preliminary Test A, B, 3'7" cross country jumps OR 3'7" stadium jumps
- **Intermediate Division** - USEF Intermediate Test A or B, 3'9" cross country jumps OR 3'11" stadium jumps
- **Advanced Division** - USEF Advanced Test A or B, 3'11" cross country jumps 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**

**The Elaine Williams Memorial Trophy** - This award is presented to the Training Level Rider who has the three (3) highest scores (averaged) received at a DSDCTA Sponsored Show.

**The Debbie Lillibridge Award** - This award will be presented to a Junior (21 Years of age and under) Combined Training Rider who has shown the greatest improvement over the course of the year.

## **Special Awards**

*Nominations, including a description of why the nominee deserves the award, must be submitted by email to [submitmyscore@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**The Wonder Pony Award** - The Wonder Pony Award honors a special horse or pony whose impact extends far beyond the show ring. This award celebrates the steady, generous partner who introduces young riders to the love of the sport, building confidence, trust, and lifelong passion. Dependable and kind, the Wonder Pony guides riders of all abilities with patience and heart.

**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.