

2021 USDF Convention Summary

By Melinda DeLuca, WDCTA President

For the first time and as the WDCTA president, I attended the USDF Convention. The convention was a Zoom meeting the first week of December. The convention was originally to be held in Texas by Region 9, but was switched over to a Zoom meeting similar to last year. Everyone was invited to join the Zoom meetings. The USDF required the representative of the GMOs (Group Member Organizations like WDCTA) to attend the BOG (Board of Governor) meetings. I learned a lot more about the organization of USDF. As the WDCTA secretary, I knew about WDCTA, but was very amazed at the number of volunteers and committees within the USDF organization.

Region 2 Summary

Our Region 2 Director is Debbie Savage. She called me to help bring me up to date for the meeting. I needed to figure out how to connect to the meetings and find the link for voting. Debbie was voted in again as the Region 2 Director for 2022. During the Region 2 Zoom meeting, I discovered there is a Region 2 website (usdfregion2.org). The Region 2 website, like our website, has a calendar. Perhaps as we move into 2022 and start planning events, we should put the information on both our calendar and the Region 2 calendar.

During the meeting, we also discussed how to help increase the number of members in the GMOs and increase awareness of dressage. Two ideas were to include combined training and western dressage, which we already do—our the awards program. The other ideas included putting on dressage demonstrations at local events to get folks thinking about riding dressage and joining WDCTA. We currently put on dressage and combined training

demonstrations at the Midwest Horse Fair (MHF) but there may be other events that would work as well. Cari Schmidt is already working hard to represent WDCTA at the MHF. She has a list of riders, but would appreciate volunteers to work the booth. Let us know if you have any other ideas or would like to ride at an event to represent WDCTA and dressage.

Board of Governors Summary

The BOG meeting focused on the various committees providing updates and announcing some of the awards winners. The primary focus was voting for the new USDF President and Treasurer. Two candidates had been nominated for the position of president, Kevin Reinig of Region 7 and Steven Schubert of Region 8. Former USDF President, George Williams, was nominated from the floor and elected. Kevin Reinig chose to rescind his candidacy in favor of supporting George, which means

Kevin will remain in his role as USDF Vice President for the remainder of his current term. Lorraine Musselman ran unopposed as USDF treasurer and was re-elected.

Other topics covered were where to hold the US Dressage Finals. Next year, it will still be at the Kentucky Horse Park, but the committee continues to review other locations.

The other issue that came up is how difficult it can be to find information on the USDF website. I know that to be true because I have searched a number of times trying to find information. The suggestion was to log in to the website first, then search the website. I will try that the next time I am on the USDF website.

A lot of information is on the USDF website that's worth exploring, which may help us as a GMO. In addition, if you're interested in more information on the convention, click on Education, then under Other Programs.



From the USDF Convention

Olympic Forum and a Focus on Newest Team Members

By Caryn Vesperman

One of the USDF Convention's break-out sessions was with the Tokyo Olympic equestrians. George Williams, newly elected USDF president, moderated the session with dressage team members—Adrienne Lyle, Steffen Peters, Sabine Schut-Kerry, and Nick Wagman (reserve)—and Para team—Beatrice de Lavalette, Rebecca Hart, Kate Shoemaker and Roxanne Trunnell.

Favorite moment in Tokyo

Sabine: "My favorite experience was riding Sanceo."

Steffen: "The moment we knew we had the (team) Bronze. Sabine was doing every movement flawlessly. I knew what we had to do to get the Bronze." (The team ultimately ended up with the Silver.)

Adrienne: "Getting the medals is the most emotional moment." Adrienne related how she has a superstition about not getting dressed before you know if you medal. Then she related she heard the "you have five minutes to get dressed!"

Highlights from Sabine

Sabine, as the newest face on the international scene, got a lot of questions about her experience and her training.

George asked her how she made the **transition from exhibition riding to competition**, especially on the international scene. "What I realized is I get nervous the same as other competitors,"

said Sabine. "But I thought about exhibitions, where I learned not to get nervous in front of an audience. With exhibitions, I learned that nothing starts on time, things change, so I learned to work, not get nervous and not get phased by that."

"A horse's eye has a lot to say. Sometimes you don't see that from the saddle, so I think working with them from the ground, you learn how to better read their body language."

What attracted you to Sanceo as a young horse?

"He had natural balance, three good gaits, steady rhythm. At four years old, he was light on the aids and had power without running. In addition, his character and personality was a plus. His willingness was such a positive."

When did you know Sanceo would be a Grand Prix horse?

"When it happened," laughed Sabine. "When he was six, I saw he was special. When he was nine, doing the small tour and schooling the Grand Prix movements, it was then I saw he might be a Grand Prix horse."

Any challenges with Sanceo in the training over the years?

"Most issues with him were about his sensitivity and integrating that in the right way. I believed in the process and stuck to it. Stick to a system and stick to the basics."



It may not have been "like being there," but at least USDF members could participate in the educational sessions like the Olympic Forum.

"When we teach horses to sit down, lay down, you learn a lot about their reactions," Sabine continued. "You have one more aspect in horse language. In the competition arena, when a horse gets spooky, I learned to read a horse even more, and the more it helped me react ahead of a situation."

Continued on next page

Olympic Forum continued

“I did have a year (2018) of pulling my hair out with a soundness issue. Sometimes a certain farrier or vet matter a lot with a certain horse. Use common sense, be present yourself and make the decision—the rider knows the horse the best.”

Any difficult spots in Sanceo's training beyond working with his sensitivity?

“At times, I felt I needed to hold back when it was strength-related. I held back on piaffe, so in the Intermediare 1 test, I didn't feel he was ready to stay in place. He had started to put his front legs backwards, so I kept the piaffe more forward and not in place. If I felt he wasn't quite ready, I sometimes contacted my veterinarian and my coach, Christine Traurig.”

What extra things do you do to keep your horses sound?

“I don't do body-work on my horses—maybe more of a check-in and not in my regular routine. At competitions I do it, but it's not like once a week!”

What exercises do you use to improve contact/connection?

“Shallow leg yields. It's not how much the horse's legs cross, but how much the horse gives in his rib cage. The back needs to be supple. Your leg needs to teach bend from the rib cage. The neck is the easiest to bend; next is the hindquarters. The rib cage is the most difficult. It takes a good eye on the ground and good feel to feel the alignment and connection.

“Other good exercises are transitions between gaits and tempo changes. In addition, do different size circles—follow the front footprints without losing impulsion.

“Work off the rail and spend more time on the quarter lines. Horses have a crooked side and the aids may need to be different on the 'easy' side. The rider has to figure out what it takes to support the weaker and stronger sides.

“(Another exercise) is to go straight, then try to position the horse's neck to one side. If the horse follows with the entire shoulder, it's not good. Your horse needs to stay on the straight line with forelegs and hind legs no matter what you do with the horse's neck.”

How do you teach piaffe?

“Teaching piaffe is a very individual thing for a horse. Today we have horses that have very big, lofty trots, so compressing them might need to be started fairly early. You need to think 'small trot' just so you know there is an understanding of a smaller trot, but you must maintain the connection and supple back. Remember, there is a difference between a 'mincy' trot and being earthbound. For horses with quick hind legs, I really don't worry about the piaffe.

“I want horses to start piaffe inhand so they understand how to lift their hind leg. It's important that the hind leg doesn't slow down but needs to stay up longer. Horses also need to learn to maintain much power and remain in front of the leg, which needs to be done from the saddle since that part is hard to do in-hand. At that point, I teach horses the concept of piaffe and the transition through the trot, keeping the balance, collection and thrust.

“Horses should know piaffe from the walk and the trot. When I start out, I use the easier one to introduce it and then move to the more difficult. Piaffe is the pinnacle of collection.”

Which do you teach first: piaffe or passage?

“Piaffe, but it does depend upon the individual horse.”

Tips for transitions in and out of the piaffe?

“Make sure the collection is true, that the horse is not behind the aids. Don't think passage out of the piaffe—think smaller, smaller than bigger, bigger.”

Rewarding a horse?

“When I feel a horse tried—maybe not the first time because that might have been luck, but when I repeat it and if the horse appears to get the idea, reward!”

What about rider fitness?

“I realized at the Pan Am Games how much I got out of breath, and it wasn't because I have to push my horse, so now I do cardio work and Pilates. I like Pilates because it helps me control my body when the balance shifts, and I can stay centered. It helps me stay loose, not get tense and continue to follow the motion.”

What advice would you give to other riders when competing?

“Stay focused on your path. You could start doubting yourself. 'Maybe I should do this or that,' but if you're not confident, you worry. My advice is don't forget who has helped you and what your horse needs. If your horse reacts in a certain way, think what you would do at home. Stay you.”



Caryn Vesperman Editor

All advertisements, articles and photographs (with photo release) should be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month of publication, unless you make prior arrangements for additional time.

Calendar of events will appear in both the eQuester and on the WDCTA website.

Payment for advertisements should be submitted via PayPal through the WDCTA website (wdcta.org) or mailed with a check made out to WDCTA and mailed to the editor.

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(608) 695-9914
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Brooklyn, WI 53521
newsletter@wdcta.org



The Winter Adventures Begins

I don't know what I'd do if it wasn't for computers, smart phones and the internet. I know I wouldn't be able to do my volunteer work for WDCTA, serve on the marketing committee for the Hanoverian Society, or communicate as well with my husband who is holding down the fort at home while I spend the winter in Wellington, FL. Without my iPhone and WiFi, I also wouldn't be able to experiment with the Pivo system, which my good friend, Marie, gave me, saying it would help me video my rides in Florida.

So far, the horses are going well. My weekly lessons with Janet Foy are very helpful, and I'll start again with Linda Zang in January. I only wish my body and brain would actually sync up with what I'm suppose to do! The only issues I've had here so far are both horses have come down with a case of hive—Zeza worse than Tanqueray. They're at the same barn, in the same stalls, on the same hay I buy every year, same bedding, and the same grain and supplements. I haven't used fly spray or any shampoos that are different from what I use at home. They've been on antibiotics, antihistamines and then mild steroids, which have reduced the hives, but they haven't disappeared. Fortunately, they don't seem to be particularly bothered by them and they haven't progressed to large edemas. It's a frustrating puzzle, but we'll keep trying different things and eliminating possibilities, one at a time.

The great thing about being here is there's always something interesting going on horse-wise. There are educational events, exhibitions, shows and clinics. I've been to a couple of those already, and will share tips and insights.

Our New Year is looking hopeful for our horse sports. In spite of the continued threat from Covid, with more people getting vaccinated, things are starting to open up. Let's hope the new Omnicron strain isn't as devastating as Delta. I've gotten my booster, but still mask whenever I'm inside. I don't want to ever get sick and hospitalized from Covid. We ensure our horses are safe by providing them with the vaccinations, diet and exercise they need, so let's treat ourselves at least as well as we treat our horses (except for the Ivermectin part)!

Stay tuned for info on our annual meeting and awards presentation. I have a feeling it will be virtual for one more year, and then....let's hope that most of 2022 brings us a "normal" show season and finally—after two years—some special educational events that WDCTA is known for hosting! Even if our annual awards presentation is virtual, the awards prizes are "real," and as in previous years, super nice! Speaking of awards, an article at the end of this issue touches on the ins and outs of the awards program—specifically, mistakes to avoid when signing up or reporting your scores. If you have additional questions about our awards program, send an email to awards@wdcta.org. We want everyone who signs up to be able to participate and, hopefully, win!

As always, send me your articles, photos, and tips to share. If anyone wants to be an occasional roving reporter, please let me know.

Stay safe in and out of the saddle, and have a Happy New Year!

Caryn

P.S. This will be your last newsletter, unless you renew!

Informal Chat with the Two Bills

By Caryn Vesperman

All through the winter season, ShowChic, an equestrian clothing and gift business, hosts informal gatherings at its Wellington shop with recognized judges, international competitors, grooms and trainers.

The first one I was able to attend in early December was with, as they are affectionately called, the “Two Bills”: Bill Warren and Bill McMullin. Bill Warren is an FEI 4*, USEF 'S' Dressage Judge, USDF Gold Medalist, and has trained several horses to Grand Prix. Bill McMullin is a USEF 'R' Dressage Judge, a USDF Gold Medalist, and a USDF Certified Instructor and Faculty member. They are based at their facility south of Boston, Massachusetts during the summer and re-locate near Wellington, Florida for the winter season.

The question and answer session a few weeks ago covered a lot of topics brought up by attendees.

Following are some questions attendees brought up and the summary of the Bills' answers:

What's the biggest change in dressage in the last five years?

The quality of horses and riding is so much better, thanks to education. In addition, the prevalence of social media, which can result in not-so-positive posts and feedback. They advised people to really think about what they post.

What's the new dress code rule?

It's a bit confusing and will have to be worked out. Bill W. cautioned about wearing “bizarre outfits”—bright plaids or prints. The focus should be on the horse's training. However, while judges and technical delegates (TDs) need to monitor adherence to the dress code, the judge's main job is to assess training and riding.

How does a judge know when to ring out a horse for lameness?

Judges need to know the difference between lameness and a stumble or non-pervasive, unrhythmic steps. Judges evaluate rhythm and regularity first. They need to be able to evaluate what they see quickly, but not so quickly that they ring out a competitor whose horse had a



(L-R) Bill McMullin and Bill Warren (Photo from the Warren-McCullin Dressage website)

few irregular steps due to a stumble, a knock or temporary rein lameness.

What advice do you have for young professionals?

Get certified as an instructor through the USDF. Do the “L” program even as an auditor.. An instructor's job is to pass on good information to students.

What's a good warm-up to do at a show?

This is something that can vary from day to day, rider to rider, horse to horse, and the conditions in the warm-up ring. Riders need to be able to adjust, depending upon if the ring is crowded, the footing is deep or hard, how your horse is responding to the scene, and whether or not you need to calm your horse or jazz him up.

Other tips: It's not the ring steward's responsibility to get you to the ring on time. Give yourself plenty of time to go around the ring in both directions, if possible. When the bell rings, that's your countdown time, even if you've just arrived at the ring. Lastly, don't use up everything your horse has before you enter the ring—that's called winning the warm-up.

Lastly, both Bills reiterated that **“the rider is responsible for knowing the rules”** and volunteer as much as possible because **“shows don't run by themselves.”**

And the Winner of the WDCTA Membership Drive Early Bird Drawing is...

Debra Stephenson was one of the WDCTA members who sent in her membership by the early bird deadline. When the ceramic tray with the horse design arrived, she emailed our membership chair, Diane Brault, this note with the photo of the tray:

“Imagine my surprise when I won this gorgeous plate—I just don't win things!! Anyway, thank you and WDCTA for this wonderful gift! What a treasure!”



Interested in Doing a Little Reporting for WDCTA?

Looking for a few members who would be interested in writing articles about our members—from their show successes to profiling their businesses, stables, or training operations. Want to write a tribute to a fabulous horse show mom or spouse?

Contact me if interested!

newsletter@wdcta.org

“Help GROW Our GMO!” Drawing

**WDCTA is looking for new members!
You can help, and earn a chance to be rewarded!.**

You can earn one chance to win the drawing for each new member you refer who joins WDCTA by Sept. 25, 2022. The prize for the 2021 Grow Our GMO drawing is a dressage pad with the WDCTA logo embroidered on it.



growing Together

Rules for the drawing:

1. A “new” member is defined as someone who was not a WDCTA member in 2021.
2. The new member must include your name as their Referring Person on their membership for when they send it in. We
3. will not be adding referral names retroactively, after the membership form has already been submitted.
4. Referring members must be current 2022 adult members of WDCTA to qualify for this drawing.
5. New members who joined before this announcement, who already included the name of their referring member, will automatically have their referring member’s name included in the drawing.
6. Successful referral of one Individual or Business membership will give you one chance in the drawing. Successful referral of a Junior or Young Rider (they must give their birth date on their application form!) will earn you two chances in the drawing. A successful Family membership will earn you one chance for the new adult members plus two chances for each qualifying Junior or Young Rider. (Again, birth dates are required for Juniors and Young Riders.)
7. Junior and Young Riders must include their birth dates on their application form when they send it in.
8. There is no limit to how many entries you can earn by successful referrals of new people who join WDCTA.
9. All new memberships and payments must be received *no later than Sept. 25, 2022!*

**Talk to your friends and boarding buddies who may be interested in the many benefits of being a WDCTA member.
Encourage them to join! You could be our winner!**

Dressage Horse Boarding Eagle, WI



Tailwind Farm, a premier dressage facility in Eagle, WI has one opening beginning March 1, 2021.

Heated barn and tack room. 12x12 matted stalls with automatic waterers. Grain AM and PM, hay fed 4 times daily. Daily turnout in spacious dry lots and attached pastures are used weather permitting.

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Training and lessons provided by Andrea Schten. Andrea is a USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist on self- trained horses. Multiple students have also obtained their USDF medals under her tutelage.

Please contact Andrea Schten for more information. Call or text 262-470-4557, email: aschten@hotmail.com

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Calendar of Events

WDCTA Events

Stay tuned for 2022!

Other Events

April 22-24, 2021

Midwest Horse Fair

Alliant Energy Center

Madison, WI

midwesthorsefair.com

Sept. 8-11

Region 4 Regional Championships

National Equestrian Center

Lake St. Louis, MO

Sept. 14-18

Region 2 Regional Championships

Waterloo Hunt Club

Grass Lake, MI

Nov. 10-13

US Dressage Finals

Kentucky Horse Park

Lexington, KY

Member Listings

INSTRUCTORS

Tracey Dikkers
W4835 Aspen Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(608) 220-2628

USEF/USDF Silver and Bronze medalist on self-trained horses, trained through FEI. 25+ years of experience training and instructing. Will teach beginners to FEI. Will travel. *

Joan Leuck Waak
Angels Flight Farm
4823 Range Line Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 323-9645

35+ years of experience. Silver medalist working toward Gold medal. Has earned year-end USDF champion and reserve in all breeds FEI level; several show high-point awards at national and FEI levels. Will teach intro through Prix St. George. School horses available. Will travel.

Jackie Luebke-Puetz
15034 Co. Rd. X
Kiel, WI 53042-9706
cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

Will teach through 2nd level, earned USDF Bronze medal, trained through 4th Level. Served in the past on USDF education committee, USEF steward. Will travel. *

Megan McIsaac
Lindhof Equine Sports Zentrum
4246 Schneider Drive
Oregon, WI 53575
lindhofllc@gmail.com
(608) 445-8531

FEI trainer, USDF-certified instructor thru 4th Level, 2014 national champion with Kingsley. USDF Gold, Silver, Bronze medalist, all USDF bars. Competed four horses at GP. Competed successfully at Dressage at Devon and West Coast Festival. Year-end USDF, USEF, WDCTA awards. 15+ years teaching experience. Students competed through GP, earned rider awards and medals. Travel for lessons and clinics. *

Katie Miller
Footloose Farm
6908 North Co. Rd. J
Reedsville, WI 54230
ktsufak@yahoo.com
(920) 629-0726

12 years of classical dressage experience, ridden through 4th level, earned USDF Bronze medal. Avid trail rider. Continuing education w/ Grand Prix trainer. Bachelors degree in teaching, specializing in teaching balanced riding from beginner to intermediate. School horses available. Will travel.

Abby Onsgard
521 Memphis Avenue
Madison, WI 53714
(Business address; primary business in Oregon area)
abbyonsgarddressage@gmail.com
(608) 8439552

30 years of teaching experience, USDF Bronze and Silver medals (Gold anticipated in 2020). Multiple year-end, regional and national top 10 awards. School horses available. Will travel.

Andrea Schten
W350S6890 Ulrickson Road
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 470-4557
aschten@hotmail.com
www.andreaschten.com

USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist, regional championships: Training through Grand Prix on self-trained horses. Multiple students have earned Bronze and Silver medals. Schoolmasters available. Trailering in for lessons welcome. Available for clinics; travel for lessons. *

Kate Van Sicklen
110 Merrill Crest Drive
Madison, WI 53705
katherinevansicklen@gmail.com
(608) 669-0148

40+ years of teaching experience. British Horse Society instructor certification. USDF "L" graduate with distinction. USDF Associate Certified Instructor. USDF Silver Medal. Shown through Prix St. George. Will teach through 4th Level. Specialize in teaching horses and riders correct basics. Will travel. *

Member Listings

STABLES

Footloose Farm
Katie Miller
6908 North Co. Rd. J
Reedsville, WI 54230
ktsufak@yahoo.com
(920) 629-0726

Small, private facility, board available w/ lesson program. Great footing in 60' x 160' indoor arena and 66' x 200' outdoor arena. Pastures, dry lots, trails, classical dressage and jumping lessons.

Grand Prix Farm
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15034 Co. Rd. X
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cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

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BREEDERS

Jackie Luebke-Puetz
15034 Co. Rd. X
Kiel, WI 53042-9706
cvestor@aol.com
(920) 693-3367

Standing Section B Welsh stallion, Too Cute to Shoot, bay, 13.2 h, cuter than a bug's ear and several times qualified for USDF breeding championships. In 2018, was third in halter for Welsh Association.

BUSINESS

Tracey Dikkers - USEF/USDF "r" Judge
W4835 Aspen Court
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(608) 220-2628

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N8811 Jordan Rd
Waterloo, WI 53594
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Caryn Vesperman - USEF/USDF "r" Judge
W1619 King Road
Brooklyn, WI 53521
touchstonefarm@gmail.com
(608) 455-2208

USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medalist. Shown through Grand Prix. Available for USEF/USDF-recognized dressage and eventing shows and schooling shows. *

Tips for Signing Up for the WDCTA Annual Awards Program

Every year, questions come up about our traditional dressage, western dressage or eventing rules and signing up for our awards program—but sadly, not enough come in, nor does everyone read the rules closely enough. The result? Some members are ineligible for awards or their scores don't meet the requirements. Do you know how much the awards committee members hate discovering this and then relaying that news to those members? It's hard on the committee members, and it's even more sad for the competitors who worked hard and spent a lot of money showing.

So you don't make a mistake, here are some of the rules missed:

- **Both the owner and the rider must be members of WDCTA prior to the date the scores are earned.**

Owners, if you are not riding your horse, please find out if your rider is a WDCTA member. You're communicating with your rider about the progress of your horse, your goals for the show season and which shows you plan to go to, so you might as well make sure both of you are WDCTA members. You can not add them after the scores are earned.

- The application form must be **submitted at least ONE day before the scores are earned.**

*Because WDCTA uses the dollars from those who sign up for the awards program to fund the prizes and ribbons for each year's program, this rule was put in place many years ago to ensure that members didn't sign up for the awards **after** the scores were earned, when they perhaps could get a sense of whether they were competitive enough for an award. The timeline for signing up has been shortened considerably from weeks to one day prior to the first show a member plans to attend. Members can always sign up—including adding an*

*additional level—weeks or months after the show season starts; however, only those scores earned **after** their application has been submitted will count toward awards. WDCTA does not have a huge state treasury like other GMOs, so this helps us better plan our annual budget for all of our other obligations.*

- At the end of your show season, make sure you **submit your scores before the deadline** at the end of November.

Most members who miss the deadline realize they missed it. We've had reasons ranging from they simply forgot or they were in the hospital. Believe me, the last one was hard to say no to, but if we make an exception, what is the standard for a "good" excuse? Fortunately the member completely understood and has continued to be a loyal participant in the awards program since then.

- For traditional dressage awards, **only one score submitted may be from a schooling show.** The other two (or all three) need to be from USEF/USDF-recognized shows.

This rule came about because years ago, a rider who only attended schooling shows nearly beat a rider who only went to recognized shows. While we could debate that scores should be the same in either situation, the other points include that schooling shows do not have TDs to ensure rules are being followed, nor are they at the same level of emotional tension that recognized shows are. Schooling shows play an important role in our discipline, but they do not provide an equal competitive playing field with recognized shows.

- Make sure **judges at schooling shows meet the requirements** of our rules.

Again, this goes hand-in-hand with the previous point. Some

schooling shows do not use, at a minimum, an "L" candidate. Remember, scores from "L" candidates and "r" judges are accepted through 2nd level for schooling shows. Scores from "r" judges are accepted through 2nd level at recognized shows. Scores from "R" judges are accepted through 4th level, and scores from "S" judges are accepted through Grand Prix.

By ensuring the judges in our awards program evaluate rides on the same standard, we help ensure that no matter what schooling or recognized show one attends, the playing field is as level as possible.

- Scores submitted at the end of the year must be **a minimum of 60% at Intro through 4th level and minimum of 58% at PSG and above.**

This is true even if the average of your three scores turns out to be above those minimums. This is in alignment with the USDF, although we allow a bit lower score at PSG and above since we have much fewer riders at those levels.

- In a test where **more than one judge scored the class, all the judges' scores are submitted and averaged for one score.**

This doesn't happen often. Usually the only time riders have a panel of judges is at Regional Championships, but just keep it in mind.

Rules, rules, rules! It may seem confusing, but if you ever have questions about any of the awards rules, feel free to contact Joann Williams, awards chair, at awards@wdcta.org.

It's so much better to get your questions answered beforehand than be disappointed after all your hard work with your horse during the show season. We want everyone to follow the rules so it's fair to all members. Good luck in 2022!



2022 DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

I. Dressage Awards

- Divisions are defined as Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR), Open and Adult Amateur
- Applicants may only compete in one Division per competition season.
- A Horse of The Year award will be awarded one for each of the following divisions Training – First level; Second – Fourth level; FEI levels.
- Levels are defined as In-Hand, Musical Freestyle, Materiale, Young Horse Tests, Rider Tests and Intro through Grand Prix.
 - A. A Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) is anyone that has not reached his/her 22nd birthday by January 1st of the award year.
 - B. Adult Amateurs must have an US Equestrian Federation (USEF) Amateur card or sign a WDCTA amateur affidavit. The card or affidavit must be included with the entry. If you enter as an Amateur but do not include the necessary proof of amateur status, you will be entered in the Open division.
 - C. A champion and reserve champion will be named for each division at each level of competition -- Introductory through FEI.
 - D. Maiden awards are only open to those HORSES in their first year of showing at Introductory (Intro) Level through Grand Prix. Only one award will be given at each level for all divisions combined.
 - E. One Champion and one Reserve Champion Musical Freestyle award will be given for First through FEI levels combined.

II. In-Hand Sport Horse Breed Awards

- A. A young horse is filly, colt or gelding 3 years of age or younger.
- B. A mature horse is a mare or stallion 4 years of age or older.
- C. Amateur Handler Award
- D. A Champion and Reserve Champion will be named for Young Horse Filly, Young Horse Colt/Gelding, Amateur Handler, Mature Horse Mare and Mature Horse Stallion.

III. Registration and Eligibility

- A. The rider and owner of the horse must be members in good standing of WDCTA at the time scores are earned.
- B. For in-hand classes, the handler does not need to be a WDCTA member, nor is it necessary to have the same handler for each class in order to qualify for year-end awards.
- C. A horse and rider combination may win an award or championship at any given level more than once. For In-hand Sport Horse Awards, Mature Horse (Mare/Stallion) may win more than once.
- D. Championship registration for each horse and rider combination must be postmarked at least 1 day prior to the first show from which they plan to submit scores.
- E. A fee of \$25.00 for each level must be paid for each horse and rider combination to be eligible for championships. If competing for a Maiden award at any level, an additional fee of \$25 must be paid. Only one award is given for all divisions at that level for maiden even if there are two riders competing the horse. There is no fee for the Horse of The Year award. (Note: if entering via PayPal, there is an additional cost.
- F. The Awards Chair must be notified in writing and fees paid if adding a level later in the year and prior to scores earned at that additional level.
- G. All registrations are for the show year December 1 through November 30.
- H. Registration is not necessary for the Horse of The Year award. Winning horses will be chosen from the eligible entries. To qualify for the Horse of The Year award, **ALL SCORES MUST BE EARNED AT USDF/USEF-RECOGNIZED SHOWS.**

DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

IV. Qualification for Dressage Championships

- A. The horse/rider combination must have three qualifying scores from three different judges from two different shows. At least two of the qualifying scores submitted must come from USEF/USDF-recognized competitions. Only one may be from a schooling show. Remember, scores from "L" candidates and "r" judges are accepted through 2nd level. Scores from "R" judges are accepted through 4th level, and scores from "S" judges are accepted through Grand Prix.
- B. Scores must be: minimum of 60% at Intro through 4th level and minimum of 58% at PSG and above.
- C. Scores must be from USEF, FEI or USDF tests. The scores will be averaged.
- D. Scores must be earned at USEF/USDF-recognized shows, open to all breeds. At least one qualifying score submitted must be from a USEF/USDF-recognized show held in Wisconsin. One test score must be from the highest test for the level (e.g. Training Level Test 4).
- E. Scores for the Maiden award may be from any test for the level.
- F. If scores from a Regional Championship class are submitted, where more than one judge scored the ride, all scores must be averaged and will count as only one score.
- G. Scores from Junior or Young Rider Team Tests will be accepted as long as the Team Test exactly matches the level test for which the Team Test is being submitted.
- H. When a clinic is run in conjunction with a schooling show, using the show's judge as the clinician, the show must be held BEFORE the clinic in order for the rider's scores to qualify for year-end awards.
- I. The rider must send to the Awards Chair either the horse's USDF Score Sheet with their three chosen scores highlighted or a "GOOD QUALITY" photocopy of the original test for each qualifying score. Photocopy must clearly state the show name, horse and rider, class, date, judge, score and judges signature. Photocopy does not have to include individual movement scores and comments.
- J. Scores must be postmarked on or before November 30. Scores may be submitted via email; a reply will be sent indicating your results were received. Scores may also be sent through the U.S. Postal Service. If you want notification that the awards chair received your scores when sent through the postal service, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard with your score sheets.
- K. For the Horse of the Year award, all of the above qualifications must be met, PLUS ALL SCORES MUST BE EARNED AT USDF/USEF-RECOGNIZED SHOWS.

V. Qualification For In Hand Sport Horse and Amateur Handler Championships

- A. The horse/handler must have two qualifying scores from two different judges, at two different shows. Both judges must have an USEF Sport Horse Judge license.
- B. Scores must be earned from USEF/USDF-recognized shows, open to all breeds. At least one qualifying score submitted must be from a USEF/USDF-recognized show held in Wisconsin.
- C. Scores may be from Sport Horse Prospect In-Hand classes and/or Breeding stock In-Hand classes. Scores will be averaged.
- D. The owner must send to the Awards Chair either the horse's USEF/USDF Score Sheet with their two chosen scores highlighted or a good quality photocopy of the original score sheet for each qualifying score. Photocopy must clearly state show name, horse and rider, class, date, judge, score and judge's signature. Photocopy does not have to include individual movement scores and comments.
- E. **Postmark must be on or before November 30.** Email will also be accepted.
- F. Send self-addressed stamped postcard with score sheets; Awards Chair will return postcard when results are received. This will be the only notification that results were received.

NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.

Show managers: If you want your show listed on the WDCTA website and in its monthly newsletter, please send your show information (date, name of show, show location, judge's name, show secretary's name and contact information) to newsletter@wdcta.org.



2022 WDCTA DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP APPLICATION

Championship registration open to WDCTA members in good standing.

FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED at least 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW.

Please read WDCTA Dressage Championship Rules on the website, prior to competition year.

One form for each Horse and Rider combination. Please print neatly.

HORSE INFORMATION	
Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____	
RIDER INFORMATION	OWNER INFORMATION
Name _____	Name _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
City/St/Zip _____	City/St/Zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____
AWARD INFORMATION	
Rider Division (circle appropriate division)	
Senior Open Adult Amateur*	JR/Young Rider: Birth Date _____
Award Level (circle all that apply)	
Intro Tr 1st 2 nd 3rd 4th PSG I-1 I-2 GP	
Other Riding Awards (circle all that apply)	
Musical Freestyle 3&4 Yr Old Materiale 4, 5, 6 YO FEI Young Horse Tests	
Highest level horse shown by any rider in any country _____	
In-Hand Awards (circle one)	
Young Horse Mare	Young Horse Colt/Gelding
Mature Horse Stallion	Amateur Handler
	Mature Horse Mare

APPLICATION FEES:

# Levels / Rider Tests / Freestyle / Horse Div ____ @ \$25 each x ____ # Rider divisions	\$
Maiden (First year showing this level. Only one award per horse per level.) \$25	\$
In-Hand Award ____ @ \$25 each (if applicable)	\$
NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.	\$
TOTAL PAYMENT	

Sizes for possible awards:

Horse: Blanket _____ Halter _____ Rider: Jacket _____ Belt _____

Mail to Awards Chair or email: awards@wdccta.org

Joann Williams
W3580 Scotch Bush Rd
Elkhorn, WI 53121-3302

Please enclose:

- Completed Dressage Awards Application
- Check made out to "WDCTA"
- Copy of USEF Amateur Card or WDCTA amateur affidavit
- Check that both rider AND owner are WDCTA members



2022 WDCTA Western Dressage Championship Awards

Dressage Awards:

- A. A champion, reserve champion and 3rd – 6th places will be awarded for each level.
- B. One freestyle champion, reserve champion and 3rd through 6th place will be awarded for all WDAA Freestyle test levels combined (Intro - Level 5).
- C. Open, Adult Amateur and JR/YR will be combined into one Division, defined as “Open.”
- D. Levels are defined as Intro through Level 5, using the current Western Dressage Association of America tests found at <http://westerndressageassociation.org>.
- E. The horse/rider combination must have three qualifying scores from three different judges from two different shows. WDCTA will accept scores from WDAA- or USEF-recognized shows and from schooling shows, but judges must be USDF "L" Graduates, USEF Western Dressage Licensed or USEF “r” or higher.
- F. Scores must be a minimum of 60% at Intro through Level 5.
- G. Scores must be from WDAA tests only. The scores will be averaged.
- H. Scores must be earned at schooling shows, WDAA-recognized and/or USEF/WDAA-recognized shows. Classes ridden must be open to all breeds. WDCTA does not recognize virtual shows for this awards program.
- I. One test score must be from the highest test for the level.
- J. When a clinic is run in conjunction with a schooling show, using the show's judge as the clinician, the show must be held BEFORE the clinic in order for the rider's scores to qualify for year-end awards.
- K. The rider must send to the Awards Chair a good quality photocopy of the original test for each qualifying score. Photocopy must clearly state the show name, horse and rider, class, date, judge, score and judges signature. Photocopy does not have to include individual movement scores and comments.
- L. Scores must be postmarked on or before Nov. 30. Email is accepted. No exceptions.
- M. If receipt confirmation of scores is desired, send self-addressed stamped postcard with score sheets; Awards Committee will return postcard when results are received. This will be the only notification that results were received.

Registration and Eligibility:

1. The rider and owner of the horse must be members in good standing of WDCTA at the time scores are obtained.
2. Championship registration for each horse and rider combination must be postmarked at least 1 day prior to the start of the first show from which they plan to submit scores.
3. A fee of \$25.00 for each level must be paid for **each horse and rider combination** to be eligible for championships. If applying via PayPal, an additional fee will be charged.
4. The recorder/awards chair must be notified in writing and fees paid if adding a level or division later in the year and prior to scores earned at that additional level.
5. All registrations are for the show year December 1 through November 30.
6. A champion and reserve champion will be named for each division at each level of competition.

NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.



2022 WDCTA WESTERN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP APPLICATION

Western Championship registration open to WDCTA members in good standing.

FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED at least 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW.

Please read WDCTA Western Dressage Championship Rules, on the website, prior to competition year.

One form for each Horse and Rider combination. Please print neatly.

HORSE INFORMATION	
Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____	
RIDER INFORMATION	OWNER INFORMATION
Name _____	Name _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
City/St/Zip _____	City/St/Zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____
AWARD INFORMATION	
Rider Division (circle appropriate division, or circle both) Open Freestyle	
WDAA Award Level for Open Division (circle all that apply) Intro Basic Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5	
Highest level horse shown by any rider in any country _____	

APPLICATION FEES:

# Levels ____ @ \$25 each	\$
Freestyle Division @ \$25	
NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.	
PAYMENT TOTAL	\$

Sizes for possible awards:

Horse: Blanket _____ Halter _____ Rider: Jacket _____ Belt _____

Send form with payment to:

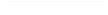
Joann Williams
 W3580 Scotch Bush Rd
 Elkhorn, WI 53121-3302
 Email: western@wdcta.org
 Phone: 414-378-2231

Please enclose:

- Completed Western Dressage Awards Application
- Check made out to: "WDCTA"
- Check that both owner and rider are WDCTA members



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Member-hosted private riding clinics cannot be advertised in the newsletter at this time.



2022 EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

I. Awards

- A. There shall be a Champion and Reserve Champion for Junior, Rider, and Open divisions at the following levels for **USEF-recognized shows**: Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Preliminary/Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced.
- B. There shall be a Champion and Reserve Champion for Junior, Rider, and Open divisions at the following levels for WDCTA- and IDCTA-recognized **mini events**: Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice.
- C. The dressage scores from a combined test or three-phase event are eligible for the WDCTA 70% Club. WDCTA will award a certificate to the rider. Both owner and rider must be current WDCTA members. There is no fee for the 70% Club.

II. Registration and Eligibility

- A. Horse/Rider combinations must be registered with the Awards Chair, fees paid and postmarked at least 1 day before a competition for the scores to qualify for awards.
- B. There shall be a \$25 registration fee for each horse/rider combination per division for the award year for recognized events, and a \$20 registration fee for each horse/rider combination per mini event division. If applying via PayPal, additional fees will be applied.
- C. The rider of the horse must be a member in good standing of WDCTA and USEA at the time the scores are earned. (Beginner Novice, Mini-Event, and 70% Club participants may be exempt from USEA membership, but both rider and owner must still be members of WDCTA at the time the scores are earned.) The riders should submit proof of their membership to WDCTA and USEA. The owners should submit proof of their membership in WDCTA.
- D. The Awards Chair must be notified in writing and fees paid if adding a level or division later in the year and prior to scores earned at that additional level.
- E. The award year is December 1 through November 30.

III. Qualifications

- A. Only scores from USEA Events can be used to meet championship qualification (Mini-Event are exempt from this rule.) Send good quality copies of a USEA Score Print- Out/Rider Profile along with the eventing awards report form. Or send in a good quality copy of dressage test and the final standings (photograph of posted show standings is fine). For mini events, send in a quality copy of the dressage test and a photograph of posted show standings, or online link if that is applicable.

Eventing Rules continued

- B. The horse/rider combination must submit at least three qualifying scores from three different events to be eligible. ¶
- C. A WDCTA report form with appropriate documentation (found on WDCTA website) must be forwarded to the Awards Chair. Scores must be postmarked on or before November 30. Scores may be submitted via email; a reply will be sent indicating your results were received. Scores may also be sent through the U.S. Postal Service. If you want notification that the awards chair received your scores when sent through the postal service, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard with your score sheets. ¶
- D. The Awards Chair will average the three lowest penalty point scores, submitted by a rider, to determine the championship. NOTE: Each score must be a maximum of 50 at Starter through Training levels or a maximum of 60 at Preliminary and above. ¶

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NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted. ¶

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Show managers: If you want your show listed on the WDCTA website and in its monthly newsletter, please send your show information (date, name of show, show location, judge(s)'s name, show secretary's name and contact information) to newsletter@wdcta.org.



2022 WDCTA EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIP APPLICATION

Western Championship registration open to WDCTA members in good standing.

FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED at least 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW.

Please read WDCTA Eventing Championship Rules, on the website, prior to competition year.

One form for each Horse and Rider combination. Please print neatly.

HORSE INFORMATION	
Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____	
RIDER INFORMATION	OWNER INFORMATION
Name _____	Name _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
City/St/Zip _____	City/St/Zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____
AWARD INFORMATION	
Rider Division (circle appropriate division, or circle both)	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Open Adult Amateur JR/YG Rider </div>	
Eventing Award Level (circle all that apply):	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Starter Beginner Novice Novice Trainer Preliminary Intermediate Advanced </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Combined Training Test New Event Horse Test 4 & 5 YO Event Horse Test </div>	
Mini Event Level (circle all that apply): Starter Beginner Novice Novice	
Future Event Horse: (circle all that apply): Young Horse Mare Young Horse Colt/Gelding Amateur Handler	
Highest level horse shown by any rider in any country _____	

APPLICATION FEES

# Levels ____ @ \$25 each	\$
Freestyle Division @ \$25	
NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.	
TOTAL PAYMENT	\$

Sizes for possible awards:

Horse: Blanket _____ Halter _____ Rider: Jacket _____ Belt _____

Send form with payment to:

Joann Williams
W3580 Scotch Bush Rd
Elkhorn, WI 53121-3302
Email: western@wdcta.org
Phone: 414-378-2231

Please enclose:
 Completed Western Dressage Awards Application
 Check made out to: "WDCTA"
 Check that both owner and rider are WDCTA members