



USDF Series

You Be the Judge

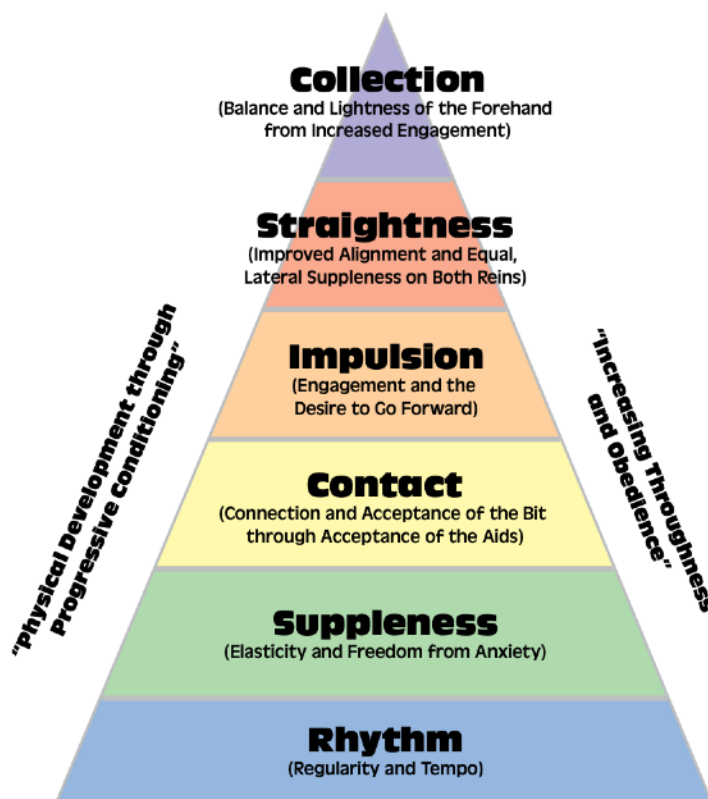
By Caryn Vesperman

On July 14, 2026, the USDF hosted an educational Zoom presentation with Kari McClain and Cesar Torrente. Kari is an FEI 4* dressage judge, USEF S dressage judge, and an R USEF Western dressage judge. Cesar, a native of Colombia, South America, is a well-known FEI 5* dressage judge, FEI 3* para dressage judge and a USEF S dressage judge.

Prior to their presentation, both had judged a video of a Second Level Test 3. Then they started and stopped the video throughout the presentation to discuss the scores they gave for each test "box." The discussion focused on the methodology used all over the world to judge dressage. The judges explained that they look at the **basics** of the training and **criteria** required of the movement, plus or minus **modifiers**.

- Basics are in the training scale (rhythm—freedom and regularity of the gait, impulsion, submission) and are the fundamentals and most important factor in determining the score.
- Criteria are the movement's required technical aspects including bend, angle, geometry. For example, when you read the test, look at what is required in each box. The entry requires a specific gait and a halt, then continuing on the centerline. Note exactly where things are suppose to happen.
- Modifiers, the essence or most important aspect of the movement, are what happens, positive or negative, that adjust the final grade, such as transitions, accuracy and subtle incidents. For example, with the rein back (which is the essence or most important aspect), a modifier would be the transition in and out of the rein back.

Looking at the halt in the entry or final line, it would seem to be a fairly simple movement, but...a lot can go wrong—or very right. Was it on the centerline? Was it straight (according to the judge at C) or square (from the side judge)? Was the horse on the bit? Did the horse stay attentive or get distracted? Was the halt immobile for three seconds? Was the halt balanced or did the horse



UPDATED WORDING, SAME GOAL: *The pyramid of training aims to guide dressage training correctly*

step back, fall left or right or on its forehand as it stepped into it? After the halt, did the horse drift off the centerline before it turned left or right at C?

Read the USEF dressage rules so you know what is required of the gaits and specific movements. For example, do you know the difference between the free walk and extended walk or the collected and medium walk in terms of length of steps (is there or isn't there over-stride), are the steps equal in length on both sides of the horse and is the horse's neck the correct length and in the right position? How about your turn on the haunches or walk pirouettes? Did you leg yield or half pass back to the line (hopefully not!) or did you ride a diagonal back to the line (the correct choice)?

Dressage is a very exacting and challenging sport, but with educational opportunities like these Zoom events, knowledge equals learning and hopefully improvement! So...the next time you get an email from the USDF announcing one of these programs, sign up!

The New Pyramid of Training

The time-tested "training scale" has some wording changes. Here's what's new in the 2019 update.

By Marilyn Heath

Have you ever noticed that the purpose of each dressage level is stated at the top of each test, from Training through Fourth Levels? There, and also in the US Equestrian Rule Book, appears the phrase "to confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics...."

In other words, the horse should demonstrate correct basics in order to compete at that level. So what exactly are those elusive basics?

The basics are clearly and concisely

explained in the pyramid of training, which has been updated along with the USDF Glossary of Judging Terms and the 2019 USDF and US Equestrian dressage tests. Let's go over the pyramid, with special emphasis on the revisions.

How the Pyramid Works

First, it's important to understand that the steps and concepts contained in the pyramid of training are

- Required for the correct training of the horse, and

- Interrelated.

In other words, from the very beginning of dressage training, we are working toward the goals of each step on the pyramid—on the rhythm of each gait, on suppleness with elasticity and relaxation, on acceptance of the aids, with impulsion, engagement, throughness, obedience, and straightness. All the time, with every horse at every level, we are addressing balance and an increasing lightness of the forehand.

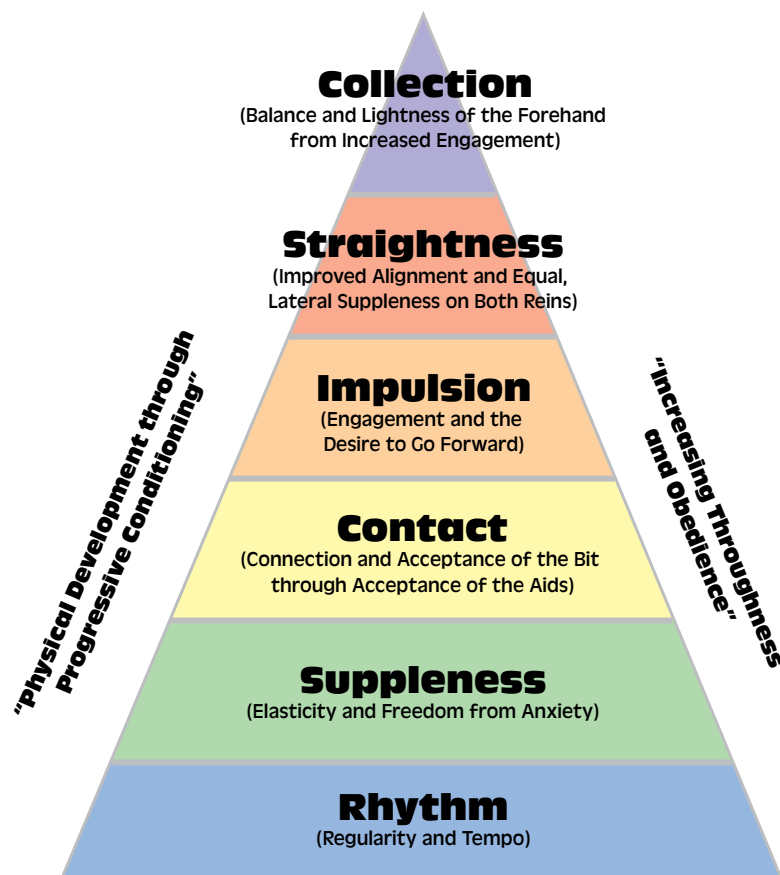
Climbing the Pyramid: The Steps Explained

The main headings in the 2019 revision are **Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion, Straightness, and Collection**. Each heading is followed by a brief parenthetical description: the definitions in the 2019 Glossary of Judging Terms, which summarize the concepts that accompany each step on the pyramid. Along with each step is a meaningful paragraph or two of explanation. To get the most out of your study of the pyramid of training, pay attention to the explanations of the words in the pyramid.

The first step on the pyramid is **Rhythm** (Regularity and Tempo.) Rhythm is the characteristic sequence of footfalls and timing of a pure walk, pure trot, and pure canter. The tempo must be consistent and appropriate to the horse, and the horse should be in balance and self-carriage suitable to the level being shown. Dressage training should enhance the gaits, with correct tempo and balance allowing increased freedom and elasticity. Quality of the gaits is often the first directive idea of each movement.

The two major changes in the 2019 pyramid update are the replacement of **Relaxation** with **Suppleness** on the second step, and the replacement of **Connection** with **Contact** on the third step. Let's look at these terms in more detail.

Relaxation has to do with the horse's mental and physical state. Mental relaxation (freedom from anxiety) is a positive quality. A horse's physical



UPDATED WORDING, SAME GOAL: The pyramid of training aims to guide dressage training correctly

USDF ILLUSTRATION

and mental/emotional states often go hand in hand. His physical state requires muscle tone for function. As the horse moves, his muscles alternately contract and relax, but sustained contraction or rigidity of the muscles is harmful. Relaxation requires the absence of muscular contraction other than that needed for optimal carriage, strength, range, and fluency of movement. **Suppleness** (Elasticity and Freedom from Anxiety) is needed for the horse to move with flexibility, pliability, and elasticity. Suppleness is related to the horse's conformation—that is, the length of the bones and angulation of the joints. However, the surrounding muscles, ligaments, and tendons can be improved over time through proper conditioning and exercises. They can also be negatively impacted by incorrect training or riding.

The USDF Glossary of Judging Terms defines elasticity as “the ability or tendency to stretch and contract the musculature smoothly, giving the impression of stretchiness or springiness.” Anxiety refers to the horse's mental and emotional state.

Contact (Connection and Acceptance of the Bit Through Acceptance of the Aids) means that the horse should be ridden from back to front, with the energy created by the rider's driving aids received in the rider's allowing hands. In other words, the horse must accept all of the aids, resulting in a harmonious interaction between horse and rider. The stretching circle demonstrates this concept, while the releasing of the reins demonstrates self-carriage. Together they demonstrate the quality of the connection.

Impulsion includes the qualities in its accompanying parenthetical description: Engagement and the Desire to Go Forward. The horse carries himself forward with elasticity in his step, suppleness in his back, and engagement of his hindquarters. Impulsion is measured by the period of suspension in the trot and canter. It is required for the development of the medium paces and of (with the addition of collection) the extended paces.

Straightness (Improved Alignment and Equal, Lateral Suppleness on Both Reins) is the fifth step of the pyramid of training. Since by nature every horse is crooked (or “hollow” on one side), it is important to work from the beginning

The major changes to the pyramid of training are the replacement of Relaxation with Suppleness and of Connection with Contact.

to develop straightness. Gymnastic exercises help the horse to engage both hind legs evenly to prepare for the collected work, thereby improving both his lateral and longitudinal balance.

Collection (Balance and Lightness of the Forehand from Increased Engagement) is the pinnacle of the pyramid. The beginning of collection is expected at Second Level, but obviously Second Level is not the end goal of dressage training. The same basics apply as the training progresses through the levels, all the way to Grand Prix. The rider of the Grand Prix horse must constantly strive to maintain a clear rhythm, a correct and steady tempo, a supple back, and acceptance of the aids along with engagement, an even acceptance of the bit and bend, and a balance appropriate to the level.

To achieve collection, the horse must engage his hindquarters and use his thoracic-sling muscles. He pushes himself up and back over his hindquarters, while at the same time bending the joints of his hind legs to carry his weight increasingly on the hindquarters and storing the energy to be released in the extended paces. In collection, the steps become shorter and more powerful and cadenced, and the rider's aids can become lighter.

Let the Pyramid Guide Your Dressage Training

The aim of dressage is to train the horse to be in a harmonious balance both physically and mentally,

while progressively conditioning his muscles to protect his joints, tendons, and ligaments to ensure his longevity.

By following the pyramid of training in your daily work, your dressage training can be systematic and progressive. Remember that the steps are interrelated. Never ignore rhythm to work on suppleness, or neglect suppleness to focus on contact, or disregard contact to address impulsion, or forget about impulsion when you work on straightness, or overlook any of these elements in your quest for collection. At the same time, don't wait to work on the “higher” steps while you work on the “lower” steps. They are all interrelated! ▲

Marilyn Heath, of Venice, Florida, is a US Equestrian “S” dressage judge, a USDF L program faculty member, and a member of the USDF L Program and Judges Committees. In 2013 she received the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her contributions to the L program.

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Caryn Vesperman Editor

All advertisements, articles and photographs should be submitted by the 15th of the preceding month of publication, unless prior arrangements are made for additional time.

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

Payment should be submitted via PayPal through the WDEA website (newsletter@WiDressage.org) or mailed to the editor with a check made out to WDEA.

CONTACT

Caryn Vesperman
newsletter@WiDressage.org

Call/text:
(608) 695-9914



President's Message

Where has the summer gone? When I looked at the family calendar in the kitchen, I saw it was about to be flipped to August!

Besides the R judge exam in Saugherties, NY in mid-June, I've been to two shows so far and have enjoyed catching up with members and cheering them on in the ring. Dressage is a very challenging sport and supporting each other in the ring is so appreciated. For example, recently I was at a show and this time, without my sister's help as groom, I was stretched thin with two horses and their rides scheduled about 70 minutes apart all three days. (Dressage rules state riders with two horses need 50 minutes between horses, but still, I was flying!) Anyway, for my second ride, I was in the warm-up ring and thought Tanqueray felt very odd on one side. Was he stiff? Lamé? He just didn't feel right. Fortunately two people I know were watching and signaled me to come over. I thought maybe they could see what was wrong. They sure did. I only had one spur on! That would have been cause for elimination. I didn't have much time before my class, so they helped me take the one off. But without me asking, one of them ran back to the barn (a quarter of a mile in this heat!) and found my other spur. They put the spurs back on my boots, and I headed to the arena to make my time. It takes a village!

Supporting each other takes many forms—from a mad dash, to videotaping someone's ride, to clapping and cheering at the end of the ride (no matter what happened in the ring), to a quick compliment on someone's coat color or saddle pad. Competing is stressful, and a small act of support can make a big difference in this journey. Even watching someone's lesson and offering a "good job!" or "you handled that hard moment really well" can mean a lot.

And don't forget your friends and family back home who support you when you're out of town for a clinic or show. They're holding down the fort! While I was out of town for the afore-mentioned show, my husband was home baling and putting up hay. Fortunately, he had a support group for his efforts....



So while the WDEA board has taken a summer hiatus from meetings, we're not sitting still. We've got the newsletter and website to manage, member applications and awards registrations to process, member questions to answer, and more! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Caryn

This is *Your* Newsletter, and we'd love to hear from you!

Send your photos, training tips, lightbulb or humorous moments, show experiences, lesson insights, etc. We learn and laugh together! Send to newsletter@WiDressage.org.

The 2026 US Dressage Finals, Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, is a national, head-to-head competition in Wilmington, Ohio at the World Equestrian Center, showcasing competitors in adult amateur and open divisions from Training Level through Grand Prix, and junior/young riders at Training Level through Intermediate I.



New for 2026:

- To simplify the entry process for the US Dressage Finals, the declaration and nomination processes have been eliminated.
- The top **four** placed eligible horse/rider combinations will automatically be invited—provided the rider is a US citizen and has met the prerequisite score of 57% or higher.
- Many of the wild card scores required to receive an invitation to the Finals have been reduced:

	OPEN:	AA:	Jr/YR:	Freestyles	OPEN:	AA:
Training:	72%	68%	68%	First:	70%	68%
First:	70%	67%	67%	Second:	70%	68%
Second:	68%	65%	65%	Third:	70%	68%
Third:	68%	64%	64%	Fourth:	70%	68%
Fourth:	67%	64%	64%	Intermediate I:	68%	67%
Prix St. Georges:	67%	64%	64%	Grand Prix:	68%	67%
Intermediate I:	67%	63%	63%			
Intermediate II:	65%	63%				
Grand Prix:	65%	63%				

- Invitations for the eligible top-four placings and those who are wild-card eligible will be emailed.
- Note: Competitors do not need to receive an actual invitation to enter the US Dressage Finals. The entry system will have their eligibility status, and they can enter prior to receiving an email invitation.
- Completed entries for the US Dressage Finals must be received by midnight Eastern Time on the **closing date: Saturday, Oct. 10.**
- See the [US Dressage Finals Eligibility Document](#) for more information.



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WDEA thanks Sarah for being a sponsor of our awards program!

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Two WDEA Volunteer Opportunities

Member-at-Large (MAL)

Here's a way to get involved to help encourage the interest, organizing and awareness of educational and social opportunities within WDEA!

Your MAL volunteer activities include, but are not limited to:

- Attend the Board of Directors' meetings held approximately three to four times a year (usually by teleconference, so very little travel to these meetings is required),
- Represent your members' needs and interests in your area and on the board,
- Serve as a chair of committees, as needed.

Newsletter Editor

Do you enjoy writing, editing and design work for publications like a newsletter? Do you want to put your skills to use to keep members informed, educated and even entertained about what's going on with dressage and eventing in Wisconsin—and what's happening on the national level with the USDF? Here's the answer: Volunteer as our newsletter editor.

Responsibilities:

- Write articles as necessary, solicit and coordinate other editorial including stories, calendar and advertising submissions, and manage layout, production and online distribution of the newsletter.
- Make judgments on editorial submissions that are in keeping with news and not business promotions, unless article is, for example, a profile of a member and his/her business. Bring any questionable sub-missions to the board's attention, prior to publishing.
- Work closely with the WDEA webmaster on shared website content as well as our Facebook pages.
- Serve on the WDEA board of directors.

Must be comfortable producing an electronic newsletter (created in Word or some other design program), then converting the finished piece to a PDF and distributing it to members via email.

Contact our WDEA President (president@Wldressage.org) if interested in either of these positions.

Calendar



USDF Events

USDF University

USDF Virtual Educator Series covers equine topics at no cost to you and you can join in from your own home.

Sept. 17-20

Region 2 Championships

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
Wayne, IL

Oct. 1-4

Region 4 Championships

National Equestrian Center
Lake St. Louis, MO

Oct. 29-Nov. 1

US Dressage Finals

World Equestrian Center
Wilmington, OH

If you don't want to compete, volunteer! It's a great learning experience and you'll meet new people. Kathy Grisolia is in charge of volunteers, contact her at kgrisolia@aol.com.

WDEA Events

Watch this space for future events.

Other Events

Aug. 26-30

Festival of Champions

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
Wayne, IL

April 16-18, 2027

Midwest Horse Fair
Madison, WI



Need \$\$\$\$\$?

**Check out the scholarship options
at The Dressage Foundation!**

<https://www.dressagefoundation.org/>

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- Links to event results
- Articles and new product reviews by industry pros:
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 - Tack and saddle selection, fitting, maintenance
 - Apparel
 - Arena and course design, construction, maintenance
 - Current news
- Submit articles or suggest topics for future articles
- Reader forum to respond to articles or create new topics
- Market for tack/apparel imported from the UK and EU
- Online market to buy/sell used equipment (*Coming soon!*)

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Member Listings

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Tracey Dikkers
W4835 Aspen Ct.
Wild Rose, WI 54984
traceydikkers@gmail.com
(608) 220-2628

USEF "r" dressage judge, USDF Bronze and Silver medals, many regional and national year-end awards in Arab and all-breeds divisions. Students have competed through FEI. Will travel. Haul-in lessons available in large indoor.

Jesse K. Kassner
DressurSPORT, llc
6333 Briarcliff Lane
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jesse@dressurport.com
kassner.j.k@gmail.com
(608) 358-1125
dressurport.com

Riding since 1984. Trained in U.S., UK and Germany from 1998-2011. Classical dressage instructor for beginner thru Grand Prix since 1994. Teaches classical and western dressage and dressage for eventers. Instruction focuses on anatomy and biomechanics of rider and horse as a pair. Will travel.

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

Have taught riding for many years, ridden thru Prix St. Georges. Will teach thru Second Level. Will travel.

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

FEI trainer, USDF-certified instructor through 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 and WDCTA awards. 16+ years teaching experience. Students competed through GP, earned riding awards and medals. Travel for lessons and clinics.

Andrea Schten-Achtenhagen
Colt's Neck Equestrian Center
N76W36158 Saddlebrook Lane
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
aschten2000@yahoo.com
(262) 470-4557

Background experience: Has worked with multiple Olympic trainers. Ridden through Grand Prix. USDF Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, plus multiple regional championships. Will teach Intro to Grand Prix. School horses available. Will travel.

Jessica Sims
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Stephanie Severn/Megan McIsaac
4246 Schneider Road
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 213-8925

barnbestiesllc@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/>

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Stephanie and Megan have created Barn Besties to build an online community. They provide videos on running and managing horse farms. Videos include building a facility, fencing, arena footing, equipment, barn tours and much more. Check out their YouTube channel.

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8177 Plum Lake Station Rd
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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, Bronze medalist. Continuing education includes scribing at international levels with U.S. and foreign judges (including World Cup in Omaha), accepted into the "R" judge program, and currently competing two horses at FEI levels—both were unstarted and brought up the levels. Available for USEF/USDF-recognized dressage shows, eventing and schooling shows. *

BREEDERS

Jackie Luebke-Puetz
Grand Prix Farm
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.*



**WISCONSIN
Dressage & Eventing
ASSOCIATION**

**TRADITIONAL DRESSAGE RECOGNIZED SHOW AND IN HAND
CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

- I. Dressage Awards
 - a. Divisions are defined as Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR), Open and Adult Amateur.
 - b. Applicants may only compete in one division per competition season.
 - c. A Horse of the Year award will be awarded for each of the following divisions Training—Second level, Third—Fourth level, and FEI levels.
 - d. Levels are defined as In-Hand, Musical Freestyle, Materiale, Young Horse Tests, Rider Tests and Intro through Grand Prix.
 - i. A Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) is anyone who has not reached his/her 22nd birthday by Jan. 1 of the award year.
 - ii. Adult Amateurs must have a US Equestrian Federation (USEF) Amateur card or sign a WDEA 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.
 - iii. A champion and reserve champion will be named for each division at each level of competition -- Introductory through FEI. Depending upon number of entries, we will award through sixth place for each level.
 - iv. Maiden awards are only open to those HORSES in their first year of showing at Introductory (Intro) Level through Grand Prix. Depending on number of qualifying horses, we will award through sixth place.
 - v. 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 of the horse must be a member in good standing of WDEA at the time scores are earned.
- b. For in-hand classes, handler does not need to be a WDEA 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 one 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 fee.)
- 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 Dec.1 through Nov. 30.
- h. Registration is not necessary for the Horse of the Year awards. 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.**

IV. Qualification for Dressage Championships

- a. The horse/rider combination must have three qualifying scores from three different judges from two different shows. All scores submitted must come from USEF/USDF-recognized competitions. Scores from "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 from USEF, FEI or USDF tests. The scores will be averaged.
 - i. The average of those three scores must be 60.0% or above.
- c. 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 3).
- d. Scores for the Maiden award may be from any test for the level.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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 judge's signature. Photocopy does not have to include individual movement scores and comments.
- i.

- j. Scores must be postmarked on or before Nov. 30. Scores may be submitted via email; a reply will be sent indicating your results have been 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.
- 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 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 Nov. 30. Email will also be accepted and must be sent on or before Nov. 30.
 - 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 our website, please send your show information (date, name of show, show location, judge(s) name, show secretary name and contact information) to webmaster@Wldressage.org. For our newsletter, send to newsletter@Wldressage.org.



Recognized Dressage Championship Application

Registration open to WDEA members in good standing.

FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED AT LEAST 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW

Please read WDEA Recognized Dressage Championship rules on the website.

One form for each horse and rider combination.

HORSE INFORMATION

Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Year of Birth _____

RIDER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

OWNER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AWARD INFORMATION

* **Rider Division:** _____ Senior Open _____ Adult Amateur _____ Jr/Yng Rider (Blrth date): _____

* **Award Level (Circle):** Intro TR 1st 2nd 3rd 4th PSG I1 I2 GP

* **Other Riding Awards:** _____ Musical Freestyle _____ 3&4 YO Materiale _____ 4-,5-,6 YO FEI Young Horse

* **Highest Level Horse has Shown by Any Rider in Any Country:** _____

* **In-Hand Awards (Circle):** Young Horse Mare Young Horse Colt/Gelding
Mature Hose Mare Mature Horse Gelding/Stallion Amateur Handler

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APPLICATION FEES

Number of Levels/Rider Tests/Freestyle/Horse Division: \$25 per level X Rider Division = \$ _____

Maiden (First year showing this level - \$25. **Only one award per horse per level.** \$ _____

In-hand Award: \$25 each \$ _____

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

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

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Sizes for Potential Awards:

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

SEND WITH PAYMENT TO:

Jessica Kaczmarek
N1924 Rochelle Court
Greenville, WI 54942

EMAIL: awards@Wldressage.org

PHONE: 920-619-3419

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- * Check made out to **WDEA**
- * Verification of amateur status (if applicable)



Recognized Dressage Report Form

All scores must be postmarked no later than Nov. 30.
One form for each horse and rider combination.
Send good quality copies of your scores/tests with this form.

RIDER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

HORSES INFORMATION

Name _____ Owner _____

RULES:

1. The rider must be current WDEA members at time the scores are earned for awards. Exception: For in-hand classes, the handler does not need to be a WDEA member, nor is it necessary to have the same handler for each class to qualify for a WDEA year-end award.
2. Dressage Awards: Three scores by three different judges from two USEF/USDF-recognized shows.
3. In-Hand Awards: Two scores from two different judges from two different shows.
3. Each score must be a minimum of 60%.
4. Scores must be earned at shows open to all breeds.
6. All scores must be earned at USEF/USDF-recognized shows. Scores from virtual shows will not be accepted.
7. At least one qualifying score must be from the highest test of the level.
8. Maiden division awards may be from any test from the level.
9. WDEA has a 70% Club award for members who have received a score of 70% or higher. There is no fee for the 70% Club.

Scores may be submitted via email; a reply will be sent indicating your results were received. Scores may be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

Circle Division(s): Open Adult Amateur Jr./Yng Rider Maiden 70% Club

Eligible for Maiden Award at this level? _____ Yes _____ No

<u>SHOW NAME AND DATE</u>	<u>LEVEL AND TEST</u>	<u>JUDGE(S)</u>	<u>SCORES%</u>
---------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	----------------

#1			
----	--	--	--

#2			
----	--	--	--

#3			
----	--	--	--

AVERAGE SCORE: _____

Mail or email copies of the tests or USDF Score Report Form to:

Jessica Kaczmarek
N1924 Rochelle Court
Greenville, WI 54942

PHONE: 920-619-3419
EMAIL: awards@Wldressage.org



DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

I. Dressage Awards

- a. Divisions are defined as Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR), Adult Amateur, and Open
 - i. A Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) is anyone that has not reached his/her 22nd birthday by January 1st of the award year.
 - ii. Adult Amateurs must have an US Equestrian Federation (USEF) Amateur card or sign a WDEA amateur affidavit. The card or affidavit must be included with the entry.
 - iii. Open Riders are any competitor who are not eligible to compete as a Junior / Young Rider or Adult Amateur.
- b. Applicants may only compete in one Division per competition season.
- c. The following levels are eligible to participate in the Schooling Championship:
 - i. Introductory
 - ii. Training Level
 - iii. First Level
 - iv. Second Level
- d. Participants of the Schooling Championship are not eligible for other WDEA annual awards, including:
 - i. Horse of the Year
 - ii. Recognized Show Championship

II. Categories

- a. A champion and reserve champion will be named for each division at each level of competition -- Introductory through Second Level.
- b. Maiden awards are only open to those HORSES in their first year of showing at Introductory (Intro) Level through Second Level. Maiden awards will be given at each level for all divisions combined.

III. Registration and Eligibility

- a. The rider and owner of the horse must be members in good standing of WDEA at the time scores are earned.
- b. A horse and rider combination may win an award or championship at any given level more than once.
- c. 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.
- d. A fee of \$25.00 for each level must be paid for each horse and rider combination to be eligible for championships.
 - i. If competing for a Maiden award at any level, an additional fee of \$25 must be paid.
 - ii. Only one award is given for all divisions at that level for maiden even if there are two riders competing the horse.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. All registrations are for the show year December 1 through November 30.

IV. Qualification for Dressage Schooling Show Championships

- a. The horse/rider combination must have three qualifying scores from three different judges from two different shows.
 - i. Scores must be from Judges that are at least "L" candidates from a USEF Program.
 - a. Scores must be from USEF, FEI or USDF tests. The scores will be averaged.
 - o The average of those three scores must be 60.0% or above.
 - ii. Scores must be earned at shows open to all breeds.
 - iii. One test score must be from the highest test for the level (e.g. Training Level Test 3).
 - a. Scores for the Maiden award may be from any test for the level.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. 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.

V. Submitting Scores

- a. 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.
 - i. Photocopy must clearly state the show name, horse and rider, class, date, judge, score and judge's signature.
 - a. Photocopy does not have to include individual movement scores and comments.
- b. Scores must be postmarked on or before November 30. Scores may be submitted via email
 - i. A reply will be sent indicating your results were received.
 - a. Scores may also be sent through the U.S. Postal Service.
 - i. 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.

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

Show managers: If you want your show listed on the WDEA 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@wdea.org.



WISCONSIN
Dressage & Eventing
ASSOCIATION

DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP APPLICATION

Horse Information: Name_____ Breed_____ Sex_____ Date of Birth_____	
Rider Information: Name_____ Street Address_____ City/ST/Zip_____ Phone_____ eMail_____	Owner Information: Same as Rider ☐ Name_____ Street Address_____ City/ST/Zip_____ Phone_____ eMail_____
Award Information: Division (only one per rider) JR/Young Rider*Adult Amateur^Open Rider Division (circle all that apply) IntroTrainingFirstSecond Maiden IntroTrainingFirstSecond	
Application Fees:	
Levels @ \$25 each	\$
Maiden ^t @ \$25	\$
Total Payment (No refunds will be provided)	\$

Submit Applications to:

Jessica Kaczmarek

N1924 Rochelle Court

Greenville, WI 54942

Phone (920) 619-3419

Email Awards@widressage.org

Please enclose:

Completed Application

Check made payable to **WDEA**

WDEA Amateur Affidavit (if applicable)



DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORE REPORT FORM

Rider Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Horse's Name: _____ Owner: _____

One Level, One Horse and Rider Combination per Form.

All Scores must be postmarked no later than November 30. Send good quality copies of your tests or a USDF/USEF score print-out along with this form.

Award Information:			
Division			
JR/Young Rider		Adult Amateur	Open
Rider Division			
Intro	Training	First	Second
Maiden			
Intro	Training	First	Second
Show Name and Date	Level and Test	Judge's Name	Score %

Mail or email Score Report Form and copies of the tests or score report to:

Jessica Kaczmarek

Phone: (920) 619-3419

N1924 Rochelle Court

Greenville, WI 54942

Email to awards@widressage.org



WISCONSIN Dressage & Eventing ASSOCIATION

Western Dressage Awards Rules

Dressage Awards:

- A. A champion, reserve champion and third through sixth place will be awarded for each level.
- B. One freestyle champion, reserve champion and third through sixth 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. WDEA 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/USDF "r" judges 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. WDEA 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 judge 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 chair will return postcard when results are received. This will be the only notification that results were received.

Registration and Eligibility:

- 1. The rider of the horse must be a member in good standing with WDEA at the time scores are obtained.
- 2. Championship registration for each horse and rider combination must be postmarked at least one 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 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.



Western Dressage Championship Application

Registration open to WDEA members in good standing.
FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED AT LEAST 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW.
Please read WDEA Recognized Dressage Championship rules on the website.
One form for each horse and rider combination.

HORSE INFORMATION

Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Year of Birth _____

RIDER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

OWNER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AWARD INFORMATION

* Rider Division: _____ Open _____ Freestyle

* Award Level (Circle): Intro Basic Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

* Highest Level Horse has Shown by Any Rider in Any Country: _____

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APPLICATION FEES

Number of Levels @ \$25 per level \$ _____

Freestyle Division: \$25 \$ _____

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

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

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Sizes for Potential Awards:

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

SEND WITH PAYMENT TO:

Jessica Kaczmarek
N1924 Rochelle Court
Greenville, WI 54942
EMAIL: awards@Wldressage.org
Phone: 920-619-3419

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- * Check made out to WDEA
- * Verification of amateur status (if applicable)



WDCTA Western Dressage Score Report Form

One Level, One Horse and Rider Combination per Form.
All Scores must be Postmarked no later than November 30.
Send good quality copies of your tests with this form.

Rider _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Horse's Name _____

Owner _____

RULES (Please read full WDCTA Western Dressage Championship Rules on WDCTA website.)

1. NOTE: No refunds after the awards application and payment are submitted.
2. Western Dressage Awards: Three scores by 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 judges, or USEF dressage "r" judges or higher.
3. Each score must be a minimum of 60% at WDAA Intro – Level 5.
4. Open, Adult Amateur and JR/YR will be combined into one division, defined as "Open." One freestyle champion, reserve champion and 3rd – 6th place will be awarded for all WDAA Freestyle levels combined (Intro – Level 4).
5. Scores must be from WDAA tests only. One test score must be from the highest test of the level. The scores will be averaged.
6. Scores must be earned at schooling shows, WDAA-recognized and/or USEF/WDAA-recognized shows. Classes must be open to all breeds. Scores for virtual shows will not be accepted. Both owner and rider must be current WDCTA members.
7. WDCTA has a 70 Percent Club award for members who have received a 70% or higher. WDCTA will award a certificate to the rider. There is no fee for the 70% Club.

Scores must be postmarked on or before Nov. 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.

Circle Division(s): **Open** **Freestyle** **70% Club (free)**

Show Name and Date	Level and Test	Judge(s)	Score %

Average Score _____ %

Mail or email *Score Report Form* and *copies of the tests* to:

Sandra Malott
9625 W. Center Street
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Phone: (414) 687-4046
Email: awards@wdcta.org



WISCONSIN
Dressage & Eventing
ASSOCIATION

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, Adult Amateur and Open divisions at the following levels for WDEA- and IDCTA-recognized mini events: Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice. Depending on number of entries per division, we will award through sixth place.
- C. The dressage scores from an eventing test are eligible for the WDEA 70% Club. WDEA will award a certificate to the rider. Both owner and rider must be current WDEA 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 one 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 WDEA 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 WDEA at the time the scores are earned.) The riders should submit proof of their membership to USEA.
- 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 acceptable.) 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.
- B. The horse/rider combination must submit at least three qualifying scores from three different events to be eligible.
- C. A WDEA report form with appropriate documentation (found on WDEA website) must be forwarded to the awards chair. Scores must be postmarked on or before Nov. 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.

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

Show managers: If you want your show listed on the our website, please send your show information (date, name of show, show location, judge(s)'s name, show secretary's name and contact information) to webmaster@Wldressage.org. For our newsletter, send to newsletter@Wldressage.org.



Eventing Championship Application

Registration open to WDEA members in good standing.

FORM AND CHECK MUST BE POSTMARKED AT LEAST 1 DAY PRIOR TO START OF FIRST SHOW

Please read WDEA Eventing Championship rules on the website.

One form for each horse and rider combination.

HORSE INFORMATION

Name _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Year of Birth _____

RIDER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

OWNER INFORMATION

Name _____ Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AWARD INFORMATION

* **Rider Division:** _____ Senior Open _____ Adult Amateur _____ Jr/Yng Rider (Birth date): _____

* **Award Level (Circle):** Starter Beg.Novice Novice TR Modified Prelim Intern. Adv.
Combined Training Test New Event Horse Test 4&5YO Event Horse Test

* **Mini Event Level: (Choose all that Apply)** _____ Starter _____ Beg.Novice _____ Novice

* **Future Event Horse:** _____ Young Horse Mare _____ Young Horse Colt/Gelding _____ Amateur Handler

* **Highest Level Horse has Shown by Any Rider in Any Country:** _____

+++++

APPLICATION FEES

Levels @ \$25 Each = \$ _____

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

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

+++++

Sizes for Potential Awards:

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

SEND WITH PAYMENT TO:

Jessica Kaczmarek
N1924 Rochelle Court
Greenville WI 54942

EMAIL: awards@Wldressage.org

Phone: 920-619-3419

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

* Check made out to **WDEA**

* Verification of amateur status (if applicable)



WDEA Eventing Report Form

One Level, One Horse and Rider Combination per form.
All scores must be postmarked no later than Nov. 30.

Send good quality copies of a USEA score print-out/rider profile along with this form, or a copy of the 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.

Rider _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Horse's Name _____

Owner _____

RULES (Please read current WDEA championship rules on the WDEA website.)

1. Eventing Awards: Three scores from three different shows.
2. In-Hand Awards: Two scores from two different shows.
3. The 70% Club is also available to eventers.
4. Each score must be a minimum of 50 at Starter - Training or a maximum of 60 at Prelim and above.
5. Scores must be earned at **USEF/USEA-recognized show**, open to all breeds, or for **mini events**, at WDEA- or IDCTA-recognized mini events.

Scores must be postmarked on or before Nov. 30. Scores may be submitted via email; a reply will be sent indicating your results were received. Scores may also be sent via 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.

Circle Division: Open Rider Junior

Eligible for Maiden Award at this level? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Eligible for 70% Club? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Show Name and Date	Level	Penalties

Average Score _____

Mail or email score report form, scores and *USEA Rider Profile* to the Award Chair:

Jessica Kaczmarek
N1924 Rochelle Court
Greenville, WI 54942

Phone: (920) 619-3419
Email: awards@Wldressage.org



WISCONSIN Dressage & Eventing ASSOCIATION

Amateur Affidavit

WDEA follows the USEF's definition of amateur status per the USEF Rule Book:

Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur for all competitions conducted under Federation rules who, after his/her 18th birthday, as defined in GR1306.1, has not engaged in any of the activities which would make him/her a professional.

For information on remuneration that prohibits individuals from amateur status, review GR1306.2-7.

Exceptions/Specifics

- **Traditional Dressage Division:** Individuals are only eligible to compete as amateurs from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22. See DR119.3.
- **Eventing Division:** See EV Appendix 2, Sectionb 1.3 — Participation in Horse Trials.
- **Western Dressage Division:** See WD102.7b.

NOTE: *Dressage Opportunity classes do not require amateur status. (See GR1307.1a)*

I have read the USEF definition of amateur status and attest that I am eligible to compete as an amateur under USEF rules.

Name _____
Signature _____
Date _____