



July 2023 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I'm doing what many of you are doing: waiting for my results from the WDAA Online International Challenge.

As the president of WDAA, I get no special treatment, I had to re-do my videos because my spurs were too hard to see in my tack check. Just like some of you, I made mistakes in my rides and turned them in anyway because I didn't want to impose further on my friends who filmed and read my tests. My horse isn't perfect, but we keep working and are improving together, a little at a time. I am having a good time practicing and riding tests. I love reading the feedback from the judges and implementing their advice to improve.

Participating in online shows is hard work. It's fun, but it's challenging to set up everything at home that show managers do at live shows and do everything you usually do as an exhibitor, then figure out how to upload and submit videos.

The process of participating as an exhibitor, as a helper for other riders, and as the President of WDAA has reminded me how great our WDAA staff, judges and helpers are.

Francie Newsome is awesome! She reviews equipment checks on the videos at warp speed allowing exhibitors more than adequate time to re-submit if needed. She has to deliver disappointing news sometimes, but does it with kindness and empathy.

Susan Peacock, our show manager, delivers the "News You Can Use" keeping us all up-to-date on what's going on through the whole show. She has the coolest website where we can find all the information we like and does an amazing job sending us links and troubleshooting throughout the show.

As a judge myself, I can tell you that judges are cheering for every horse and rider they evaluate and they want to see every horse and rider team that comes down Center Line do their best. Judging online shows is harder than judging live shows for many reasons such as sketchy video quality, too much or not enough zooming, and limited ability to see the horse in relation to the court. Regardless of these challenges, our Online

International Challenge judges are doing an outstanding job. They are delivering honest evaluations with reasons to help us improve our rides and they are encouraging and kind even for rides that are not so good.

Dini Swanson, our Executive Director oversees operations for the Online International Challenge as well as any other WDAA business with fairness and grace. I assure you that is not an easy task. She solves problems, listens to accolades and complaints, and addresses or delegates every issue that comes up. Dini is fantastic at planning for the future and keeping WDAA on track and organized so that we can deliver the best service to our members.

Last, but not least, the real MVPs of the Online International Challenge are the family members, friends, coaches, and others who make it possible for riders to compete. These are the people who film the tests, read the tests, prepare the arenas, or do whatever else it takes to support and assist exhibitors.

To all of the above and to everyone who helps make it possible for horses and riders to compete in the Online International Challenge, I would like to say Thank You! You are incredible! I am proud to represent an organization whose members and staff do so much to support each other.

I wish the best of luck to all exhibitors! I hope you had as much fun as I did.

Enjoy the Journey,
Cindy Butler, Your President
Western Dressage Association of America



Applications for 2023 US Equestrian National Youth Sportsman's Award Open Now

US Equestrian is pleased to announce that the application period is now open for the 2023 National Youth Sportsman's Award. Applications will be accepted through August 15.

*****All WDAA youth member applicants will receive a free WDAA membership for 2024, the applicant chosen to represent WDAA in the final round will receive a certificate presented at the 2023 WDAA World Championship Show.*****

The 2023 US Equestrian National Youth Sportsman's Award is open to applicants aged 17 or younger as of December 1, 2022. The award is open to individuals across all breeds and disciplines who are active members of US Equestrian and their Recognized National Affiliate organization. APPLICANTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF BOTH USEF AND WDAA.

The goal of the award is to identify potential future leaders in the equine industry and recognize youth members for their achievements both in and outside of the sport. Applicants should demonstrate an ongoing dedication to the promotion of equestrian sport, serve as a positive role model for their peers, participate at any level of equestrian competition, exhibit characteristics of positive sportsmanship, and be involved in their community.

Applications must be submitted directly to WDAA (dini@westerndressageassociation.org). WDAA will select one nominee to submit to US Equestrian for final selection of the overall award winner.

The National Youth Sportsman's Award winner will be recognized during the Pegasus Awards at the US Equestrian Annual Meeting. The overall winner will receive a commemorative trophy and a \$1,000 grant to be paid to the educational program of their choice. The overall reserve winner will receive a \$500 educational grant.

Visit the US Equestrian National Youth Sportsman's Award page for more information, including full guidelines, application, and Recognized National Affiliate contact information.

YOUTH SPORTSMAN INFORMATION ON USEF WEBSITE



Congratulations to all Online International Challenge exhibitors!

We look forward to celebrating you all during the Online International Challenge Awards Celebration Zoom webinar on Sunday, July 9th at 7:00PM Eastern time.

During this live ceremony we will be presenting all Division Champions, Special Awards and Overall Champions.

Invitations to the secure Zoom celebration have been emailed to all exhibitors, we look forward to seeing you all there, it is always fun to hear from everyone and see some pretty raucous viewing parties! Here are some initial stats from the show.

Total entries - 359

Amateur - 200

Junior - 42

Open - 117

Breeds represented - 67

Total tests judged - 1,005

Countries represented - 5

States represented - 37

WDAA World Championship Show

Don't forget, entries open on August 1st, and close September 6th. ENTER EARLY! Unfortunately, we have had to turn late entries away for the last several years, don't miss out on the greatest Western Dressage Show in the World! www.wdaaworldshow.org





Congratulations to all WDAA Harmony Award qualifiers!

These entries have earned an 8 in Harmony in the 2023 WDAA Online International Challenge. Now these horse and rider teams must have earned an 8.0 or higher, in harmony at the World Show to be entered in the drawing for the beautiful award saddle generously donated by Schleese Saddlery. As an added plus, every test in which the horse and rider team achieve an 8.0 or higher in harmony at the World Championship will count as an additional entry in the drawing.

The drawing for the Harmony Award saddle will be held on the last night of the show during the World Show Awards Celebration. Scores are automatically tracked by the show secretary, so you can focus on your ride.

To see the list of qualifiers and all information on the Harmony Saddle Award please visit our site through the button below!

[Learn More About the Harmony Award](#)

SPONSORSHIP
Opportunities

Please support the World Show and WDAA, we need sponsorships!

Class, division, breed high score, party, and special award sponsorships are critical to the success of the show. This year there will be no charge for the Friday night Fiesta Exhibitors Party, everyone is welcome, particularly sponsors! We strive to make the show an event of a lifetime, please help us achieve that goal. All sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.wdaaworldshow.org under "Support the Show".

[Learn More About Sponsoring the Show](#)

VOLUNTEER
NOW

World Show Volunteers Wanted, Sign Up Now!

The 2023 Western Dressage World Championship Show will be here before we know it! We need your help starting Friday, September 22 through Sunday, October 1, 2023. Please sign up to volunteer via the signup genius link below. When you sign up, please be sure those dates and times will work for you.

The positions we are looking for are Set up, Runners, Hospitality and Party help, Scorers, Decorators, General help and Tear down.

Thank you in advance, we can't have a successful show without your help!

[Sign Up To Volunteer](#)

ANNOUNCING the 2023 Future Star Awards at the WDAA World Show.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Lynn Palm has offered to increase the Future Star Award to \$2500 for the 2023 WDAA World Championship Show. All youth riders are eligible for this award which is presented through the Lynn Palm Fund of The Dressage Foundation. There will be the possibility for 5 awards to be presented this year.

The junior rider with the highest score over 65% at each level will receive the following.

- Intro \$500
- Basic \$500
- Level 1 \$500
- Level 2 \$500
- Level 3 \$500

WDAA is very thankful for this generous and inspiring award developed and sponsored by Lynn Palm. This is a prestigious honor and one that should encourage more youth riders to set and reach goals, becoming stars themselves.

Attention exhibitors!

*****Priority Stalling: End stalls will be allocated based on group size and sponsorship. Sponsoring \$400 and over will provide the sponsor or sponsoring group priority listing for an end stall.**

*****If a sponsorship is over \$500 you get a 1/2 page ad in program if paid before Aug 1, 2023.**

All sponsorship information can be found under "support the Show".

[Visit the WDAA World Championship Show Site](#)

WDAA and the WDAA World Show needs corporate sponsors!!

Any corporate sponsorships will benefit WDAA members! These will result in improved member programs, improved events and awards for programs and shows, extended reach nationally and internationally, plus

better IT and faster service. If you know of a company that would be a good fit, please contact our corporate sponsor administrator, Marie Llanes at marie.llanes@msn.com



WDAA is excited to announce a new member benefit from our partners at US Rider

At USRider, we are committed to the welfare and safety of our Members and their Horses. WDAA Members will receive 20% off all memberships through USRider with our member code, which can be found on the WDAA Member Benefit page once WDAA members are logged into their portal.

[Become a Member & Learn More](#)

WHL PAP NEWS & UPDATES

JUNE 2023 WHLPAP NEWS - Don't Miss Your WHLPAP Deadlines!

Hello Western Dressage enthusiasts! As we saddle up for summer, we have a few important reminders and words of encouragement for those participating in the WDAA Online International Challenge.

First off, we want to send our best wishes to all our members participating in the WDAA Online International Challenge. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your skills on a global stage, and we're thrilled to cheer you on. Remember, your participation in this event isn't just about competition—it's also a chance to earn extra points! The WDAA Online International Challenge carries a 1.5 point factor for eligible scores and placings. This means that your eligible scores in the Challenge can significantly boost your points tally in the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHL PAP).

Speaking of WHLPAP, we want to remind you of some crucial deadlines. We accept Horse Enrollments, Annual Recordings, and Points submissions year-round. Our achievements are ordered and presented annually. Submission deadlines are directly related to annual ordering of achievements for presentation at the current year WHLPAP Awards Banquet. The enrollment deadline for new horses joining for 2023 awards presentations is July 1st, and the deadline for Annual Recordings, Test, and Rail Class Submissions is July 31st. These deadlines

are vital to ensure your achievements are customized, ordered and will arrive in time to be recognized and celebrated at our annual WHLPAP Awards Banquet at the World Show. Achievements earned after August 1st are presented at next year's Awards Banquet. If you are unable to attend the banquet, your achievements will be mailed to the street address on your WDAA membership profile in November.

Our team is busily training a new volunteer/intern to help with our busy summer processing season. The Points software upgrade is underway! The new eresults system is advancing in development and we are preparing to import our first sets of 2023 competition data. We will also be launching a new Frequently Asked Questions FAQ page soon. Check back for updates.

In closing, we encourage you to continue sharing your journey in Western Dressage. Every test, every class, and every show is a step in your unique journey with your horse, and we love to see your progress. Share your experiences with our community hashtag #wdaasharethejourney.

Good luck to all our Online International Challenge competitors, and here's to an exciting summer of Western Dressage!

Jenny McBurnett - WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program Administrator



News concerning USEF

The USEF Board has approved a rule change that will go into effect December 1st, 2024. Please contact USEF with any questions regarding this rule change.

Equine Safety & Wellbeing

GR1101.1 (036-22) - Microchipping

- Beginning December 1, 2025, all horses competing in USEF licensed or endorsed competitions must be microchipped with a 15-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip that is implanted in the nuchal ligament of the horse's neck. The microchipping of horses is fundamental to equine well-being, especially during times of disease outbreaks, natural disasters, in cases of theft, and to protect against fraud.

WDAA Test Revisions to Date

- Level 1 Freestyle: 4/5/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 2 Test 2: 3/30/2022 Movement 15 clarification that the collect jog begins at V. Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 2: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.
- Level 2 Test 4: 2/15/2022 Changed sidepass from 4 steps to 4 strides.
- Level 2 Test 4: 5/23/2022 Changed sidepass from # of strides to go to the first quarter line.

- Level 2 Freestyle: 1/7/2022 Movement 10 has had the verbiage "through the jog" removed. And now states only "Simple change of lead".
- Level 3 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Total points correction on cover page only.
- Level 4 Freestyle: 4/26/2022 Added L|R to movements 9 & 10. Removed L|R from box 11. Corrected total points on cover page.
- Level 5 Test 1: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- Level 5 Test 3: 12/10/2021 Added "Left Lead" to movement #1 to clarify the lead to take from the halt.
- 2022 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 11/30/2022 Tests Retired.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Tests: 12/1/2022 Added using the new Walk-Jog, Intermediate, and Advanced categories.
- 2023 Western Dressage Equitation Patterns: 02/22/2023 Changed the word "test" to "pattern".



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



The LMS is a great way to learn more about Western Dressage. Only available to members.

[Visit the LMS](#)

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

