



WPDA HANDBOOK

2023

I. INTRODUCTION

DRESSAGE - the word *dressage* is surrounded by mystique. To many it may seem more highly specialized and complex than what applies to the practicality of everyday riding. In fact, it is merely a derivative of the French verb “dresser”, meaning to train or to school and in its broadest sense can be applied to the basic training of a horse for any purpose. In its more specialized sense, it means that the horse is being trained systematically following certain classical principles; and although even these may differ some in their application, the finished products are always the same...the seemingly effortless union of the horse and rider.

In the words of the rule book of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the organization that governs the sport worldwide, the object of dressage is:...*the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse*. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with its rider...The horse thus gives the impression of doing on its own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive, he submits generously to the control of the rider.

II. JOE LANE - WPDA FOUNDER

It is not what Joe Lane accomplished that makes each of us who knew him treasure his memory. It is the dedication with which he lived that represents a challenge to us. Joe was a man to dream, an idealist in the truest sense. He saw the clumsiness of equestrian training in this country, as we moved from the quick expedience of cowboy methods to the contrived artifices of the show world. He despised the cruelty inflicted on the horse as a result of man's insufficient knowledge. He recognized early that dressage could prevent these cruelties and open possibilities for achieving a unity between horse and rider beyond that most thought possible.

Joe made a living as an engineer, but his true love was the horse. He rode in spite of his own lack of time. He experimented and tested without help in the beginning, always listening for what the horse's behavior would tell him. As he struggled through the basics, many watched his struggle and thought, “it might be easier if...” but no one lacked respect for Joe's determination.

As Joe gained experience, he became acutely aware of the need for knowledge in Western Pennsylvania. He was convinced that the quickest way to disperse knowledge to the greatest number was through an educational organization which would provide the opportunities for interested people to ride, show, learn and share. And so, funded for the first year from Joe's own money, the Western Pennsylvania Dressage Association (WPDA) was born. Joe worked hard as the WPDA President to develop guidelines which would ensure a continuation of the learning process. He continued to challenge himself and others by setting ever higher goals for the WPDA. He successfully completed the Learner's JUDGE Program shortly before his death.

His life represents the challenges each of us who rides must accept: the challenge to discipline oneself for the day-to-day work which is the foundation of each successful accomplishment; the challenge to keep trying when the odds are against you; the challenge to be unafraid to experiment and to learn from your horse; and the last, the challenge to find joy inherent in working with your horse toward the goals you have chosen. *By Elva Lee Coor*

III. ABOUT US

The Western Pennsylvania Dressage Association (WPDA) is a Group Member Organization (GMO) of Region 1 of the United States Dressage Foundation (USDF). All WPDA members are automatically USDF Group members.

Note: To become a USDF Participating Member, you must individually enroll in the USDF according to their guidelines and fees. Many rated dressage shows require a USDF Participating membership or charge an additional fee for non-participating USDF members.

IV. WPDA MEMBER DEFINITIONS

- A) **Individual Members:** An Individual Member is a person who has reached the age of twenty-one (21) by January 1 of the current year. He or she has full voting rights.
- B) **Junior Members:** A Junior Member is a person who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21) birthday by January 1 and is without voting rights.
- C) **Family Member:** A Family Membership will include *only one* individual GMO membership to USDF. A family member shall be only one member of the family of an Individual Member. If the family member is over the age of 21, he/she will have full voting rights. However, a Family Member is not eligible for WPDA year-end awards regardless of age.

WPDA MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: (1)

- Participation in WPDA shows and clinics
- Educational membership meetings or lectures
- Group Member Organization (GMO) Membership in the USDF (2)
- Eligibility for Year-End Awards
- Voting and office-holding privileges
- Social events
- Annual Banquet
- WPDA Handbook online
- WPDA Team Competitions
- Free classified Ads for WPDA members
- Free listing for member barns and trainers on our website.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Subscription to *USDF Connection*, USDF's members-only magazine.
- Eligibility to participate in Rider Award programs
- Eligibility to earn USDF University credits.

- (1) For more information about WPDA membership, please contact our current Membership Chairperson listed on the WPDA website: wpda.club.

- (2) USDF Group Membership (GM) is obtained by joining a USDF Group Member Organization (GMO). Each GMO sends a roster of members along with appropriate dues to USDF. The USDF Group Membership year is defined by USDF and posted on their website at USDF.org.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Membership dues are payable throughout the year but the membership year is from December 1st to November 30th.
- The Membership application form is online and can be sent digitally to the Membership Chairperson along with credit/debit card payment using the Swipe payment link on the form.
- At this time, the Membership application form can also be printed and mailed to the Chairperson with the applicable fees payable to WPDA by check.
- Application and mailing information is on the form on the website: wpda.club

SPECIAL NOTE:

WPDA REFUND POLICY:

The WPDA reserves the right to enforce proper refund policies as needed per situation. However, the following policies are in force at this writing:

o For Show Entries: The show secretary must be notified immediately if you cannot attend the show. A full refund will be issued, less the office fee, if the secretary is notified before the closing date. After the closing date, one half of the entry fees (not including stall fees), less the office fee will be refunded if a vet certificate is presented within 3 days after the show date and if it's a horse-related issue. Please note: Stall fees will not be refunded nor will they be counted as part of the entry fee.

o For Clinic Entries: The Clinic Chairperson or Board member must be notified as soon as possible before the clinic date. If your place in the clinic can be filled with another board-approved rider, a full refund will be issued. If your place cannot be filled, it is most probable that no refund can be issued. This will be at the Board's discretion depending on the circumstances. We understand things go awry and uncontrollable situations occur, but please keep in mind that the WPDA has usually committed a certain payment amount to the clinician that must be met regardless of attendance.

o Any requests for refunds for other reasons, please contact any Board member or committee chairperson to take it under advisement.

V. WPDA TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities may exist for the formation of an Adult and/or Junior Team to compete at certain events through the year.

If you are interested in forming a team for a special competition, please approach the Board with your intent, timeline, anticipated # of riders needed, rules of the competition (# and level of riders, etc.); budget expectations; and any other pertinent information which will help the WPDA Board to evaluate the request. Please communicate all the necessary details. The Board will consider each team request on a case-by-case basis and will do its best to evaluate how the club may subsidize the team if possible.

Please be advised as this may become a WPDA-sponsored endeavor, riders on the team must be current WPDA members and there may be requirements as to volunteer hours and/or scores required as may seem fit for the level of the team competition.

Feel free to contact any Board Member as listed on our website: wpda.club - to initiate a request to evaluate the formation of a WPDA Team. The Board welcomes all ideas.

VI. WPDA AWARDS POLICY

AWARD DIVISIONS

- 1) Jr/YR** - A Junior/Young Rider (Jr/YR) is a member who has not yet reached the age of twenty-one (21) as of January 1st of the current year.
- 2) ADULT AMATEUR (AA)** - Members are only eligible to compete as an amateur from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22 and thereafter. AA's must also meet this criteria as defined by the USDF whereby they do not receive any remuneration for horse-related duties, jobs or services.
- 3) OPEN** - There is no qualification for the member in the Open Division. However, this division is usually reserved for those professionals, trainers, or anyone receiving any forms of payment or barter for horse-related duties, jobs or services. This division is defined by the USDF, our national governing body.

Family members are not eligible for WPDA year-end awards regardless of age or award division.

GENERAL RULES FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

Note: These General Rules apply for all WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Shows, USEF/USDF Recognized Shows, USEF/USEA Eventing Shows, WDAA Western Dressage Shows and all Special Performance Awards with special stipulations noted in each show's specific paragraph following the list below.

- You must be a WPDA member in good standing at the time the scores were earned.
 - The scores must be from the same horse and rider combination.
 - A minimum of a 58% score per test for USDF and WDAA tests. The average of the highest scores submitted will be calculated. USEF/USEA scores are 42% or lower.
 - Complete and submit the Year-End Individual Competitor's Report (Form is on our website - wpda.club)
 - Submit either a copy of the test score sheet showing the judge's signature and the score earned – or a USDF computerized score sheet (which is for recognized shows only).
 - Applications can be mailed and postmarked by the due date announced on the website to the Awards Chairperson.
 - Applications can be scanned and emailed by the due date to the Awards Chairperson
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- You must submit a separate form for each type of show (WPDA Sanctioned Schooling, or USEF/USDF Recognized Shows, USEF/USEA or WDAA shows) for which you are applying
 - Scores earned at WPDA Sanctioned Schooling shows and USEF/USDF Recognized shows are not interchangeable.
 - Scores earned at the Dressage Phase of USEF/USEA shows are now eligible for Year-End awards as outlined in the following rules section.
 - Scores for WDAA Western Dressage earned at WPDA Sanctioned shows are eligible as their own category aside from other schooling shows but must meet the rules below.

SPECIFIC RULES AND YEAR-END AWARDS BY TYPE OF SHOW

A) RECOGNIZED SHOW AWARDS

- Must meet all the requirements aforementioned under the General Rules for Year-End awards.
- You must obtain a minimum of two (2) scores of 58% or higher from two (2) different judges.
- **Award:** For USEF/USDF Recognized shows, one Champion award/prize and one Reserve Champion award/prize will be awarded for each division (see Award Divisions above) for each of the following levels: USDF Introductory, Training, First, Second, Third Fourth, FEI Levels and Musical Freestyles.

B) SANCTIONED SCHOOLING SHOWS

- Must meet all the requirements aforementioned under the General Rules for Year-End Awards.
- You must obtain a minimum of two (2) scores of 58% or higher from two (2) different judges. All scores must be earned at WPDA Sanctioned Schooling shows.
- **Award:** For WPDA Sanctioned Schooling shows, one Champion award/prize and one Reserve Champion award/prize will be awarded for each division (see Award Divisions above) for each of the following levels: USDF Introductory, Training, First, Second, Third, and Fourth.

C) USEF/USEA EVENTING DRESSAGE - New Criteria for 2022

- Must meet all the requirements aforementioned under the General Rules for Year-End awards.
- You must obtain two (2) scores 42% or lower from two (2) different judges from one of the following combination of shows:
 - 2 Scores from 2 Mini-Trial Schooling Shows;
 - **OR** 1 Score from a Mini-Trial Schooling Show AND 1 Score from a WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Show;
 - **OR** 2 scores from two WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Shows.
- All scores must be obtained by riding USEF/USEA Dressage Tests. If competing at WPDA Sanctioned Schooling shows, the size of the arena used will be determined by the WPDA Board and the show event site.
- If you have earned two (2) scores 42% or lower from two (2) different judges at Recognized Horse Trials, you can apply for a separate USEF/USEA Recognized

award. Those scores, however, are not interchangeable with Mini-Trial and/or WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Show scores. All other criteria applies.

- **Award:** For USEF/USEA Shows (Mini-Trial Schooling; Rated Horse Trials; and Combination WPDA Schooling & Mini-Trial Schooling categories), a Champion and Reserve Champion award/prize will be awarded. No duplicate awards will be given unless the criteria for each show category is achieved.

D) WDAA WESTERN DRESSAGE

- Must meet all the requirements aforementioned under the General Rules for Year-End awards.
- You must obtain two (2) scores of 58% or higher from two (2) different judges from WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Shows.
- Scores must be a minimum of 58% to be considered for Year-End awards.
- The stipulations for Western Dressage awards are the same for any WPDA Sanctioned Schooling Show award application and are treated as such but are awarded separately from USDF scores and USEF/USEA scores.
- **Award:** For WDAA Western Dressage, one Champion and one Reserved Champion award/prize will be awarded for the overall highest level test ridden with the highest scores.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- 1) The WPDA reserves the rights to add to, eliminate or amend the rules provided for Year-End awards for any reason with great deliberation and will endeavor to communicate any changes to the membership as expeditiously as possible.
- 2) The WPDA also reserves the right to eliminate any rider/competitor from receiving any award applied if not within the appropriate guidelines or for any malfeasance or misrepresentations therein.

VII. AWARDS AND TROPHIES

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:

- 1) **JOE LANE CHALLENGE TROPHY**

Established in 1978 by the WPDA Founder, the Joe Lane Challenge Trophy will be offered as an award at the banquet or other award ceremony. It will be awarded subject to the following conditions:

- To be offered as special awards at the year-end banquet or award ceremony
- To any rider regardless of age or sex for the highest score at **Second Level** and above in classes specified as “**OPEN**” division only.
- Any classes restricted by age or qualifications are ineligible.
- There will be two awards available: One for the OPEN division scores earned at Rated recognized shows and one for the OPEN division scores earned at Sanctioned schooling shows. These scores are not interchangeable.

2) **VINTAGE RIDER AWARD** – New Criteria for 2022

This award was established in 2003 by Askel A. Bothnerby, Professor Emeritus, Carnegie Mellon University and an avid rider into his mid-80's on his beloved Thoroughbred Tchumley. The WPDA Vintage Rider Award recognizes riders 50 years and older. Eligibility for the WPDA Vintage Award is as follows and has been updated in 2022:

- Be age 50 or older when scores are earned
- Be a WPDA member in good standing when scores are earned and received
- Horse and rider are considered a pair for each level
- A minimum of three (3) scores will be averaged
- Scores must be 58% or higher to qualify at USDF Introductory, Training, First, Second, Third or Fourth Levels.
- Scores must be higher than 55% to qualify at Prix St. Georges or higher FEI classes.
- Freestyle scores are not eligible.

A total of 4 **Vintage Awards** are now possible:

- A Vintage Award Trophy or Prize will be given to the rider with the overall highest scores earned in the **OPEN** division at Rated recognized shows.
- A Vintage Award Trophy or Prize will be given to the rider with the overall highest scores earned in the **OPEN** division at Sanctioned Schooling shows.
- A Vintage Award Trophy or Prize will be given to the rider with the overall highest scores earned in the **AA** division at Rated recognized shows.
- A Vintage Award Trophy or Prize will be given to the rider with the overall highest scores earned in the **AA** division at Sanctioned Schooling Shows.
- These scores are not interchangeable. No duplicate awards will be given unless the criteria for each award category is achieved separately.

3) **FREESTYLE CHALLENGE AWARD** –FIRST THROUGH 4TH LEVEL

Established in 2007, the Freestyle Challenge Award is open to all riders at all ages and abilities. We offer one year-end award for the high scoring Freestyle ride at the

combined USDF levels (1 through 4), and one for the high scoring Freestyle ride at the combined FEI levels (PSG through GP) with the following criteria;

> Only scores earned at USEF/USDF Recognized Shows are eligible.

4) FREESTYLE CHALLENGE AWARD – FEI LEVEL

FEI Level - One score required – only eligible from USEF/USDF Recognized Shows.

5) 70% CLUB YEAR-END AWARD

- This award is for the same horse/rider combination who have earned two dressage scores 70% or higher from two different judges. Scores can be earned at Sanctioned Schooling Shows OR Rated Recognized Shows, but scores are not interchangeable.
- A special 70% Club Lapel Pin will be awarded.

SPECIAL AWARDS RECEIVED BY PEER AND/OR BOARD NOMINATIONS:

1) VIVIANO AWARD

Established in 2009 by the WPDA Board to recognize the Junior/Young Rider who is voted by his/her peers to have contributed the most to the Junior/Young Rider Team (i.e., through scores, volunteer hours, general support, fundraising activities or any combination thereof). The Junior chosen must have met any Junior Team

Qualifications:

- Be a current WPDA member in good standing at the time scores are earned
- Must have completed 6 total hours of volunteer time within the competition year
- Must meet the minimum requirement of the team event they wish to participate in as a representative of the WPDA.
- Must submit scores post- marked by the date designated by the Team Chairperson
- The Team Chairperson and the WPDA coach (if applicable) will review and determine eligible team members.
- The Viviano Award Trophy will be updated and engraved with the current year's winner's name to keep in their possession until the next year's winner is added and the trophy is passed on to that year's recipient.

2) JOE LANE MOST VALUABLE MEMBER AWARD

The Joe Lane Most Valuable Member Award is given each year to a member who has contributed in time and effort to the sport of dressage and to the WPDA. The recipient is chosen by the Board of Directors and voted upon each year.

- The recipient of this award will receive a special engraved trophy.

3) KEYSTONE MERIT AWARD

This is a meritorious award recognizing the member who has made “Outstanding Contributions and Service to the WPDA”. This award is available on an as-merited basis. A prospective winner of this award must be nominated to the WPDA Board and approved through the Board voting on the award.

- The recipient of this award will receive an engraved trophy
- The recipient will also receive a \$200 Scholarship to be used for WPDA pre-approved equestrian-related lessons, clinics or other educational events.

Prepared by Barbara Wozniak

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