

The Maine Dressage Society

YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM RULES

Revised 05/09/2026

HORSE AND RIDER REGISTRATION

- ❖ Each horse must be registered with TMDS and be ridden by a current TMDS member at the time the scores are earned. Check to see if your horse has a lifetime TMDS registration [here](#).
- ❖ Horse registration shall begin upon receipt of the membership form and horse registration form, and all applicable fees are paid in full and cleared. All forms and fees must be submitted before the first test is ridden.
- ❖ The [horse registration form](#) is a separate form.
- ❖ A TMDS member (member of any of the dressage associations affiliated with TMDS) may register multiple horses by printing/photocopying and submitting a separate form for each horse and by paying the horse registration fee for each horse.
- ❖ In addition to being registered, the horse's scores must be submitted by the end of the award year (November 30th) to receive any TMDS horse awards.

ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION OF SCORES

- ❖ All scores must be from open, adult, adult amateur, or junior/young rider dressage classes held in the state of Maine whose prize list of that year has been listed in the current year's TMDS omnibus and the score must be from an "L" rated judge or higher ("r", "R", "S", etc.)
- ❖ **Adult Amateur** is defined as being able to compete as an amateur from the beginning of the calendar year of which the rider reaches age 22 and may not accept remuneration for: riding, driving, showing, training, schooling, or teaching clinics or seminars; giving lessons or training (however summer camp counselors and therapeutic riding lessons are excluded); any equine-related job such as veterinarian, bookkeeper, farrier, or groom; selling horses or ponies or acting as agent for sales.
- ❖ You can change from Adult Amateur to Open/Professional category at any time, just let the awards program manager know. To change from Open/Professional to Adult Amateur, contact the awards program manager for reclassification procedures.
- ❖ **Junior/Young Rider:** A rider is a junior until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 18 and a young rider is until the end of the calendar year in which he/she reaches the age of 21.

- ❖ Classes that have restrictions based on the horse (e.g. age, breed, sex, size, previous performance, etc.) or rider (e.g. experience, sex, membership in a club other than TMDS, etc.) do not count.
- ❖ Dressage test scores from combined training classes do not count, unless the class is also pinned separately as a dressage class (two sets of awards are handed out).
- ❖ It is strongly recommended by TMDS that shows follow the USEF/USDF show rules as closely as possible.
- ❖ Judge/instructor conflicts - No rider may compete in an equitation or dressage class before a judge by whom he/she has been instructed, coached, or tutored, with or without pay, within 30 days of the competition. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, unless private instruction is given, will not be considered instruction, coaching, or tutoring.
- ❖ Horse/Rider combinations may only win the championship once at the levels of Introductory through Second. Third, Fourth, and FEI Level combinations may win at a level up to three times before being no longer eligible for that level at The Maine Dressage Society year end awards. Horse/rider combinations that have won champion at a level may not compete as a pair at a level lower than their champion win. For example, If a horse/rider combination wins champion at First Level, the same horse/rider team cannot be eligible for Introductory, Training, or First Level again at TMDS year end awards.
- ❖ TMDS strongly recommends that each show and competitor follow the helmet guidelines as published by USDF.

FOR HORSE AWARDS AND RIDER AWARDS

- ❖ **You** are responsible for your scores.
- ❖ Accurately fill out the year end award score submission form and send it to the award program manager by November 30 of the competition year.
- ❖ All categories will count only the top number of scores required for that category. All other scores will be dropped.
- ❖ If you are trying for Horse of the Year, one of your scores must be from the top test of the level.

COMPUTATION OF SCORES

The median (middle) score will be chosen from all scores earned. In the case of an even number of scores, the two middle scores will be averaged. The median must be 55% or higher to be eligible for an award. Ties will be honored if the tie remains out to three decimal places.

HORSE AWARD CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Awards presented: Ribbons for champion, reserve champion through eighth place will be awarded at each level for Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, and Open as well as Freestyle, Quadrille, Vintage Rider, Master Rider, School Horse, and Aged Horse.

The champion at each level and for each of the mentioned categories will be recognized with a The Maine Dressage Society medal as well.

INTRODUCTORY, TRAINING, FIRST, & SECOND LEVELS

To qualify at each level, the horse must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** Please note, Introductory level scores are not eligible for The Maine Dressage Society Grand Champion Horse of the Year Award.

THIRD & FOURTH LEVELS, FEI LEVELS (PRIX ST. GEORGES, INTERMEDIATE, GRAND PRIX)

To qualify at each level, the horse must have a minimum of two (2) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges.

FREESTYLE

To qualify, the horse must have a minimum of two (2) freestyle scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. The scores must be from no more than two consecutive levels.

WESTERN DRESSAGE

To qualify at a level, the horse must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** Third/Fourth level equivalents two (2) scores, from two (2) different shows and two (2) different judges. Separation of divisions by junior/young rider, adult amateur, open, and by levels will be at the discretion of the award program manager.

QUADRILLE

To qualify, the team must have a minimum of two (2) quadrille scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. The scores must be from no more than two consecutive levels. NOTE: All team riders must be TMDS members and all horses must be registered with TMDS in order to qualify for year end awards.

VINTAGE RIDER

The rider must be 50 years of age or older as of January 1 of the competition year. The horse and rider are considered a team. The horse/rider team must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** The scores may be from different levels.

MASTER RIDER

The rider must be 60 years of age or older as of January 1 of the competition year. The horse and rider are considered a team. The horse/rider team must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** The scores may be from different levels.

SCHOOL HORSE

The horse must be ridden by three (3) or more riders and no more than five (5) riders, all being TMDS members at the times the scores are earned. It must be indicated on the horse's TMDS registration that it is a school horse, and the names of the riders should be included. The horse must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** The scores may be from different levels.

AGED HORSE

The horse must be 20 years of age or older as of January 1 of the competition year. The horse must have a minimum of four (4) scores earned at two (2) different shows from two (2) different judges. **No more than two scores from one judge will be accepted.** The scores may be from different levels.

BREED RECOGNITION AWARDS

A copy of the horse's breed registration papers must be submitted prior to November 30 of each year. The horse must meet the requirements for the level at which it is competing. This does not include medals.

THE WESTERN MAINE DRESSAGE TRAINING LEVEL AWARD

To be awarded to the highest scoring Training Level horse. The physical trophy has been retired, but the winner will receive recognition.

GREYSTONE'S BARRY LYNDON PERPETUAL AWARD

To be awarded to the highest scoring First Level horse in the horse's first year of competition at First Level. Please state on the TMDS registration form if this is the horse's first year at First Level. The physical trophy has been retired, but the winner will receive recognition.

BLACK MARKET GOLD PERPETUAL AWARD

To be awarded to the highest scoring Second Level horse. The physical trophy has been retired, but the winner will receive recognition.

WESTERN DRESSAGE PERPETUAL PLAQUE

To be awarded to the highest scoring western dressage horse in recognition of exceptional performance.

RIDER AWARD CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

Scores from previous years that were received from a judge with a designation of L or above and from a show listed in that year's omnibus may be used for Medal Awards.

BRONZE RIDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Two (2) scores for Introductory Level and three (3) scores for Training Level that are 55% or higher.

SILVER RIDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Three (3) scores for First Level and three (3) scores for Second Level that are 55% or higher.

GOLD RIDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Three (3) scores for Third Level and three (3) scores for Fourth Level that are 55% or higher.

PLATINUM RIDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Three (3) scores from FEI Level that are 55% or higher.

THE MAINE DRESSAGE SOCIETY GRAND CHAMPION AWARDS

- ❖ **Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, and Open divisions at Training/First/Second Level will be recognized as a Horse of the Year Champion.**

To be awarded to the highest scoring horse from Training, First, and Second Level. The highest level of the test must have been ridden at least once to be eligible for the Horse of the Year Champion award.

- ❖ **Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, and Open divisions at Third/Fourth Level will be recognized as a Horse of the Year Champion.**

To be awarded to the highest scoring horse from Third and Fourth Level. The highest level of the test must have been ridden at least once to be eligible for the Horse of the Year Champion award.

- ❖ **Junior/Young Rider, Adult Amateur, and Open divisions at FEI Level will be recognized as a Horse of the Year Champion.**

To be awarded to the highest scoring horse from any of the FEI Levels.

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The TMDS awards banquet and annual meeting is held the last Sunday in
January following the show year.

If you cannot join us at the banquet/annual meeting, we recommend that you have someone pick up your awards for you. You can also pick up the award at a later date from the award program manager. **NO AWARDS WILL BE MAILED.**

Award Program Manager: Elizabeth Owens
Questions? Contact Elizabeth at lautreclizabeth@gmail.com

The Maine Dressage Society

Year End Award Score Submission Form

Please print clearly and submit by November 30 of the competition year

Horse's Name: _____
(Please use the name that was used on your tests!)

Rider's Name: _____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Junior/Young Rider (21 or under) ☐ Senior/Open ☐ Vintage (50-59) ☐ Master (60+)
☐ Professional ☐ Adult Amateur

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email (please print very clearly): _____

Owner's Name: _____

Special Awards - please check all that apply:

- ☐ First Level/First Year (horse) ☐ Aged Horse ☐ School Horse ☐ Breed Award
☐ Bronze Medal ☐ Silver Medal ☐ Gold Medal ☐ Platinum Medal

Horse Information: Age _____ Height _____ Color _____ Gender _____

Breed _____ Registration number _____

Score Information: List from highest to lowest. You can also list medal scores.

For levels requiring four scores: No more than 2 scores from one judge will be accepted.

Show Name & Location	Date	Level & Test	Score %	Judge's Name

Certification that this is a true report. Your signature or parent's signature (if under 18) attests that these are accurate scores earned in accordance with the current The Maine Dressage Society awards program rules.

Signature _____

Please submit this form to: Elizabeth Owens, 268 Newell Brook Road, Durham, ME 04222