

# 2026 OADG Year-End Awards

## Criteria and Guidelines

### Quick Reference: What You Need to Do

This page summarizes the key actions and deadlines for competitors. Detailed rules follow in the sections below.

#### Key Dates for 2026

**Team Challenge declaration:** April 1, 2026

**Mid-season score verification:** [date TBD – check [ottawadressage.ca](http://ottawadressage.ca)]

**External score submission deadline:** October 16, 2026

**Special recognition award nominations:** October 13, 2026

**End-of-season score verification:** [date TBD – check [ottawadressage.ca](http://ottawadressage.ca)]

*No changes to scores or nominations are accepted after published deadlines.*

### Competitor Checklist

1. **Confirm your membership.** Both the owner and rider must hold current OADG memberships. After the membership deadline, scores are only tracked once both have joined or renewed.
2. **Know your circuit.** Your scores are tracked by circuit (Virtual, Schooling, ESD, Silver, Gold, FEI). Scores from one circuit do not count toward another.
3. **Accumulate 3 qualifying scores.** You need at least 3 scores of 50%+ from 3 separate shows, at 2 different locations, and with 2 different judges. (Virtual and Schooling: 1 location is allowed.) Your top 3 scores determine your year-end total.
4. **Submit external scores (if applicable).** If you competed outside Ottawa, you may submit 1 external score per circuit using the External Score Submission Form on the OADG website.
5. **Check your scores at mid-season and end of season.** Verify that your name, your horse's name, and all horse/rider combinations are recorded correctly. These records are used for engraving. Report errors to the Awards Director before the deadline.
6. **Apply for special recognition awards (if applicable).** Awards like Team Challenge, Senior Rider, Young Horse, PeeWee, and others require a nomination form. Forms are on the OADG website.

**All forms and deadlines:** [ottawadressage.ca](http://ottawadressage.ca) | Questions: [awards@ottawadressage.ca](mailto:awards@ottawadressage.ca)

### Eligibility Requirements

#### Membership

- Both the owner and rider must hold current OADG memberships, including for foreign horses. The owner may hold a “non-competitor” membership.
- Scores from shows before the membership deadline are tracked. After the deadline, scores are only tracked once both the owner and rider have joined or renewed.

#### Qualifying Scores

A qualifying score is any score that meets all of the following:

- **50% or higher**
- **From a show open to all competitors** (breed-specific shows are excluded)
- **From a dressage test approved by EC or CADORA**

If more than one judge judges the same ride, the average is the official score. "Add on" scores are not tracked; only tests the horse and rider have actually ridden count.

### Standard Qualifying Criteria

Unless stated otherwise for a specific award, a horse/rider combination must accumulate:

- **3 qualifying scores** on the same circuit
- From **3 separate shows** (highest score from each show qualifies)
- At **2 different locations** (exceptions: Virtual and Schooling, where 1 location is allowed)
- With **2 different judges**

The highest 3 qualifying scores determine the year-end total. Throughout this document, references to "standard qualifying criteria" mean the requirements listed above.

### Show Circuits at a Glance

There are 6 local show circuits. Riders can compete on any or all of them. Scores from one circuit cannot count toward another. The show list is available on the OADG Shows webpage; note which shows are local versus external.

| Circuit   | Tests Used         | Levels          | Award-Eligible         | Notes                                                        |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Virtual   | CADORA             | Up to 4th Level | JR / AA / O            | New in 2026. Video submission. See Virtual Series section.   |
| Schooling | CADORA             | Per organizer   | JR / AA only           | Open riders may enter but scores are not tracked for awards. |
| ESD       | EC or CADORA (W/T) | Up to 4th Level | JR / AA / O            | Check show prize list for test type.                         |
| Silver    | EC                 | Up to FEI       | JR / AA / O            | Eastern Silver Championship scores qualify.                  |
| Gold      | EC                 | Up to FEI       | JR / AA / O            |                                                              |
| FEI       | FEI                | FEI levels      | JR / AA / O / YR / U25 | FEI classes at Gold or CDI shows.                            |

- **Bronze shows** are not tracked and do not count toward OADG awards.
- **Test of Choice and Pony Cup scores** are eligible if the tests are outlined in the show's prize list.
- **Masters' Test of Choice scores** are not eligible except for the Senior Rider Award.
- **Pony Classes:** The OADG does not offer Dressage Pony Cup awards. See [dressageponycup.com](http://dressageponycup.com).

### Rider Status

Awards are divided where possible by Junior (JR), Adult Amateur (AA), or Open (O). A rider can only use one status across all shows and combinations.

- Silver, Gold, FEI, and CDI Achievement Award: AA status must be declared by EC and will be verified. Undeclared AA riders are placed in Open.
- Schooling and ESD: riders use the status declared when they joined Ontario Equestrian.
- Full eligibility criteria for JR, AA, and O are in the Equestrian Canada rulebook.

### External Scores

Riders competing outside Ottawa may submit 1 external score per circuit (Silver and Gold, including FEI awards) using the External Score Submission Form on the OADG website.

- Only scores from shows open to all competitors are accepted.
- **FEI external scores:** 1 external CDI and 1 local CDI score is permitted. The external CDI score must be from within Canada.
- **CDI Achievement Award exception:** 3 CDI scores required, from within or outside Canada.

### Multi-Circuit Placing Rules

Most riders compete on a single circuit. For those competing on multiple circuits at different levels, placements for the highest-level circuit (Gold, then Silver, then ESD, then Schooling/Virtual) are calculated first. On a lower circuit at a lower level, placings are adjusted behind other eligible combinations on that circuit. Exception: Schooling circuit placings are always as ridden regardless of participation on a higher circuit. Consecutive levels within the same circuit are placed as ridden. Contact the Awards Committee if you have questions about how this applies to your situation.

### Virtual Show Series (New in 2026)

The OADG is offering a new virtual dressage series starting in 2026, with year-end awards.

- 3 scores from 3 separate virtual shows, with at least 2 different judges.
- 1 external score is allowed from any other virtual circuit, provided the test is a USDF or CADORA test.

Awards for 2026 will depend on entries. At minimum: Champion, Reserve, and 3rd place (all levels combined). With enough entries, divisions will be split by level and then by rider status. One special award may be presented at the Show Committee's discretion.

### Year-End Awards (Automatically Calculated)

These awards are calculated by the Awards Committee from tracked scores. You do not need to apply.

### Technical Tests and Freestyles

Champion (highest total), Reserve, and 3rd place are awarded in each level and circuit, divided where possible by JR, AA, and O.

- **Virtual and Schooling:** Medallions for Champion, Reserve, and 3rd.
- **ESD, Silver, Gold, and FEI:** Champion receives a trophy and stall plaque; Reserve receives a stall plaque; 3rd place receives a medallion.
- **Single-competitor rule:** A minimum 60% average is required for Champion; otherwise Reserve is awarded. Does not apply to Schooling or Virtual.

### Merit Medallions

Awarded to horse/rider combinations achieving 3 scores of 65% or higher in the same level (technical classes only; freestyle, equitation, and young horse classes are not eligible). Awarded in the ESD, Silver, Gold, and FEI circuits to JR, AA, and O.

### **Top 3 Special Cash Awards**

Presented to the competitor with the highest 3 qualifying scores in their circuit (technical classes only). Eligible circuits and categories:

- ESD, Silver, Gold: JR, AA, and O
- FEI: AA and O
- FEI: JR, FEI Pony, FEI Children, YR, and U25

A competitor aged 19+ may be eligible for either the FEI AA/Open award or the U25 award, but not both; the higher score determines the award. If there is only 1 eligible competitor, a 60% average minimum applies.

## Special Recognition Awards (By Application)

All of the following awards require a nomination form submitted to the Awards Committee by the published deadline. Forms are available on the OADG website. Unless noted otherwise, scored awards use the standard qualifying criteria (3 scores of 50%+, from 3 shows, 2 locations, 2 judges, same circuit).

### Team Challenge

One team award per circuit: Virtual, ESD, Silver, and Gold/FEI.

**Declaration deadline: April 1st.** Forms submitted after April 1st will only include scores from competitions after submission. Updated scores are submitted at season end.

Team composition: 3 or 4 horse/rider combinations per team. Each team member can only be on one team per circuit. A rider may ride up to 2 horses on the same team (but the team must include at least one other rider). A single horse may be ridden by up to 2 riders. ESD teams are limited to JR and AA riders; all other circuits allow any mix of JR, AA, and O.

Scoring: the top 9 scores across all team members are used. Each member must meet the standard qualifying criteria. Freestyle, equitation, and Young Horse classes are not eligible.

### CDI Achievement Award

Recognizes members competing at CDI level (small tour and big tour). One award for all levels combined; Champion, Reserve, and 3rd based on cumulative total regardless of level.

**Different from standard criteria:** requires 3 qualifying scores from 3 shows (within or outside Canada), at 2 locations and 2 judges. Submit the CDI Achievement Award form with copies of tests.

Eligible classes: FEI Children, FEI Pony, FEI Jr, FEI YR, FEI U25, Small Tour (PSG and I1), Medium Tour (IA and IB), Big Tour (I2, GP, GPS). Freestyle and Young Horse classes are not eligible.

### Horse Owner of the Year

Recognizes a horse owner who has demonstrated commitment to dressage and furthered another equestrian's skills without personal benefit. Submit the nomination form and a short essay. The OADG Board votes.

### Volunteer of the Year

Recognizes an outstanding OADG volunteer. Submit the nomination form and a short essay. The OADG Board votes.

### Senior Rider of the Year

For AA or O riders aged 60 or older. Standard qualifying criteria apply (all scores from the same circuit). Masters' Test of Choice scores are eligible. Freestyle and equitation are not eligible.

### Young Horse Award

For horses aged 4, 5, or 6 (per the EC rulebook). One combined Champion award across ESD, Silver, Gold, and FEI. Standard qualifying criteria apply (scores from the same circuit, any level). A young horse may have different riders. Technical tests only; freestyle, equitation, and FEI 4/5/6-Year-Old classes are not eligible.

### Madison Crich Memorial Adult Amateur Award

Honours the memory of Madison Crich, a well-respected young adult who passed away in 2015, remembered for her love of the sport and wonderful horsemanship. Awarded to a current AA

member who demonstrates positive horsemanship, good sportsmanship, and strives to make the dressage community a more positive place. Submit the nomination form and a short essay. The OADG Board votes.

### **Para-Equestrian Rider of the Year**

For declared EC para-equestrian members. Standard qualifying criteria apply. Scores should be for para-equestrian tests where possible; regular test scores count when para tests are not offered. All scores must be from the same circuit. Freestyle and FEI 4/5/6-Year-Old tests are not eligible.

### **PeeWee Awards**

For riders turning 12 or younger in the current calendar year (PeeWee status lasts through the end of that year). Virtual, Schooling, and ESD circuits only; one award per circuit. Standard qualifying criteria apply.

### **OADG Special Year-End Award**

Granted at the Board's discretion for outstanding or noteworthy achievements. To nominate, submit a letter to the Awards Committee by the published deadline.

## Circuit Award Tables

Find your circuit below, then look up your level to see which awards are available. All awards listed here are automatically calculated by the Awards Committee.

### Schooling Series

| Award          | Level               | Category                |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| OADG Medallion | W/T Rider           | JR/AA                   |
| OADG Medallion | Equitation W/T      | JR/AA                   |
| OADG Medallion | Equitation WTC      | JR/AA                   |
| OADG Medallion | Training            | JR/AA                   |
| PeeWee Plaque  | All levels combined | PeeWee (12 yrs & under) |

### ESD (Equestrian Skills Development) Series

| Award          | Level                                                  | Category                |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| OADG           | W/T Horse                                              | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | W/T Rider                                              | JR/AA                   |
| OADG           | Equitation W/T                                         | JR/AA                   |
| OADG           | Equitation W/T/C                                       | JR/AA                   |
| OADG           | Training                                               | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | First                                                  | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Freestyle                                              | All categories combined |
| PeeWee         | All levels combined                                    | PeeWee (12 yrs & under) |
| Young Horse    | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation)              | All categories combined |
| Team Challenge | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation, Young Horse) | All categories combined |
| Merit          | W/T Horse                                              | JR/AA/O                 |
| Merit          | W/T Rider                                              | JR/AA/O                 |
| Merit          | Training                                               | JR/AA/O                 |
| Merit          | First                                                  | JR/AA/O                 |

## Silver Series

*Eastern Silver Championship scores qualify. Western Silver Championship scores may be used but must be submitted as an external score.*

| Award          | Level                                             | Category                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| OADG           | Introductory                                      | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Training                                          | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | First                                             | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Second                                            | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Third                                             | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Fourth                                            | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | FEI Children, JR Pony & Young Rider               | JR & Young Rider        |
| OADG           | FEI Prix St George                                | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Training Freestyle                                | All categories combined |
| OADG           | First Freestyle                                   | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Second Freestyle (incl. FEI Pony & Children)      | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Third Freestyle (incl. FEI JR)                    | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Fourth Freestyle (incl. FEI YR)                   | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Eastern Ontario Silver Freestyle Championship     | All categories combined |
| Young Horse    | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation, FEI YH) | All categories combined |
| Team Challenge | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation, YH)     | All categories combined |
| Merit          | Introductory through Fourth                       | JR/AA/O                 |

**Gold Series**

| Award          | Level                                             | Category                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| OADG           | Introductory                                      | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Training                                          | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | First                                             | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Second                                            | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Third                                             | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | Fourth                                            | JR/AA/O                 |
| OADG           | First Level Freestyle                             | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Second Level Freestyle                            | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Third Level Freestyle                             | All categories combined |
| OADG           | Fourth Level Freestyle                            | All categories combined |
| Young Horse    | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation, FEI YH) | All categories combined |
| Team Challenge | All levels (excl. Freestyles, equitation, FEI YH) | All categories combined |
| Merit          | Introductory through Fourth                       | JR/AA/O                 |

**FEI Awards (FEI Classes at Gold or CDI Shows)**

| Award | Level                                         | Category                |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| OADG  | FEI Pony Individual & Team                    | JR                      |
| OADG  | FEI Pony Freestyle                            | JR                      |
| OADG  | FEI Children Individual & Team                | JR                      |
| OADG  | FEI Junior Individual & Team                  | JR                      |
| OADG  | FEI Junior Freestyle                          | JR                      |
| OADG  | FEI Young Riders Individual & Team            | Young Rider             |
| OADG  | FEI Young Rider Freestyle                     | Young Rider             |
| OADG  | Prix St. George (JR)                          | JR                      |
| OADG  | Prix St. George (AA)                          | AA                      |
| OADG  | Prix St. George (O)                           | O                       |
| OADG  | Intermediate I                                | All categories combined |
| OADG  | Intermediate A, B                             | All categories combined |
| OADG  | Intermediate II                               | All categories combined |
| OADG  | Intermediate Freestyle                        | All categories combined |
| OADG  | Grand Prix & GP Special U25                   | U25                     |
| OADG  | Grand Prix & GP Special                       | All categories combined |
| OADG  | Grand Prix Freestyle                          | All categories combined |
| OADG  | FEI 4 Year Old                                | All categories combined |
| OADG  | FEI 5 Year Old                                | All categories combined |
| OADG  | FEI 6 Year Old                                | All categories combined |
| Merit | All levels (excl. Freestyle and FEI 4/5/6 YO) | JR/AA/O/YR/U25          |

**CDI Achievement Award**

One award for all levels combined. Requires 3 qualifying scores from 3 shows (within or outside Canada), at 2 locations and 2 judges. Eligible levels: FEI Children, FEI Pony, FEI JR, FEI YR, FEI U25, Small Tour (PSG & I1), Medium Tour (IA & IB), Big Tour (I2, GP & GPS). Freestyle and FEI 4/5/6-Year-Old classes excluded.