

South Wind Dressage & Eventing Association 2026 Year End Awards Qualification Rules

DEFINITIONS OF SHOW TYPES

SWDEA Show: A horse show organized and hosted by SWDEA members, at any chosen facility. Scores are automatically recorded by SWDEA Score Keeper for year-end awards. Volunteer hours must be earned at these shows.

Sanctioned Show: A local horse show must be pre-approved by the SWDEA Board. Scores are automatically submitted by the show organizers to SWDEA's Score Keeper and may count towards SWDEA year-end awards. There is no cost for these scores to be submitted. Volunteer hours at sanctioned shows do NOT count towards SWDEA Year End award requirements.

Other Shows: All shows outside of local/SWDEA shows must have verifiable online results & must adhere to USEF, USDF, USEA, WDAA, and/or USHJA rules.

Members must submit their own scores for shows that are NOT hosted or sanctioned by SWDEA. These scores must be submitted directly to the SWDEA Score Keeper through the SWDEA website (see score submission at www.swdea.com). Scores must be submitted within 30 days of the competition date & no later than October 31st, 2026.

ANTICIPATED 2026 SHOW CALENDAR

The 2026 SWDEA show year runs from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026, with the exception of the SWDEA Year End Show on November 7th, 2026 which counts as the last SWDEA show for the show year.

2026 SWDEA and Local Show Dates:

- *December 1st-31st 2025- FSU Online Dressage Show (sanctioned)*
- *January Sunday 11th, 2026- SWDEA Year End Awards Banquet *
- *February 7th 2026 SWDEA -Dressage, CT, & Jumpers @ Mahan Farm (sanctioned)*
- *March 28th, 2026 Gray Lily Farm- All Phases (sanctioned)*
- *April 11th, 2026 SWDEA All Phases @ Mahan Farm*
- *May 2nd, 2026 SWDEA Jumpers @Buck Lake*
- *June 6th, 2026 Mahan Farm Spring Into Summer- All Phases (sanctioned)*
- *June 1-30th SWDEA Online Dressage*
- *July 15th- August 15th- SWDEA Online Dressage*
- *Sept 19th, 2026 SWDEA Jumpers @ Buck Lake*
- *Oct 3rd Beat the Heat Event @ Mahan Farm- All Phases (sanctioned)*
- *Oct 24th, 2026 Gray Lily Farm- All Phases (sanctioned)*
- *Nov 7th, SWDEA All Phases @ Mahan Farm*

DEFINITIONS OF RIDER CLASSIFICATIONS PER USEF

Junior Rider: Any member under the age of 18, as of December 1st of the show year.

Adult Amateur Rider: Any member 18 years or older, as of December 1st of the show year.

To maintain Amateur status a member must not teach more than 20 hours a week and only to beginner riders who do not compete in any equine competitions. Otherwise, he/she will be classified as an open rider (see below.)

Open Rider: Members who earn remuneration for teaching lessons and/or coaching students at competitions, teaching clinics, training, or exercising horses at any point during the show year.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

Only current SWDEA members are eligible to qualify for year-end awards.

All scores for Dressage, Western Dressage, Combined Test, and Eventing must be earned under an "L" judge or higher.

There is no limit on the number of horses on which a rider may qualify.

Riders may not take a lesson or clinic with the Dressage Judge or house the Dressage Judge, within 30 days prior to the show.

If a horse's name is changed at any time during the show year, the rider must submit the change to the SWDEA Score Keeper within 30 days of the show. Any horse being shown by multiple riders must be shown under the same name by all riders.

GENERAL SCORING CRITERIA FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

Any rider must be a member of or join SWDEA by the date of show of which the score is earned and submitted.

All scores from Other Shows must be submitted within 30 days of the show date & no later than October 31st, 2026.

No incomplete, retired during ride, eliminated (for any reason), disqualified, or scores which do not qualify, will count, or be recorded, but the rider will receive credit for a SWDEA show participation if it is a SWDEA Hosted Show.

Scores count for each horse and rider combination in each discipline, class, division, or level.

The same horse/rider combination will only be eligible for awards in the two (2) highest levels or divisions they have competed in one (1) year. ***See exception for walk/trot jumper riders under the "jumper specific awards criteria**

YEAR END RIDER QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible for SWDEA Year End awards, members must have qualifying scores in any division or class per discipline or level between Nov 1, 2025, and October 31, 2026, with the exception of the SWDEA 2026 Year End November show which counts as the last SWDEA show for the show year AND satisfy the following requirements:

Option A: Compete in 2 SWDEA hosted Shows (not SWDEA Sanctioned shows) **AND** Volunteer 4 hours at a SWDEA hosted Show; OR

Option B: Compete in 2 SWDEA hosted Shows (not SWDEA Sanctioned shows) **AND pay a \$100 volunteer fee per member by October 31, 2026;** OR

Option C : (Board Members Only): Compete in 1 SWDEA hosted Show and be in good standing with the Board.

Any member may have their volunteer hours donated by anyone who volunteers for you.

SCORE SUBMISSION

THE PROCEDURE IS LISTED ON WEBSITE AT WWW.SWDEA.COM

Complete the form on the SWDEA website or send a direct email to the scorekeeper. This must include the rider's name, horse's name, date of show, name of show, judge's name, and include a picture or hyperlink, of the final scores.

All scores must be submitted within 30 days of the horse show; October scores must be submitted by October 31, 2026, to count toward year-end awards.

All scores submitted must match the appropriate SWDEA division in order to be eligible to count for a year end award.

Other Shows: There will be a \$10.00 submission fee for each score submitted from Other Shows.

For jumper shows there is a \$10 submission fee per show day which scores are submitted. USEF/USHJA rated jumper shows are worth double points.

Submitted scores which do not qualify will NOT be recorded. The \$10.00 submission fee must be paid in full at the time of the score submission or it will NOT be recorded or counted towards year end awards.

All shows outside of local/SWDEA shows must have verifiable online results & must adhere to USEF, USDF, USEA, WDAA, and/or USHJA rules.

It is the responsibility of the member to follow up with the Score Keeper to make sure all documents were received and recorded correctly.

NOMINATED AWARDS

The criteria for submitting nominations for these awards will be determined by the SWDEA Board each year.

NOMINATED AWARDS:

SWDEA MVP (Most Valuable Person) Award – This award is presented to the nominated individual (spouse, significant other, sibling, parent, etc.) who has shown support for a SWDEA member's personal riding activities as well as for SWDEA.

Adult Volunteer of the Year Award – This award will be presented to the adult member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer effort throughout the year.

Junior Volunteer of the Year Award - This award will be presented to the JR member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer effort throughout the year.

Susan Wager Adult Sportsmanship Award - This award is in memory of Susan Wager and will be presented to the SWDEA adult member who has shown exceptional spirit and determination when met with difficult times and exhibits exceptional sportsmanship.

Debbie Lillibridge Junior Sportsmanship Award - presented to the SWDEA JR member who has shown exceptional spirit and determination when met with difficult times and exhibits exceptional sportsmanship.

Déjà Vu School Master Award: presented to the school horses who are the unsung heroes of our horse community. Loved and ridden by many SWDEA members.

The SWDEA President and SWDEA Board may also present special awards and recognitions each year.

DRESSAGE SPECIFIC AWARDS CRITERIA

The following information applies to classical Dressage tests, Intro through Grand Prix, eventing dressage, & freestyle tests.

Only USEF or USDF test scores will be considered. Dressage scores from Eventing or Combined Test may not be used towards year end awards.

All dressage scores must **be 58% or above** to be considered qualifying.

All scores for Dressage, Western Dressage, Combined Test, and Eventing must be earned under an "L" judge or higher.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

Ride-A-Test/Fix-A-Test format will not be accepted.

Awards MAY be divided by rider classification (JR/AA/Open) for all Levels.

Equitation & Rider Test scores may not be submitted for High Average Dressage or High Point Dressage year-end awards.

DRESSAGE – HIGH AVERAGE:

The HIGH AVERAGE SCORE will be based on the average of the best scores earned or submitted.

Rider's average will be calculated by the following:

- Top 4 scores for Intro, Training, First Level, & Starter thru Modified Eventing; and
- Top 3 scores for All Levels of Freestyles & Second Level and Above, & Preliminary and Above Eventing

To be eligible for awards at least one (1) score counting toward the average must be earned at the highest test for that level (Training Level and above), except for Introductory level which will use Test B as the highest test.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

Note: The Prix St. George High Average Champion will receive the Patti O'Sullivan Menard Award.

DRESSAGE – HIGH POINT:

All levels will be awarded a High Point award; all general criteria must be met for eligibility.

To qualify for a Dressage High Point Year End award the horse/rider combination must have at least two qualifying scores in the Division and meet all general criteria.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

MUSICAL FREESTYLE, PAS DE DEUX, QUADRILLE:

All musical rides will be combined into one category/level for year-end awards.

WESTERN DRESSAGE SPECIFIC AWARDS CRITERIA
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The following information applies to Western Dressage tests..

Awards MAY be divided by rider classification (JR/AA/Open) for all Levels.

All dressage scores must be **58% or above** to be considered qualifying.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

Equitation & Rider Test scores may not be submitted for High Average Dressage or High Point Dressage year-end awards.

Ride-A-Test/Fix-A-Test format will not be accepted.

WESTERN DRESSAGE - HIGH AVERAGE:

All levels will be awarded Champion through sixth place.

The HIGH AVERAGE SCORE will be based on the average of the top highest scores earned or submitted.

The Rider's average will be calculated by using the:

- Top 4 scores for Intro, Basic, and Level 1; and
- Top 3 scores for Level 2 and Above.

To be eligible for awards at least one (1) score counting toward the average must be earned at the highest test for that level to include Intro Level and above.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

WESTERN DRESSAGE – HIGH POINT:

All levels will be awarded a High Point award; all general criteria must be met for eligibility.

To qualify for a Western Dressage High Point Year End award the horse/rider combination must have at least two qualifying scores in the Division and meet all general criteria.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

WESTERN DRESSAGE – MUSICAL FREESTYLE, PAS DE DEUX, QUADRILLE:

All musical rides will be combined into one category/level for year-end awards.

EVENTING SPECIFIC AWARDS CRITERIA

All Eventing scores must be from a 3-phase show format: Dressage, Show Jumping, and Cross Country. Final SCORES are those tallied after all three Eventing phases are complete. Event riders must accrue SCORES using any SWDEA comparable Eventing divisions:

Tadpole 18", **Leap Frog 2' (new division for 2026)**, Starter 2'3", Beg. Novice 2'7", Novice 2'11", Training 3'3", Modified 3'5" and Preliminary 3'7".

All final scores must be **no higher than 60 penalty points** to be considered qualifying.

Awards MAY be divided by rider classification (JR/AA/Open) for all Levels.

EVENTING – LOW AVERAGE:

The Low Average Score will be based on the average of the best three (3) scores submitted at each level.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

EVENTING – LOW POINT:

All levels will be awarded a Low Point award; all general criteria must be met for eligibility.

To qualify for an Eventing Low Point Year End award the horse/rider combination must have at least two qualifying scores in the Division and meet all general criteria.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

COMBINED TEST SPECIFIC AWARDS CRITERIA

All Combined Test (CT) scores must be from a 2-phase show format: Dressage and Show Jumping. CT Riders must accrue qualifying SCORES using any SWDEA comparable CT divisions: Final SCORES are those tallied after both CT phases are complete.

Amoeba 12", Tadpole 18", Leapfrog 2', Starter 2'3", Beg. Novice -2'7", Novice 2'11, Training 3'3", Modified 3'5" and Preliminary 3'6"-3'7".

All final scores must be **no higher than 50.00 penalty points** to be considered qualifying. Awards MAY be divided by rider classification (JR/AA/Open) for all Levels.

COMBINED TEST – LOW AVERAGE:

All levels will be awarded Champion through sixth place.

The Low Average Score will be based on the average of the three (3) lowest scores submitted. Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

COMBINED TEST – LOW POINT:

All levels will be awarded a Low Point award; all general criteria must be met for eligibility.

To qualify for a Combined Test Low Point Year End award the horse/rider combination must have at least two qualifying scores in the Division and meet all general criteria.

Scores must be earned from a minimum of two different Dressage judges.

JUMPER SPECIFIC AWARDS CRITERIA

All Jumper scores must be earned from a Show Jumping format.

Year End Jumper awards are based on the number of points accrued at each of the height divisions:

Ground Poles, Walk/Trot Cross Rails, 12", 18", 2', 2'3", 2'6", 2'9", 3', 3'3", 3'6"

Awards MAY be divided by rider classification (JR/AA/Open) for all divisions.

Awards for the Overall High Point Rider and Overall High Point Horse MAY be given.

In order to qualify for a Jumper Year End Award the horse/rider combination needs to have earned a minimum of **28 points** in the division during the show year.

For 18" & Above, points accrue for each horse/rider combination. The same horse/rider combination will only be eligible for awards in the two (2) highest levels or divisions they have competed in one (1) year.

Points follow the **RIDER** for Ground Poles, Walk Trot Cross Rails, & **12" jumper divisions.**

Riders may qualify for awards in ground poles, cross rails, AND 12" jumpers in the same competition year.

Jumper placings earned at USEF/USHJA Rated shows are worth double points. Members must still submit these placings through the website's score submission page.

For the Ground Poles and Walk Trot Cross Rails Divisions, class scoring will be based on the following point system:

- Course completed and rider has no refusals they shall earn 1st place.
- Course completed and/or incurs no more than 1 fault they shall earn 2nd place.
- Course completed and/or incurs no more than 2 faults they shall earn 3rd place.
- Course completed and/or incurs no more than 3 faults they shall earn 4th place.
- Course completed and/or incurs no more than 4 faults they shall earn 5th place.
- Fall of rider is automatic Disqualification and no ribbon or points will be awarded

Points will be earned from placing in each class, at each height. The number of points earned per class placing are provided in the table below.

CLASS PLACE	Non-Rated Points	USEF/USHJA Rated Show Points
1	7	14
2	5	10
3	4	8
4	3	6
5	2	4
6	1	2

Both Course A and Course B will have the same jump courses (must only memorize 1 course)- But they will be judged differently as explained below.

Course A - Table IV Sec 1. (Optimum Time)

The placings are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course (rails down, circles, or refusals.)

In the case of equality of faults (Ex: more than one rider with zero faults), the horse with the time on course closest to Optimum Time (over or under) will win followed by the next closest, etc.

After those with zero faults are placed, then those with faults will be placed according to their optimum times.

Optimum time for each height will be posted on the course map.

The lower the jump height, the slower the pace will be set for the course.

-Example: 12"-18" will be set at 300 meters/min
2'-2'3 325 meters/min
2'6-3' 350 meters/min

Course B -Table II Sec 2 (d) (Power & Speed)

Two Phase Competitions - Scores are decided by adding together the faults (rails down, circles, or refusals) incurred over both phases (if any.)

Whether or not a rider has gone clear in the first phase (the first ½ of the course), they will continue onto the second phase (the remaining ½ of the course.)

Your time starts as the horse crosses the start line for the second ½ of the course.

Simply Put: The course is divided into two parts, with the first ½ of your course being the "power" portion, and the second ½ of your course being the "speed" portion.

Regardless of if you go clear in the first ½ of the course, you simply – without stopping – continue through the remainder of the course.

This second ½ of the course is considered the speed section, in which you *could* aim to go a bit faster. Essentially, it's like having a jump-off without stopping your ride or having to memorize a separate jump-off.