



May 2023 WDAA Newsletter



Dear Friends,

With the new software improvements coming soon to the WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHLPAP), I would like to explain why I personally enjoy participating so much in that program.

If you are unfamiliar with the WHLPAP program, follow this link to check it out: <https://wdaalifetimepoints.org/wdaa-horse-lifetime-points-and-awards-program/>

I have heard people say they think participating in WHLPAP is expensive and other associations have free high point programs. WDAA prefers to keep the membership fee as low as possible and allow members the opportunity to pay ala carte for the programs they wish to participate in. WDAA members only pay for what they like. I like supporting the WHLPAP program because I feel like it saves horse lives when grade horses or equine of any breed can achieve benchmarks that can be advertised to increase their value. Plus, the awards are amazing!

WHLPAP points can only be earned at WDAA Recognized shows. This means I will be riding under USEF Western Dressage licensed judges and standardized rules. I know exactly what to expect and I can be prepared for a great show experience.

Working for WHLPAP awards helps motivate me to enter shows and move up when I get a little lazy or unsure if I'm ready for the next level. I have never regretted entering any show that I have ridden in. I always learn and improve my horse at every show I attend, even if just a little at a time. I like having lots of reasons to keep going.

Also, the WHLPAP program is non-competitive, which means anyone, and everyone, can win all the awards as they work through the program. Of course, the awards are fabulous, with quality unsurpassed by other organizations I am aware of.

Since the program is a lifetime program, if I had to take some time off showing and come back later, it's okay. I wouldn't have to start all over again and I wouldn't have to pay for the annual fee in the competition year I was off. All points earned stay with the enrolled horse throughout their lifetime no matter what!

I especially like the WHLPAP Awards Banquet held every year at the WDAA World Championship Show. I can cheer for everyone who receives awards, and they can cheer for me. We get to hang out and talk about our horses and our journeys. We celebrate all the work we have done and all we have overcome and accomplished each year. What a great thing that everyone is a winner, and all our horses are better for being part of this fun program.

I hope you take the opportunity to participate, and I hope to hear everything about your wonderful horse at the next WHLPAP Awards Banquet.

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

WHLPAP NEWS & UPDATES



WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program (WHLPAP) update!

We hope you're enjoying a fantastic 2023 show season! As you make your way through the competitions, we wanted to remind you of some important details about our WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Award Program.

Enrollments are currently open, and you can join the program with a one-time payment of \$100 for lifetime enrollment. To record your achievements for the 2023 show year, the annual recording fee is \$50. You can also submit scores from WDAA recognized shows held in 2022 by submitting a 2022 Annual Recording. Test and Rail Class submissions are \$10 each.

Don't miss the chance to showcase your accomplishments and celebrate your dedication to the sport. Enroll now and make sure to submit your points on time to be eligible for the 2023 awards banquet presentation.

📌 Important Deadlines to Remember:

Horse Enrollments – 7/01/2023

To participate in the 2023 WHLPAP Awards Banquet Presentation, horses must be submitted for enrollment and approved by July 1st.

WHLPOP Point and Annual Recording Submissions – 7/31/2023.

The deadline for point submissions for the 2023 award presentation is July 31, 2023. Due to tight deadlines with shipping and ordering custom awards, we are unable to offer exceptions to this cut-off date. Achievements earned after this date will be presented at the 2024 WHLPAP Awards Banquet.

💡 **Don't forget** about the WDAA Online International Challenge, which offers one and a half point factors, making it a valuable opportunity to boost your points!

🚀 **Exciting News:** We're currently working on the new software system and are excited to begin testing. Our goal is to offer an improved user experience later this year. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting development!

We look forward to celebrating your achievements with you and providing you with a better user experience soon! If you have any questions or need assistance with enrollment, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Happy showing and best of luck in the 2023 show season!

Jenny McBurnett

WDAA Horse Lifetime Points and Awards Program

<https://wdaalifetimepoints.org>



2023 Western Dressage Online International Challenge

Are you interested in trying Western Dressage?

Are you a Military Veteran?

Are you an Exceptional Rider?

This show is the place for you!

THE WDAA WESTERN DRESSAGE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE is beginning soon!

5/22/2023 - 7/5/2023

Are you getting ready? 14 days until 5/22 - the first day to enter

*Phase 1 - Entries Accepted - May 22 - June 5, 2023

*Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted - (AFTER Entry is Accepted) - June 19, 2023

*Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board - June 21 - July 5, 2023

*Online Awards Ceremony - July 9, 2023

This year's judges are;

Renee Johnson, R WD

Ann Judge, R WD

Natalie Lamping, R WD

Marie Maloney, WD R

Gail Matheus, R WD

Lynn Marie Newton, R WD

Fatima Pawlenko-Kranz, WD R

Joann Williams, WD R

CLICK this link to view more information on the show - [WDAA Western Dressage Online International Challenge](#)

*Special Awards offered.

- WDAA Versatility Horse
- Breed High Score Awards
- International High Score
- USA High Score
- Military Veteran High Score
- Professional Rider High Score
- Century Rides

***Division winners receive a buckle from Skyline Vaquero Silversmiths**

***Overall High Score winners will receive a saddle pad from Circle Y of Yoakum**

- Junior Rider = 13 and under
- Junior Rider = 14- 17
- Amateur Rider = 18 -39 years of age
- Amateur Rider = 40 - 59
- Amateur Rider = 60 and up
- Open Rider = 39 years of age and under
- Open Rider = 40 years of age and up

- Exceptional Rider

***TEAM COMPETITION INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE - [Online International Challenge Team Competition](#)**

***WDAA is very proud to announce the 3rd Annual WDAA Harmony Award!**

You can win a beautiful saddle donated by Schleese Saddlery! Everyone who shows in both the WDAA Online International and the WDAA World Show can qualify.

[Learn more here: https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-harmony-award](https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/wdaa-harmony-award)



All exhibitors that meet the following requirements will be part of the drawing.

1. A horse and rider team must have shown and been judged in the WDAA Online International Challenge Show and the WDAA World Championship Show.
2. That team must have earned an 8.0 or higher, in harmony at both shows.
3. 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.
4. 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.

WDAA would like to thank those who took the time to fill out the most recent WDAA Member question of the month concerning saddle rules.

All members were asked to give their thoughts on 2 questions concerning the USEF Western Dressage saddle rule.



WD121.6 A standard American Western stock saddle with swells, a seat, cantle, skirt, fenders, and Western

stirrups is required. A working Western side saddle is also acceptable.

- a. Optional and permitted features may include:
 1. Horn
 2. Padding or pads on the seat of saddle
 3. Bucking rolls
 4. Tapaderos, except in Western Dressage Equitation
- b. The following features and style of saddles are not permitted:
 1. Thigh & knee rolls
 2. Saddles: Australian, Baroque, English, McClellan and Spanish
 3. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
 4. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.

The survey questions were:

1. Do you think this rule should be amended to clarify that no other limitations (such as disallowing billets, panels, atypical skirts, etc.) will apply. All saddles fitting the loose definition above will be considered legal.
2. Do you think this rule should be amended to more strictly limit how a standard American Western stock saddle is defined. This could include disallowing billets, panels, atypical skirts, etc.

The survey began 3-13-23 and ended 3-21-23.

- From the very beginning hours of the survey the answers showed 2/3 chose option #1 and 1/3 of respondents chose option #2.
- By the close of the survey 30% of current WDAA members had replied to the survey.
- 80% of the respondents said they showed at least once per year.
- Over 95% said that western saddle fit and function education was important.

The results remained consistent throughout the time allotted for the survey, 2/3 of respondents chose option #1, which means that they did not want to apply any further limitations to the saddle rule. 1/3 of the total respondents chose option #2.

The WDAA Board of Directors appreciates the comments sent with the survey responses. We are a member driven association and your opinions matter. The WDAA board and USEF Western Dressage committee have no plans to submit a rule change proposal concerning any added limitations to the current saddle rule.



December 2022 WDAA Member Question of the Month

What is your favorite show and why?

1. **WDAA World Show** – “The warm welcoming atmosphere”, “The best of the best are there”, “The friendliness and encouragement of all the competitors!!!”, “The facility, the social events, the camping”, “The chance to get to compete against the toughest western dressage competitors across the nation!”
2. **WDAA Online International Challenge Show** – “It’s good competition and great feedback”, “Such a great opportunity to show without travel”, “It’s great to be able to watch other rider’s tests and to see the scores”, “I love being part of the Social Corral and reading everyone’s experiences and

commiserating over challenges”, “Very few shows in my area, and my horse is not a good shipper, so we can do our tests at home”

3. **WDAFL Annual Show** – “HUGE show with great awards and prestige, plus a big trade show”, “Draws great competitors, this year prizes were amazing”, “Great swag, great prizes, and a friendly environment!”, “Judges are hired from a distance away so we are not always showing under the same local judges”, “The warm welcoming atmosphere”.
4. **Arabian Sport Horse Nationals** – “Great facility, well run show, It is hosted at an amazing facility that has great accommodations for horse and rider.” “A big selection of classes with lots of competition.” “Lots of non-class activities, such as traveling barn parties, demonstration rides”
5. **Pomona CDS** – “Great location; nice people; good organization; lovely awards.” “Besides the people being so nice. It’s like a family and the show grounds are nice.”
6. **AQHA World Show** – “The AMAZING people, trophies, buckles, and prestige” “Great atmosphere, friendly fun competitors and great versatile QHs.”

USEF Western Dressage Committee and Rule Proposals information

If you have questions about the rule process or the responsibilities of the USEF Western Dressage Committee, please visit this link: <https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/usef>



Membership Corner

Looking for access to access to a Member Benefit from a WDAA Partner?

Here’s how to find them:

- Log in to your profile
- On the Member Landing page, click on the Member Benefits links under the ID badge

“Error messages on WDAA website”

If you encounter an error message, such as “404” or “Bad gateway”, when trying to access a page or a document, it will generally clear the error and provide access to the page or document if you back out and try

again. Sometimes it might take more than one attempt to clear the error, but usually once will do it. We apologize if this has been an inconvenience and hope to have it resolved in the near future. Thanks for your patience.



News concerning USEF

Find all USEF rule change proposals here [Rule Changes | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](#)

Find all USEF Presidential Rule Modifications here [Presidential Modifications | US Equestrian \(usef.org\)](#)

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.



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

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