



MID YEAR NEWSLETTER

Happy Summer Solstice



Dear Friends,

I have judged four Western Dressage shows, either online or in person in the past two weeks. So, I have been seeing many of you and admiring all your progress with your horses. However, what I admire even more is how you treat each other and newcomers to our sport. Western Dressage truly is the most inviting sport I have ever been a part of.

As I have been out meeting with members, several questions keep coming up. The first one is about the new tests.

New tests are currently in development and will be effective for the 2027 competition year. We will share them with you well in advance of that time. WDAA determined that the jump from Level 4 to Level 5 was too much. Therefore, there will be a Level 6, similar to what is now Level 5 and the new Level 5 will be more advanced than the current Level 4, but not as much as the current Level 5.

In response to popular demand by members, WDAA is also adding Pairs Freestyle and an advanced Walk Jog division with four tests for horse/rider combinations who have achieved training levels beyond Intro Level, but do not wish to compete in lope classes. Rules are currently being developed and will be released in advance of the tests.

Another question that keeps coming up is about how trainers and exhibitors can learn more about what judges are looking for. There are many ways to learn what judges are looking for:

Anyone can attend the WDAA judges' seminar in person or take the online course at:

<https://www.westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-judges-education>

Western Dressage Judges Education

WDAA OFFERS THREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: 1) IN PERSON SEMINAR (Open to auditors) The next WDAA/USEF Western Dressage Judges Seminar will be held February 6-8, 2026

www.westerndressageassociation.org

WDAA members can access educational videos through the WDAA website's Learning Management System (LMS) at no charge or,

If you enter a show and read your test, the judge will tell you exactly what s/he is looking for and the feedback will be tailored especially for you and your horse, in the current moment.

The last question I have been asked frequently is: what breed is the ideal Western Dressage horse? There really is no answer to that question because WDAA has worked very hard to train our judges to recognize all horses for their level of training and harmony. We believe every horse is capable of excellent performance within its skill level and WDAA data shows that whatever breeds enter the most, win the most. That is pretty good evidence that we don't have a preferred breed and that our judges recognize good horses regardless of their breeds.

Out and about, I see just about every breed competing in Western Dressage. It seems like lately, there have been more and more Draft type horses, but still lots of Quarter horses, Pintos, Gaited horses Arabians, and warmbloods.

Thanks to everyone for all your great questions. If I haven't seen you lately, hopefully, I will soon as I am always on my way to another horse show!

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

WDAA Online International



The WDAA Online International Challenge show is in it's 3rd phase, judging!

We have 1115 rides and 375 entries! This show is the gold standard for all online shows. We see it as a teaching opportunity, if you can show in the Online International Challenge, you can show anywhere. You will know everything will be spot on to have a perfect presentation. Which is appreciated by stewards and judges and will set a great example for people new to Western Dressage.

The Team Competition is now open for registration -
<https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/online-international-challenge-team-competition>

Entry forms must be completed online by 11:59pm PT on June 17, 2025.
(The last day for video submissions)

Congratulations to STACEY JOHNSON and A SUDDEN DIPPED CHIP from Hernando, Florida, her name was drawn to win the first full Pivo system generously donated by Pivo. WDAA is very excited about our



partnership with Pivo, they have sponsored the World Show and have plans to continue our collaboration to promote Western Dressage around the World!

An additional Pivo Technology set will be awarded during the Online International Challenge Awards Ceremony held Sunday July 6th at 7:00 PM Eastern time.

A Zoom invitation will be emailed to all entrants from showsecretary.com in the next few weeks.

Good luck everyone!

5th Annual WDAA Harmony Award.

WDAA is very proud to announce the 5th Annual WDAA Harmony Award!

This year's Harmony Award will be a stunning custom-made silver buckle, generously donated by Skyline Vaquero Silversmiths, the official buckle supplier of the Western Dressage Association of America. Other awards may also be presented as part of a Harmony Award package.

All exhibitors that meet the following requirements will be part of a drawing for an exciting award.

1. A horse and rider team must have shown and been judged in the 2025 WDAA Online International Challenge Show and the 2025 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 show will count as an additional entry in the drawing. The drawing will be held Saturday during the World Show Awards Celebration. Scores are automatically tracked by the show secretary, so you can focus on your ride!

WORLD SHOW NEWS

- We are so happy to announce our new Corporate Sponsors for WDAA and the WDAA World Championship Show.
 - Pivo – The Official Training Technology Partner of WDAA <https://pivoequestrian.com>
 - Standlee <https://www.standleeforage.com>
 - Skyline Vaquero - The Official Buckle supplier of WDAA - <https://skylinevaquero.com>
 - Purina <https://www.purinamills.com>



- New barns will be available for the 2025 World Championship Show!

They are located on the north side of the Main arena. They are 10x10, high quality stalls offering great ventilation and the increased opportunity for double stalls. Wash Stalls will be in this area too. Please stay tuned to the www.wdaaworldshow.org website for more information as the Lazy E construction continues.



10% OFF
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WDAA Points News



The WDAA Year-End High Point Program (YEHP) continues to grow and thrive in 2025! Here's where we stand as of June:



316 WDAA Recognized Shows on the calendar
120 shows have submitted official results year-to-date
405 horses have competed in YEHP-eligible classes
357 individual exhibitors are participating
3,748 YEHP points awarded so far!

YEHP is FREE to active WDAA members with enrolled horses and includes both in-person and online WDAA Recognized shows. YEHP points are automatically tracked once your horse is active and the show has submitted official results. WHLPAP-enrolled horses are automatically enrolled in YEHP, so there's no need to sign up twice.

Show Results Timeline: Recognized shows are required to submit results within 14 days of the show's end date. Once received, results are reviewed by Show Recognition, then forwarded to the Points team for processing. This may take several weeks, depending on the completeness of the file and overall volume of shows.

To register your horse for its FREE WDAA Horse Number just log in to your WDAA member portal and click the "WDAA Horse Number Registration" button.

Youth news!

- **The USEF Youth Sportsmanship Award application deadline is approaching.**

Please visit... <https://www.usef.org/learning-center/youth-programs/grants-scholarships/youth-sportsman>

The deadline to apply August 15th .

ALL applicants will receive a free WDAA membership for 2026.
(Hint... You can use the same recommendation letters for the WDAA Youth Scholarship application due July 15th)

- **Congratulations to the April WDAA Youth Scholarship winner
Asha Austin of Medford OR!**

The Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) is proud to present scholarship opportunity funded by the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Recognized Affiliate Grant. **The next deadline is July 15th.** Three (3) scholarships of \$500 each are available to youth riders who are looking to enhance their Western Dressage education. Scholarships must be used for Western Dressage educational experiences to include clinics, camps, and/or non-show events. The applicant must be under the age of 18 at the time of application, an active member of WDAA, and a member of USEF. Applications will be accepted year-round. Grants will be awarded 3 times per year: April, August and December. Funds must be used within 12 months of receipt. Deadlines for submission will be March 15th, July 15th and November 15th.

For all information on this great opportunity, please visit this link,
<https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/youth>



Make sure you check out the WDAA blog pages! We have information, news and stories from our state affiliates, youth, international partners and more!

Home

About

Join


Tests & Resources

Calendar

WDAA Programs

Partners & Alliances

Buy Stuff



WDAA POINTS

WDAA YEAR END HIGH POINT (YEHP)


Step 1: Join or Renew Your WDAA Membership

Step 2: Enroll for FREE Horse Number

Step 3: Show at a WDAA Recognized Show and Gain Points

Step 4: WDAA takes it from there!


WDAA Points Program



2025 WDAA World Championship Show

The 2025 WDAA Western Dressage World Championship Show will be held in Guthrie, OK at the Lazy E Arena, September 16-20, 2025.

Learn More



WDAA Online International Show

Phase 1 - Entries Accepted
May 19 - June 2, 2025

Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted
(Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 2 - June 17, 2025

Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board
June 19 - July 2, 2025

Online Awards Ceremony
July 6, 2025

Learn More

Join WDAA


Join WDAA and become part of a passionate community dedicated to honoring the partnership between horse and rider through Western Dressage.

JOIN WDAA

Trying to renew a lapsed membership?

Renew your WDAA membership today to stay connected, informed, and eligible for all the benefits and programs you love.

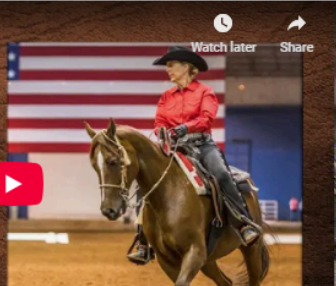
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Western Dressage Overview

Watch later

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World Championship Show

Online International Challenge

Show Recognition

WDAA Horse Lifetime Points & Awards Program (WHLPAP)

Year End High Point Program (YEHP & IYEHP)

Learning Management System (LMS)

Links & Resources

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AQHA Partnership

WDAA State Affiliates

Gaited Horses & Mules

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WDAA Youth

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International happenings

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6/10

We have International Judges Certificate recipients already!

Congratulations to:

Jodee O'Leary of Australia
 Melinda Coleshill of Australia
 Paula Byrne of Australia
 Rachael O'Dowd of Australia
 Roxanne Balchin of Australia
 Lynne Poole of Canada
 Kimberley Scott of Canada



These hard-working women are now trained using the WDAA International Judging training program, very similar to what the USEF small r USEF judge applicants learn during our WDAA / USEF judges' seminar. This program was build to ensure a level playing ground throughout the world in Western Dressage.

For more information , please visit, [International Judging Certificate Program](#)

State Affiliate news

WDAA welcomes our newest State Affiliate, the Pacific Northwest Western Dressage Association (PNWWDA). PNWWDA was first envisioned by Stacy Sutton and Ann Marie Avansino who had been very involved in Western Dressage since its inception. They spent several years developing and running many educational events, symposiums, and exhibitions in Northern California. With this passion for Western Dressage, they both saw the need in the Northwest to further expand Western Dressage education and competition.

The PNWWDA was created to align with and promote the principles of the WDAA and independently organize quality educational programs, awards programs, and network and collaborate with like-minded Western Dressage enthusiasts and professionals throughout the Pacific Northwest. After Stacy relocated to Southern Oregon in January of 2023, and with the support of the WDAA, they were inspired to take on the big task of kick starting WDAA's first regional affiliate to include Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and British Columbia. For the rest of the story please visit the affiliate blog, https://wdaa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog



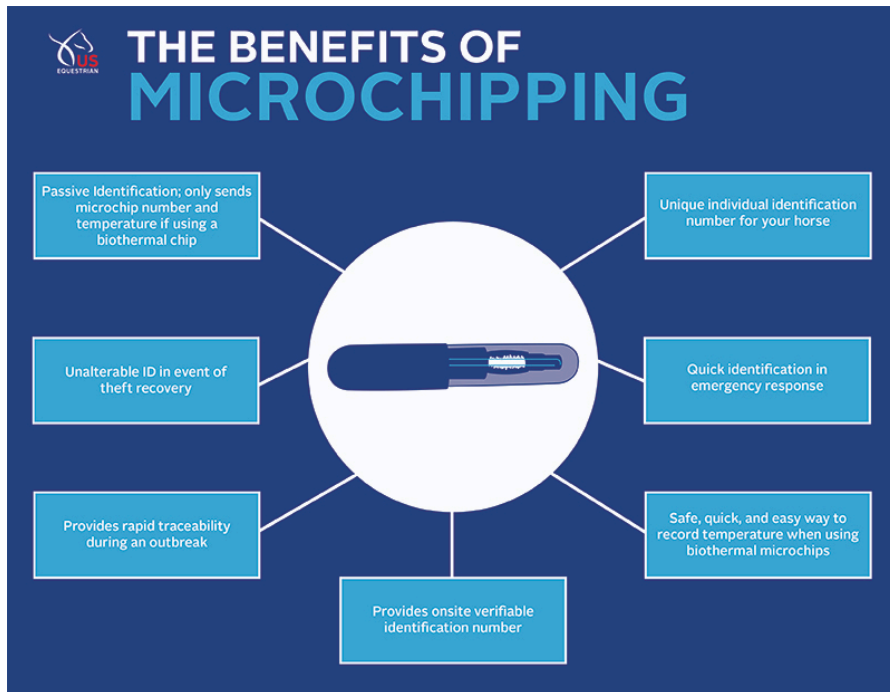
USEF News

MICROCHIPPING

Please keep in mind that in **2026** the WDAA World Championship Show will be a fully licensed USEF Show. Meaning all exhibitors, owners and trainers must be USEF members. OR you can purchase a 1-time per year USEF Show Pass fee and not required to complete Safe Sport. But you will not receive any USEF Horse of the Year points.

[https://links.usef.mkt7856.com/servlet/MailView?](https://links.usef.mkt7856.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MjQ2NTgxMTIS1&r=MTMyMTYwNzczMTczS0&j=MzA0MDMyMzI3MwS2&mt=1&rt=0)

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Reminder to keep SafeSport training up to date

We have heard about several exhibitors showing at USEF licensed shows with expired Safe Sport training. When USEF catches up with you it is a hefty fine, \$200!

SafeSport training is required for any USEF participating adult member (18 years old and older based on your actual birthday), including amateurs, professionals, and owners. Others required to take the SafeSport training include USEF-licensed officials, staff, board members, competition management, coaches, human physios, farriers, trainers, veterinarians, and others who are hired or contracted by USEF **or one of its licensed affiliates, such as WDAA**. The SafeSport training requirement does not apply to USEF Subscriber Members or USEF Competing Members under the age of 18 (based on your actual birthday). Members are ineligible to compete in USEF-licensed events if their SafeSport training is overdue. To see when your next training is due, go



to <https://www.usef.org>, click on Search People and enter your name. WDAA supports USEF in their efforts to keep minors safe from sexual abuse, bullying, or emotional abuse in equestrian activities.

<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/ineligibility-list>

Also please visit this link for the FAQ's: <https://www.usef.org/faqs/us-center-for-safesport-training>

We love seeing the enthusiasm for Western Dressage in all the wonderful social media communities out there! We want to remind everyone that official WDAA rules, programs, and information can always be found on **our website**, www.wdaa.org and through our **official channels**, WDAA Staff or info@westerndressageassociation.org.

Recently, we've noticed some groups using AI tools to answer questions. While these tools can be fun and helpful, they aren't connected to WDAA and may provide incorrect or incomplete information about our programs, rules, and guidelines.

To ensure you always have accurate and up-to-date information, please rely on:

- The **WDAA website**: www.westerndressageassociation.org
- **Official WDAA social media pages**

We're here to help you get the right answers every time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out directly.

Thank you for being part of the WDAA family

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”.
- 2024 Western Dressage Equitation patterns: 01/18/2024 Movement #4 Lope to Halt movement changed to “Halt through the Jog.”



Join WDAA or renew your membership today so you don't miss out on exclusive member benefits!

[Join WDAA](#)



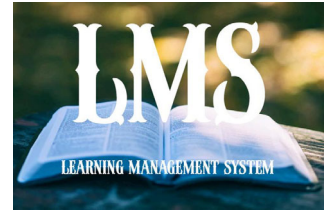
WDAA has some very exciting events, be sure to check the calendar regularly so you don't miss out!

[Visit the Calendar](#)



Take advantage of this free member benefit! Professional directory to connect potential clients with professionals.

[Visit the Directory](#)



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

[Visit the LMS](#)



Purina Mills



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