



## May Newsletter - Online International Challenge



Dear Friends,

Entries have opened for the 2026 WDAA Online International Challenge (OIC)! There are many great reasons this show attracts more exhibitors than any other WDAA recognized show, but this year the price of diesel fuel alone would be enough to compel me to enter.

Entering a large show such as the OIC is a great way to see where you stand in a talented and well-prepared field of competitors. I see it as a gauge to help determine where a horse and rider might be competitive in the WDAA World Show.

The fact that the OIC is held early in the competition year gives exhibitors the opportunity to evaluate current levels of preparedness and the time improve in preparation for the World Show.

I will be a judge for the OIC this year and I look forward to seeing the wide variety of riders, horses and venues that will be presented. I was impressed last time I judged the OIC by the perseverance and dedication presented by riders. I expect no less this time.

WDAA offers tips for online showing at this link:

[WDAA Recognized Online Show Rules and Guidelines.pdf](#)

Good Luck to all who enter! I look forward to seeing you soon!

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

## WDAA Membership News

**Online International Challenge - Entries Are OPEN**



## WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 2026 ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

SHOW FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD ★ ALL BREEDS ARE WELCOMED

1ST-10TH PLACE IN EVERY GLASS  
WINS A JACKET



- ★ Division Champion Buckles
- ★ International & USA Awards
- ★ Jackets for 1st-10th Place
- ★ International Patch for ALL Participants
- ★ Special Award for Overall High Score Age Groups



OIC Information

[westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-online-international](https://westerndressageassociation.org/wdaa-online-international)

Entries for the 2026 WDAA Online International Challenge **close June 1st**. Open to riders around the globe and all breeds of horses, this online competition offers the opportunity to compete internationally under WDAA R Judges—without ever leaving your barn.

▶ Phase 1 - Entries Accepted  
May 18 - June 1, 2026

▶ Phase 2 - Videos Submission Accepted  
(Once Entry Is Accepted) - June 16, 2026 - **TEAM ENTRY DEADLINE JUNE 16th**

▶ Phase 3 - Judging and Score Board  
June 18 - July 1, 2026

▶ On  
July 5,

Show Secretary

invitations will be

Prize List

Join A Team

Check out the videos below on how to enter the Online International Challenge and Tips & Tricks!





[Login to the LMS](#) to video a view on how to set up your arena!

Check out these additional resources:

- ALL SHOW INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE, [2026WDAAOI.pdf](#)
- USEF Rulebook Western Dressage section - <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/NpmAWxkXY6M/wd-western-dressage>
- WDAA 2026 Equipment and Attire guide - [WDAA Equipment Guide FINAL2025.pdf](#)
- Western Dressage arena diagrams - [Western Dressage Arena](#)
- Online showing guidelines - [WDAA Recognized Online Show Rules and Guidelines.pdf](#)

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**2026 WDAA World Show Prize List is LIVE**

## New on Facebook: Western Dressage Judges Forum



This new WDAA page is designed as a forum in which questions regarding judging scenarios, tack, rules, and ~~New Judging Techniques Championships and prize lists~~ are posted!

You must be a Licensed USEF Western Dressage Judge to participate.

~~Check out~~ items of interest:

- The free Freestyle Fiesta Exhibitor **Judges Join Here** Thursday Night during the Costume Freestyle class. Plan to attend for a commemorative buckle drawing and cheer on the excellent riders and their awesome costumes!
- Newly added gaited classes and award divisions!
- Heightened qualification requirements!
- The all-NEW [USEF Western](#) fantastic additional prizes hosted and provided by USEF.

Please make sure to read the prize list for this event!



### Do you want to make a difference at the Western Dressage World Show?

Consider sponsoring a class, division or a breed at the 2026 Western Dressage World Show! Sponsorships start at \$50.

We are extremely grateful to our past and present sponsors, and we hope you will join us in sponsoring our biggest live event of the year.

Sponsor here: <https://wdaaworldshow.org/sponsor/>

[Sponsor a Class, Division, or Breed Here](#)



## Partner with WDAA: 2026 World Show & Beyond

As we head into the heart of the show season, the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) is excited to offer unique opportunities for brands to connect with our vibrant, dedicated community. Whether you are looking for immediate visibility this year or want to build a long-term strategic partnership, we have a place for you.

### Join Us for the 2026 World Championship Show

The WDAA World Show is our premier event, representing our highest period of digital engagement and community focus. We are still accepting sponsors for the 2026 show, and there are several ways to get your brand in front of our exhibitors and fans:

- **Competitor Bag Stuffers:** Put your products or promotional materials directly into the hands of every rider.
- **Arena Banners:** Gain high-impact visual recognition with signage displayed throughout the event.
- **Event Sponsorship:** Support a social event and be highlighted as a key contributor to the show's success.

### Looking Ahead: 2027 Strategic Partnerships

We are also beginning to curate our corporate roster for the 2027 WDAA season. We are specifically looking for organizations interested in developing deeper, joint marketing and brand strategies. If your company is looking to align with the values of horsemanship, education, and the growth of Western Dressage, now is the time to start the conversation for next year.

### Get in Touch

There is a sponsorship level to fit every goal, and we would love to help you find the perfect match for your brand. For more information on 2026 opportunities or to begin discussing a 2027 partnership, please reach out to Candy Hill via email at [candy@westerndressageassociation.org](mailto:candy@westerndressageassociation.org).

[View Corporate Sponsorships Here](#)

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[WDAA Points](#)

**Introducing Our Newest WDAA Super Horse!**

**Gallant Prince Von G**  
**Owned by Patty Couch**

The WDAA Super Horse Achievement is one of our most prestigious program milestones and we are so excited to announce that Gallant Prince Von G has officially earned the title!

From Patty:

*"Prince and I have been together since the very first day of his life. From day one, I was there, and we have been inseparable ever since! I originally intended to show Prince in USDF, but several people encouraged me to show at the WDAA World Show which was in Tulsa at the time, which is where his very first classes took place in Intro level! I just loved the atmosphere, the warmth and friendliness of the people, the camaraderie, and the competition!"*

**WHLPOP May 2026 Newsletter Has Been Sent Out!**

WHLPOP Members, make sure to check your email for the May 2026 Newsletter! We've announced a bunch of the Achievements earned so far this award cycle, along with some important reminders about Award Processing points deadlines. Remember:

**The deadline for points submissions for the 2026 Award Processing cycle is July 31st, 2026!**

If you'd like to receive your awards this year in September/October, make sure you stay on top of your points!

**WDAA Year End High Point Program****2025 Year End High Point Champions Photo Page**

As you may have seen, we built a [2025 Year End High Point Champions page](#) to celebrate our member's incredible dedication and performance throughout the 2025 show season, and to permanently solidify their accomplishment in the YEHP halls of fame!

We're updating this page to feature a beautiful photo of each winning horse, and **we will be inviting all of the Champions from 2025 to submit a photo**. Keep an eye out in your email over the next couple of weeks for the link to submit your photos!

**YEHP Buckles Shipping Soon!**

We received an update from Skyline Vaquero that they expect to start shipping the buckles in about 1-2 weeks. It is a massive order of over ~90 handmade, customized buckles, which is more than we've ever asked them for! In line with our original shipping estimation, which was 8-12 weeks after March 31st, you should expect to receive your YEHP Buckle by **June 31st**.

Best of luck and Happy Showing!  
-The WDAA Points Team

[WDAA Points Website](#)

[WHL PAP vs YEHP Comparison](#)

[Enroll for a WDAA Horse Number](#)

## USEF News



### **USEF's Human and Equine Safety and Welfare Committee Focuses on Feedback-Driven Initiatives**

From USEF - *As the US Equestrian Human and Equine Safety and Welfare Committee sat down in person this spring to evaluate their priorities for the next two years, they knew they wanted to focus their efforts on having a meaningful impact. They've created a priority list based on group discussions and member inquiries, and as it continues its work, the Committee wants to involve membership and other stakeholders to gather feedback to guide their priorities.*

*"The committee wants to involve members and trainers at all levels to develop best practices," said Katlynn Wilbers, USEF Director of Competition Operations and committee liaison. "We want to hear from you about what you think they should focus on."*

[Read More Here](#)

## 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.

UPDATE

- 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](#)



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WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA  
- SINCE 1958

