

2024 Dressage Year-End Award Rules for
GDCTA-RECOGNIZED - SCHOOLING SHOWS
SPECIAL NEEDS

1. All awards will be based on a horse/rider combination meeting these eligibility requirements.

A) To be eligible a Horse/Rider Combination must have at least seven scores, from two different judges at two different shows. 50% Base Score required.

B) Scores will be based on the official show results posted by each show. However, you must be a GDCTA member and have indicated that you wish to participate in the awards program **AT THE TIME THE SCORES ARE EARNED**. You may register your intent to participate by checking the appropriate box on the membership form when you join or by contacting the Membership Chairperson.

C) A list of members participating in the awards program will be kept on the website. It is the **competitor's responsibility** to check frequently to make sure that their name is on the list and to contact the Schooling Awards Chairperson if it is not.

D) A Horse/Rider combination showing at more than two levels during the competition year will only be eligible for awards at the two highest levels shown. If the minimum requirements as listed in 1(A) above are not met at the highest level, eligibility for the lowest level is still lost. For example, a Horse/Rider Combination competing at Introductory, Training, and First Level failing to meet eligibility requirements for First Level is still only eligible for Training Level awards.

E) A Horse/Rider Combination qualifying at any given level in the USDF Recognized Show Program is not eligible **for that level or lower** for the GDCTA Schooling Show Awards Program. **However, you may ride and qualify at a higher level in the schooling awards program.** For instance, if you have seven scores for GDCTA Dressage Schooling Show Awards at First Level and have seven scores for the Training Level USDF Recognized Show Awards Program, you are eligible for **both awards**.

F) A Horse/Rider Combination that has WON a Year-End Championship for a particular level WILL be eligible for each year Awards for that level or below.

1. Alternative Equipment may be used (depending on rider needs) including bitless bridles, special saddles, etc.

2. Awards will be presented in the following category: SPECIAL NEEDS.

3. Awards will be offered at USDF Introductory Level, USEF Training through Second Levels only. Freestyle/Pas De Deux awards will be offered as "test of Choice" (i.e., riders can show training (pdd only), first or second level but will all compete for one award) in Senior and Junior categories.

4. Scores from all GDCTA Recognized events conducted in the continental United States will be eligible for inclusion in this Awards program. Please note that a horse/rider combination riding more than once in any class during any given show may only count the score of the first ride to count toward GDCTA year-end awards. All subsequent rides are not eligible for counting by GDCTA. Please note that only the first ride may be counted by GDCTA for year-end awards even if it has a higher score than subsequent rides in the same class at the same show.

5. **Restricted classes which are not open to all competitors, such as breed, pony and championship, are not eligible to count toward year-end awards.**

6. Dressage awards are based on percentage scores and not placing's in a class. Award results will be tabulated by taking the average of the top 5 scores.

7. The awards year will run from October 1st of the previous year to September 30th of the current competition year. Since the GDCTA membership year runs December 1st through November 30th, members are encouraged to rejoin early to avoid problems with eligibility.

8. No Changes to the awards standings can be made after Oct. 31st of the current competition year.

9. The GDCTA Board of Directors reserves the right to divide or combine divisions or categories as it sees fit during the competition year.

10. Coaches are allowed to Coach from the sidelines as special needs riders are not fully capable to react in situations during riding tests for safety reasons only.