



USDF AWARDS

Have you ever wondered, “How does my horse compare with others showing in dressage?”

Every year, thousands of owners and riders with USDF registered horses compete for USDF awards and the opportunity to find out where their horse ranks against others competing at their level nationwide.

As part of its mission, USDF offers a variety of award programs to recognize achievement in dressage and dressage sport horse breeding (DSHB). In the USDF awards system, there is a goal for nearly every type and level of riding, starting with the USDF Rider Performance award for achievement at Training Level, up to the Adequan®/USDF Grand Prix Horse of the Year. Along the way are the popular USDF Rider Medals (gold, silver, and bronze), Adequan®/USDF All-Breeds awards, and many more.

Most USDF awards are based on the quality of a horse's performance as demonstrated by scores earned during the competition year. USDF awards are designed to reward horses that consistently earn good scores, regardless of where they place in a class.

USDF promotes and encourages a high standard of accomplishment in dressage throughout the United States. In order to recognize this high standard, USDF has developed a program to reward excellence within our sport. USDF encourages all members to strive for excellence by offering award programs for everyone.



USDF Rider Awards

GENERAL RULES

USDF Rider Awards are based strictly on the scores the rider achieves over time and need not be earned in one year.

The following guidelines apply to rider performance awards; bronze, silver and gold medal rider awards; freestyle bronze, silver and gold bar rider awards; and master's challenge rider awards.

ELIGIBILITY

- Rider must:
 - Have a USDF Participating Membership (PM) or Group Membership (GM)
 - Be a member in good standing of USDF when scores are earned
- Horse need not have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) at the time scores are earned. Horse must meet minimum competition eligibility requirements at the time scores are earned.
- Scores may be earned on one or more horses.

RECORDED SCORES & APPLICATION

- Rider must submit scores and fee to USDF online using the official Rider Performance Award Application (available at www.usdf.org).
- \$25 processing fee for each rider award achieved.
- Any score earned at a USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competition from a regular USEF or FEI test may be used. (Hors de concours scores do not count for any awards, and freestyle scores do not count for non-freestyle rider awards).
- Eligible scores earned at USEF Special Competitions held in the U.S. are also applicable.
- If two or more judges score one ride, the average of their scores counts as one score.
- Riders should submit the form online after all of the required four or six scores are earned, rather than submitting scores one at a time.
- Completed application and fee must be received by September 30 of the award year for inclusion in the current awards year.



USDF Rider Awards

RIDER PERFORMANCE AWARDS

- Award may be achieved at Training, First, and Second Levels.
- Must have four scores of 60 percent or higher at the respective level:
 - From at least two different USDF-recognized/USEF-licensed competitions
 - From four different judges
 - From four different rides
- Score Equivalents:
 - FEI Pony Team and Individual Tests = Second Level
- A rider performance patch and certificate are awarded when scores are reported.

BRONZE MEDAL RIDER AWARDS

- Must have six scores of 60 percent or higher:
 - Two at First Level from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two at Second Level from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two at Third Level from two different judges and two different rides
- Score Equivalents:
 - FEI Junior Preliminary Test = Third Level
 - FEI Pony Team Test = Second Level
 - FEI Pony Individual Test = Second Level
- Certificates are issued as received and verified by USDF.
- Medal will be presented at Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

SILVER MEDAL RIDER AWARDS

- Must have four scores of 60 percent or higher:
 - Two at Fourth Level from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two at Prix St. Georges from two different judges and two different rides
- Score equivalents:
 - FEI Junior Team and Individual Tests; FEI Young Rider Preliminary, Consolation, and Team Tests = Fourth Level
 - FEI Young Rider Individual Test = Prix St. Georges
- Certificates are issued as received and verified by USDF.
- Medal will be presented at Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

GOLD MEDAL RIDER AWARDS

- Must have four scores of 60 percent or higher:
 - Two at Intermediate I and/or Intermediate II from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two at Grand Prix from two different judges and two different rides
- Certificates are issued as received and verified by USDF.
- Medal will be presented at Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

MASTER'S CHALLENGE AWARDS

- Award may be achieved at each level, Training through Fourth and FEI levels.
- Competitor must:
 - Submit birth date to USDF before September 30 of the award year
 - Submit only those scores earned after January 1, 1990
 - Be age 60 or older at the time the scores are earned
- Certificates are issued as received and verified by USDF.
- Award will be presented at Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

TRAINING, FIRST, OR SECOND LEVELS

- Must have four scores of 60 percent or higher:
 - From four different judges
 - From four different rides

THIRD, FOURTH, OR FEI LEVELS

- Must have three scores of 55 percent or higher:
 - From three different judges
 - From three different rides
- FEI levels are combined. Scores may be earned from one level or any combination thereof.



USDF Rider Awards

MUSICAL FREESTYLE RIDER AWARDS

- Musical freestyle rider awards can be awarded only after a rider has earned the respective regular USDF Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medals.
- Riders can earn a freestyle bar in the same year they are earning the respective regular medal.
- Certificates are issued as received and verified by USDF.
- Freestyle bar will be presented at Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

FREESTYLE BRONZE BAR AWARDS

- Must have six scores of 65 percent or higher:
 - Two freestyle scores at First Level from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two freestyle scores at Second Level from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two freestyle scores at Third Level from two different judges and two different rides

FREESTYLE SILVER BAR AWARDS

- Must have four scores of 65 percent or higher:
 - Four freestyle scores at Fourth Level from four different judges and four different rides
- Score equivalents:
 - FEI Pony Freestyle = Second Level Freestyle
 - FEI Junior Freestyle = Third Level Freestyle
 - FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test = Fourth Level Freestyle

FREESTYLE GOLD BAR AWARDS

- Must have four scores of 65 percent or higher:
 - Two freestyle scores at Intermediate I from two different judges and two different rides
 - Two freestyle scores at Grand Prix from two different judges and two different rides