

MICHIANA DRESSAGE CLUB, INC.

AWARDS & TROPHIES PROGRAM:

Revised 3-01-2018

The Year-End Awards were established to recognize the achievements of MDC, Inc. members and their contribution to the MDC, Inc. program through their support of the Club's approved competitions. All members of the Michiana Dressage Club, Inc., who are Junior, Adult Amateur or Professional are eligible to participate, if qualified, in the Club's awards program.

The Year-End Awards are awarded to a horse/rider combination, based on all accumulated points or percentages in specified divisions and/or levels earned in one (1) show year. Scores or points received from MDC, Inc. shows or recognized competitions (i.e. USDF, GLASS-ED, IDS) which has a Judge rated "L" or higher according to USEF/USDF regulations will count for qualifying purposes of the MDC, Inc. Awards and Trophy Programs. All scores earned at non- MDC, Inc. competitions must be submitted by the member to count for any awards. The Rider Report Form must be submitted to the Points Person within 14 days after each show date through the season and by October 11, for the last show for those scores to count.

Rules and Eligibility Requirements for Year-End Awards:

1. No horse/rider combination can cross more than one (1) level. For example, a horse/rider combination can enter ITD and Training Level, but not ITD and First Level. Musical Freestyles included.
2. Members wanting scores to count for MDC Inc. awards must be current on dues prior to the date of any given show.
3. Any award that requires special registration must be received by the current Membership Officer before any points can be accumulated toward these awards.
4. For a show's points or percentages to be eligible for year-end awards the show must be MDC sanctioned or a recognized competition (i.e. USEF/USDF, GLASS-ED, IDS) which has a Judge rated "L" or higher according to USEF/USDF regulations.
5. No member may compete in an Equitation or Dressage class before a judge by whom he/she has been instructed, coached or tutored with or without pay within thirty (30) days of the day of the competition. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities unless private instruction is given will not be considered instruction, coaching or tutoring.
6. **Each Member must:**
 - a. Complete four (4) hours of volunteer work for the Club.
 - i. Attendance at an MDC meeting is one (1) hour of volunteer work.
 - ii. Hosting an MDC meeting is two (2) hours of volunteer work.
 - iii. Volunteering at an MDC Sanctioned show or clinic you will be credited for the actual number of hours you volunteer at that show.
 - iv. Sponsoring year-end awards. Each sponsorship is \$25.00 and will give you credit for two (2) volunteer hours.
 - v. Volunteer hours are non-transferable

- b. Be a registered member of the club (Junior, Adult Amateur or Professional member). Note that registration must be received prior to any show for which you wish for scores to count toward year-end awards.

7. Each Horse/Pony must:

- a. Be registered with MDC, listed on the current years membership card, prior to the show for which you wish scores to count toward year-end awards.

8. Each Horse (or Pony)/Rider Combination must:

- a. Attend three (3) MDC Inc. sanctioned shows or recognized competitions (i.e USDF, GLASS-ED, IDS) which has a judge rated "L" or higher according to USEF/USDF regulations.
- b. Obtain a total of six (6) scores from three (3) different judges from MDC Inc. Sanctioned shows or recognized competitions (i.e. USDF, GLASS-ED, IDS) which has a judge rated "L" or higher according to USEF/USDF regulations.
- c. All scores must be from tests ridden using the then current USDF Intro Level, USEF/FEI Level Tests, Pas De Deux, Quadrille, Free Style, and Sport Horse Test, or FEI Para-Equestrian Tests. **Scores from USEF Dressage Rider Tests are not included.**
- d. Note that the above requirements are per level. For example, if you show at First Level and Training Level you must meet the above requirements at each level.
- e. Note if a rider has multiple horses/ponies, they must meet the above requirements with each horse/pony.
- f. Also note if a horse/pony is used by multiple riders then each rider has to individually meet the above requirements with that horse/pony.

9. Ties will be honored.

10. Points are calculated using the following grid:

Number of Riders in Class

	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-10	11-15	16+
1	3	5	7	8	9	10
2	1	3	5	6	7	8
3	-	2	4	5	6	7
4	-	1	3	4	5	6
5	-	-	2	3	4	5
6	-	-	1	2	3	4

Point Calculation: Use the grid above to find the points for each class entered. Points for USDF Classes multiply by three (3), MDC Classes multiply by two (2), all others multiply by one (1). When calculating the number in a class include eliminations, but exclude scratches, no-shows or HC-rides.

11. **Percentage calculation:** MDC will take your six (6) highest percentages, drop the highest and lowest percentage, and compute an average of the remaining four (4) percentages. In the six (6) percentages used to compute your high percentage no more than two (2) percentages can be from any one (1) judge.
12. **MDC Medal calculation:** Highest combined point total for a Level Test 3 (Test C at ITD horse/rider combination) and Equitation class ridden at the same MDC Inc. show. If the Level Test/Equitation class combination is ridden at more than one MDC show the highest point total will be used to determine the MDC Medal. To obtain this award each horse/rider combination must meet all Rules and Eligibility Requirements for Year-End Awards. Horse and rider need six (6) level test scores, three (3) from highest test of the level and 3 equitation test scores. Only scores from MDC, Inc. sanctioned competitions will be used to calculate rankings for these awards.
13. **MDC Series Overall Championship calculation:** Each horse/rider combination must meet all Rules and Eligibility Requirements for Year End Awards.
For horse/rider combinations showing two levels, if a total of six (6) scores from three (3) different judges are obtained at both levels, the scores from each level will be calculated separately with the highest level score being used in determining the championship. Only scores from MDC, Inc. sanctioned competitions will be used to calculate rankings for these awards. USEF Dressage Rider Tests, USEA dressage tests, In-Hand, Equitation, Musical Freestyle, Quadrille, Pas De Deux, Combined Training and Prix Caprilli are not included in this calculation.
14. **Definitions:**
 - a. **COMPETITION YEAR:** The competition year runs from November 1 through October 31 of the following year.
 - b. **FIRST YEAR RIDER:** First year Junior or Adult Amateur showing in dressage competitions.
 - c. **JUNIOR:** An individual who has not reached the age of 18 before December 1 of the current competition year.
 - d. **PROFESSIONAL:** Any person who trains horses or riders for recompense, monetary or otherwise, shall be considered professional for purposes of Michiana Dressage Club, Inc. shows. A rider who works for a barn or boarding stable in exchange for full or partial board and/or instruction shall not be considered a professional, as long as the work does not include training horses and/or riders. Owning a stable, farm or barn, which accepts paying boarders, will not per se make the owner a professional, unless the board paid includes training for the horse or rider, and the training is done by the owner. Professional riders may only ride in Open classes and Novice Horse classes, if the horse is eligible. Professional Riders are not eligible for any First Year Awards.
*According to the USEF, PATH Certified Instructors are not defined as Professionals, unless they fulfill the above requirements with able-bodied riders.

e. **SCHOOL HORSE:** A horse on which multiple riders improve and learn. MDC, Inc will recognize school horses that are ridden in the same class, at the same level, and or different levels with multiple riders for year-end awards. Each horse/rider combination must be registered with MDC, Inc. to be eligible. Contact show secretary at each schooling show for entry approval. School horse owners and MDC Show Hosts have the right to determine the number of rides per day of said school horse.

f. **NOVICE RIDER:** A competitor who has NEVER shown above First Level and who has not received three (3) scores of 55.0% or better in the prior show season in classes using then current USDF Intro Level, Pas De Deux, Quadrille, Free Style, and Sport Horse Test or USEF Level Tests in a recognized dressage competition. Each of the three scores must be received from a different Judge but not necessarily from a different show. A Novice Horse may also be entered in a Novice Rider class ONLY if the rider is also a Novice Rider by MDC, Inc definition. A Novice Horse may be ridden and entered in Novice Horse classes by any competitor.

g. **NOVICE HORSE:** A horse which has not received three (3) scores of 55.0% or better in the prior show season in classes using then current USDF Intro Level, Pas de Deux, Quadrille, Free Style, and Sport Horse Test or USEF Level Tests in a recognized dressage competition. Each of the three scores must be received from a different judge but not necessarily from a different show. A Novice Rider may also enter Novice Horse classes ONLY if the horse being ridden is also a Novice Horse by MDC, Inc. definition. A Novice Horse may be ridden and entered in Novice Horse classes by any competitor.

h. **PARA EQUESTRIAN:** An individual with a diagnosed permanent physical disability and either (a) possess a Dispensation Certification issued by the United States Equestrian Federation, (b) participate in an accredited therapeutic riding program, or (c) to have previously participated in an accredited therapeutic riding program. Verification of participation or eligibility will need to be provided to the current MDC President prior to earning scores.

15. Any MDC, Inc. member or member's horse entered incorrectly in a novice class at any MDC, Inc approved or sanctioned competition may be challenged by another member and shall forfeit any ribbons or points received for that class.

16. **Year-End Awards:**

a. THE CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SPLIT, COMBINE, OR ELIMINATE CATEGORIES IN LEVEL/DIVISION, MDC MEDAL, MDC SERIES OVERALL, AND OTHER YEAR-END AWARDS.

b. LEVEL/DIVISION AWARDS:

Introduction to Dressage Awards

Intro First Year:

First Year Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship

First Year Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Into Open:

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship

Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship

Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship

Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Training Level Awards:

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

First Level Awards

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Second Level Awards

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Third Level and Above Awards

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

Western Dressage

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

****Only Western Dressage Association of America tests may be used.***

Para Equestrian Awards

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

c. SPECIAL AWARD FOR HORSES SHOWN IN-HAND:

For points only. This award is based on the horse, regardless of the handler. The points for this award will not be included in the calculation of Level/Division, MDC Series Overall and other year-end Michiana Dressage Club Awards. This award will only be given if there is a sponsor to cover the cost of the award. Horse must have three (3) scores, from three (3) judges, at three (3) MDC Inc. sanctioned shows to qualify for this award and for Certificate of Achievement. *(Refer to item 10 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)*

d. SPECIAL AWARD FOR DRESSAGE EQUITATION:

For points only. This award is not open to professional riders. The points for this award will not be included in the calculation of Level/Division, MDC Series Overall and other year-end Michiana Dressage Club Awards (including Certificate of Achievement). This award will only be given if there is a sponsor to cover the cost of the award. Horse /Rider combo must have three (3) equitation scores from MDC Inc. sanctioned shows.

Walk Trot Award

Jr. Rider High Point Champion
Adult Amateur High Point Champion

Walk/Trot/Canter Award

Jr. Rider High Point Champion
Adult Amateur High Point Champion

e. MDC MEDAL:

(Refer to item 12 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Jr. Rider Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur Championship and Reserve Championship

f. MDC SERIES OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP:

(Refer to item 13 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Jr. Rider High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Jr. Rider High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Adult Amateur High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Point Championship and Reserve Championship
Professional High Percentage Championship and Reserve Championship

g. ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

Musical Freestyle Overall Championship and Reserve Championship

Quadrille Overall Championship and Reserve Championship

Pas de Deux Overall Championship and Reserve Championship

Requirements:

*Minimum of three (3) scores

*From three (3) different judges

*From three (3) different MDC Inc. sanctioned shows

*Must also have two (2) dressage scores at the highest level of the freestyle or at the next highest level

(Refer to item 10 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Gaited Dressage Overall Championship and Reserve Championship

(Refer to items 8 and 13 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Combined Training Overall Championship and Reserve Championship
(Refer to item 10 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Requirements:

- *All Combined Test (CT) scores must be from a 2-phase show format:
Dressage and Stadium Jumping.
- *Minimum of three (3) OVERALL final scores-
must be below 50.00 penalty points to be considered qualifying
- *From three (3) different judges
- *From three (3) different shows
- *USEA and USDF/USEF dressage scores accepted

Prix Caprilli Overall Championship and Reserve Championship
(Refer to item 10 under Rules and Eligibility for calculation.)

Requirements:

- *Minimum of three (3) prix caprilli scores
- *From three (3) different judges
- *From three (3) different MDC Inc. sanctioned shows
- *Must also have two (2) dressage scores at the highest level of the
prix caprilli or at the next highest level

h. CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Bronze – three (3) scores of 50% or more by three (3) different judges

Silver – three (3) scores of 60% or more by three (3) different judges

Gold – three (3) scores of 70% or more by three (3) different judges

17. All awards will be presented at the Year End Banquet which will generally be held in the first two weeks of November. If attendance is not possible, arrangements must be made to have another member receive the award on your behalf.

GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION:

1. MDC, Inc shall approve shows for those members who wish to compete for the various awards.
2. Points Person shall keep accurate records of all placings, points and percentages earned by the members, or their horses and publish a report of current standings prior to the Year-End Banquet. It is the responsibility of members to submit and keep their own records and check against the published show results and the Official Records of the Club. It is the responsibility of the Member to report any errors or omissions to the Point Person. If you do not report any error or omission the Official Records of the Club shall be deemed correct. Any reports of errors and/or omissions must be made no later than October 11 of the then current competition year.
3. Complaint Procedures:
 - a. In all cases the MDC, Inc Member is asked to conduct himself or herself in accordance with USEF rules and guidelines governing a competitor's proper conduct and due courtesy with regards to complaints against a specific show or its committee. It is always correct to address the problem, questions, or suggestions to a member of the show committee first, and only when no satisfaction is received, then to proceed with a formal complaint.
 - b. It is most important that MDC, Inc members keep in mind that show committees presenting MDC, Inc approved and sponsored competitions provide much needed shows for the dressage discipline as well as benefiting the "Club's awards and trophy programs. Without said shows, the MDC, Inc programs could not exist.
 - c. Members are responsible for knowledge of all rules governing the Approved and Sponsored Competitions and may file a formal complaint (or protest) with the MDC, Inc Board if the member feels that the show was not held in accordance with the rules and specifications of the approval agreement. A complaint (or protest) may only be considered by the MDC Board if all of the following requirements are fulfilled:
 1. A formal complaint (or protest) must be filed with MDC, Inc in c/o the current MDC, Inc President, within ten days of the competition's date. Complaints may be submitted by e-mail or otherwise, but must be in writing.
 2. The complaint (protest) must be submitted in writing and signed by the member.
 3. The member must have been a properly entered competitor of said show and must have fulfilled all his/her obligations, financial and otherwise.
 4. The member must have first addressed the problem to the show management for answers, explanations, or solutions.
 5. The MDC board will meet in executive session to review the complaint and determine a proper resolution on a case by case basis.

HORSE WELFARE STATEMENT:

The Michiana Dressage Club, is strongly recommending a horse may only compete four times a day regardless of the rider or test type.

For reference:

2017 USEF DRESSAGE GOVERNING REGULATION:

- DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions

2. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below (including Rider Tests) or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses competing at both Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges, or their equivalents, are limited to two Dressage rides per day. Horses competing in FEI Para-Equestrian tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including equivalent USEF or USDF tests. FEI Para-Equestrian tests may be ridden at non-consecutive levels to USDF, USEF, and other FEI tests. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition (refer to the following chart). Dressage Seat Equitation, Quadrille, Pas de Deux and Materiale classes are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition.

USDF Statement on Animal Welfare

The United States Dressage Federation, Inc. (USDF), a federation of over 100 independent organizations throughout the United States with a membership of nearly 30,000 members, supports the concept of ethical treatment of animals.

Dressage is a classical method of training horses, based upon the horse's natural responses, as carried out in a gradual, planned program during which the horse's athletic abilities are improved in a systematic manner. As a result, the horse becomes capable, comfortable, and responsive in partnership with the rider without the use of force. Dressage competition at various levels of achievement is the ultimate test of the training program to determine whether the desired harmony between horse and rider has been achieved.

The rules pertaining to dressage competition prohibit the use of artificial appliances, training aids, and drugs, which would force the horse to submit. Instead, the emphasis is upon training and a cooperative partnership with the rider. Major competitions are carefully monitored to assure that there is no unnecessary force or harshness displayed.

Unlike other horse sports in which horses enter training at a relatively immature state, dressage training is usually not seriously begun until the horse is three or four. The top levels of achievement require five or more years of progressive training and it is not unusual to see horses in international competition in their late teens. This, in itself, places a premium on good care and soundness throughout the horse's life.

While supporting the concept of animal welfare in its broadest form, the United States Dressage Federation, Inc., also recognizes that it is unrealistic to ascribe human emotions and responses to the horse which in its wild state is a creature of flight, living a hard and precarious existence. Under domestication, the horse is assured of ample food, water, and shelter, as well as protection against infectious diseases and damaging parasites, thus leading a longer and healthier life with a high rate of survival.

As an educational organization, USDF has numerous programs, which teach people how to pursue the accepted, humane training methods. A program of certifying instructors also emphasizes protecting the horse's welfare in pursuit of dressage training.

United States Dressage Federation
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CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Michiana Dressage Club, Inc. (MDC) considers bullying or harassment unacceptable and will not tolerate it under any circumstances. MDC defines bullying as persistent, malicious, unwelcome, severe and pervasive mistreatment that harms, intimidates, degrades or humiliates another member, show host, competitor, volunteer, or any other person on the show grounds at an MDC Inc. sanctioned show, clinic, meeting or other event sponsored or put on by MDC Inc., whether verbal, physical or otherwise.

A member may be expelled from membership for any actions detrimental to the Michiana Dressage Club or its reputation or for any way bringing discredit upon the Club as may be determined by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Board of Directors present at duly held meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed action shall first be given to that person at least ten days prior to the meeting at which such a vote is to be taken. Any person subject to expulsion shall have the right to appear at the meeting and present a defense.