

ST. LOUIS AREA DRESSAGE SOCIETY

By-Laws

of the

St. Louis Area Dressage Society

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the **St. Louis Area Dressage Society** (referred to in these by-laws and elsewhere as **SLADS**).

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of **SLADS** shall be to foster an interest in, and greater understanding of, dressage among people in the greater St. Louis area. The programs **SLADS** sponsors shall be primarily educational in nature and shall offer a framework in which individuals can progress with their education and the training of their horses. The purpose of **SLADS** is not for business or any other pecuniary profit whatsoever.

Article III - Board of Directors

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall oversee control and manage the affairs, property, and funds of **SLADS** in accordance with the purposes of these by-laws. The purpose of the Board of Directors is to study [determine the feasibility] and recommend courses of action and proposals to the General Membership for discussion and approval. The Board of Directors is not intended to be a sole governing body.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall maintain an odd number of votes, with no fewer than five persons and no more than nine persons sitting on the Board.

Section 3

The Board of Directors shall consist of the currently elected Officers, the immediate past retired Officer(s), and Directors at Large elected from the general membership in order to maintain an odd number of votes on the Board.

Section 4

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board, shall annually prepare a slate of nominees for election to office and service on the Board. The slate shall be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet & Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 5

In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, which is not filled by the election of another Officer, the Nominating Committee shall submit nominations to be voted on by the general membership at the next regular meeting.

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Section 6

The Board may vote by a two-thirds majority in accordance with **Article IV, Section 4** at any duly constituted Board meeting to remove from the Board any Director who has failed to attend Board meetings regularly, or for any other good cause, after due notice has been given to the Director in question.

Section 7

Retiring Officer(s): Officer(s) whose term of office has just been completed and have not been re-elected may if desired by the retiree, serve on the Board of Directors for one calendar year commencing the first day of February following the end of their term of office.

Director(s) at Large: Nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the general membership to maintain an odd number of votes on the Board. The term of office for a Director at Large is one calendar year beginning immediately or on the first day of February after election at an Annual Awards Banquet and continuing for one calendar year. Director(s) at Large which are nominated in mid-year due to a vacancy on the Board shall serve out the remaining term of the Director replaced.

Article IV - Meetings

Section 1

Board of Director's Meetings: Shall be held as deemed necessary, with a minimum of three per year.

Section 2

Board of Director's Meetings: Notice of all regular or special meetings should be provided each Director at least five days in advance of the meeting by phone or in writing.

Section 3

Board of Director's Meetings: Each regular member of the Board shall have one vote on any matter voted on at any meeting; with the exception of 'Co-Officers' [who share one vote] as defined in **Article V, Section 1**.

General Membership Meetings: Each regular member in good standing whether Officer, Co-Officer, or Board Member shall have one vote in any matter brought up at any general meeting.

Section 4

Board of Director's Meetings: No voting action shall be binding unless passed by a majority at a meeting where a quorum is present. A quorum is defined as a sufficient number of board members present, [at least 50% of the Board including at least three officers]. If a quorum is not present, additional votes may be obtained through proxy or telephone vote.

Section 5

Activities involving the general membership shall be held a minimum of six times per year. A December general membership meeting shall be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

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Section 6

The election of the Officers/Directors at Large shall be held at the Annual Awards Banquet in January. New Officers/Directors shall assume their duties on the first day of February following the election.

Article V - Officers

Section 1

The Officers of **SLADS** shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and other such Officers as may be determined necessary by the Board of Directors.

'Co-Officers' [two or three persons agreeing to share an office for a term for the purpose of divisions of duties] may be elected to any office. One member of the contingent must be named to execute the legal duties of the office held. The role of 'legal officer' may be changed on an annual basis only. 'Co-Officers' shall share one vote on the Board of Directors.

Section 2

Requirements: All officers must be current active members in good standing over 21 years of age. Officers must demonstrate and practice good sportsmanship in all of their actions while in office.

Term of Office: The term of office for a **SLADS** Officer shall be two years, beginning the first day of February after election, except in the case of an election to fill a vacated position.

Two of the four Offices shall annually be elected to provide continuity of leadership.

The offices of President and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Awards Banquet on the even years and shall serve from the first day of February after the election for two consecutive years.

The offices of Vice President and Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Awards Banquet on the odd years and shall serve from the first day of February after the election for two consecutive years.

Section 3

No Officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms beginning with the first full term served.

Section 4

In the event of a vacancy in an Office, nominations shall be taken by the Nominating Committee and presented at the next general membership meeting. The newly elected Officer shall serve the balance of the term.

Section 5

Any Officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, in accordance with **Article III, Section 6**.

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Section 6

The duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of **SLADS** and, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, shall supervise the affairs and property of **SLADS**. The President shall execute all instruments and contracts of **SLADS** authorized by the Board, except those pertaining to the competitions which are under the authority of the Vice President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the general membership, shall be ex-officio a member of all committees of the Board. The President shall in general exercise all other powers and duties ordinarily connected to the office.

Vice President: The Vice President shall serve as Show Committee Chairman, applies for USEF, USDF, and MHSA recognition for competitions, official contact and liaison with the USEF, USDF, MHSA and USEA for all competitions as necessary throughout the term of office. The Vice President shall execute all contracts dealing with competitions including those to secure facilities and hiring of officials [a list of potential judges shall be presented to the Board for approval prior to the hiring process]. The Vice President shall foster relationships with other Midwest Dressage Organizations for the purpose of promoting and marketing **SLADS** sponsored competitions to a larger number of potential competitors.

In any temporary absence of the President, The Vice President shall assume the duties and authority of the office of President. The Vice President shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the President or the Board.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall have charge of all funds of **SLADS**. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of appropriate books and records for **SLADS**, present monthly and annual financial reports at the general membership meetings and present a detailed financial report annually to the Board, and a summary of such to the membership.

The Treasurer is authorized to sign checks or securities on behalf of **SLADS**. This authority is also bestowed on the President, Vice President and Secretary. In the absence of the Treasurer the duty of signing checks and securities shall be temporarily assigned to one of the other authorized Officers. The Treasurer shall process all **SLADS** accounts receivable and payable promptly.

The Treasurer shall file all required income tax forms to the IRS and the State of Missouri as required by law. The Treasurer shall represent **SLADS** in any inquiry pertaining to tax matters.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of **SLADS**, shall give notice of all meetings of the Board, and shall be responsible for general correspondence and the keeping of records, solicitation and renewal of annual ads for the Buzz Book. The Secretary shall also oversee maintenance of the **SLADS** By-Laws for integrity and clarity, and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or the Board.

Other Offices: Other Offices shall have such powers and duties as the President may delegate or the Board prescribes.

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Section 7

Duties of the Board of Directors: Shall oversee the affairs, property and funds of SLADS.

The Board shall make policy decisions by vote not decided by a vote of the general membership. Policy decisions shall include approval of expenditures which are not usual and customary, and sponsorship of activities beyond the usual and customary. Non-budgeted expenditures in excess of \$200.00 must be approved by the general membership.

Additional duties of the Board of Directors shall include approving a slate of proposed licensed officials for regularly held **SLADS** competitions, bringing forth concerns of the general membership, and review amendments to those By-laws and the Year End Awards.

Individual Board members shall attend board meetings regularly and carry out any duties as assigned by the Board.

Section 8

Duties of Other Offices: These offices are to be appointed by the Board of Directors and are not elected positions.

Membership Chairman: Receives membership forms and fees, forwards fees to the treasurer for deposit. Keeps current all membership records in a membership database including year end award nominations, volunteer task preferences and newsletter subscriptions. Must supply nomination information and membership information to the Awards chairman and Newsletter editor on a timely basis. Produces mailing labels needed. Applies for USDF Affiliate memberships by March 15th annually for current members and monthly thereafter for new members. Compiles the annual Buzz Book for printing.

Newsletter Editor: Produces the **SLADS** Newsletter '**HoofPrints**' a minimum of eight times yearly. Collects and solicits articles and advertising. Puts together the newsletter in a timely manner. Collaborates with the Publishing Assistant(s) to see that the newsletter is printed, stamped and mailed so members receive it well before activities.

Publishing Assistant(s): Collaborates with the newsletter editor to see that the newsletter is printed, stamped and mailed in a timely manner so that members receive it well before activities.

Dressage Awards Chairman: Tabulates Dressage Horse and Rider year end awards per current award criteria. Collaborates with the Membership Chairman to verify dates of competitor nominations. Collaborates with the Trophy & Ribbon Chairman for the purchase of the appropriate number of annual awards. Tracks **SLADS** members for qualified rider status.

Event Awards Chairman: Tabulates Eventing year end awards per current award criteria. Collaborates with the Membership Chairman to verify dates of competitor nominations. Collaborates with the Trophy & Ribbons Chairman for the purchase of the appropriate number of annual awards. Arranges for preparation of Award Certificates.

Trophy & Ribbon Chairman: Selects and purchases trophies and ribbons and other sundry awards as necessary for **SLADS** sponsored activities and year end awards.

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Article VI - Committees

The President shall appoint such standing and ad hoc committees, including a Nominating Committee, as are deemed necessary by the Board. Such Committees should include persons who do not serve on the Board of Directors.

Article VII - Dues & Membership

Section 1

The Board of Directors may at any time establish classes of membership in SLADS and shall set forth the requirements for becoming and remaining a member.

Section 2

Classification of membership & required annual dues:

Individual [one vote]	\$47.00
Family [two votes]*	\$64.00
Junior/Young Rider [one vote]**	\$37.00

Section 3

* Additional USDF Group memberships for other family members may be purchased at the current USDF Group membership rate for clubs.[\$17.00][\$10.00 as of 1998, \$17.00 as of 2004].

** USDF Group membership is not included with the Junior/Young Rider membership.

Benefits of membership:

Newsletter [published a minimum of eight times yearly]

Inclusion in mailings for activities, shows, clinics, etc.

Eligible to nominate for SLADS year end awards.

Exempt from non-member fees at SLADS sponsored activities.

USDF Group Membership [two USDF Group memberships with a family membership].

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Article VIII - Amendments

Section 1

Amendments process: Proposed amendments to these by-laws shall be carefully screened by the Board of Directors for impact on existing sections to avoid conflict, confusion or contradiction.

Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting for clarification and wording before presentation to the general membership.

Board approved amendment proposals shall be published in the newsletter prior to discussion at a general meeting. After discussion by the general membership the finalized amendment proposals shall be published in the newsletter along with a ballot. Ballots received by the meeting day shall count in addition to the votes cast by those members present at the meeting.

Section 2

Changes to the year end awards portions of the by-laws may only be made between the end of the show season (Nov 30) and before the first local competition of the next show season (March 15), except in extraordinary circumstances.

Section 3

SLADS by-laws and Year End Award criteria are published annually in the **SLADS** Buzz Book and updated as necessary in the **SLADS** newsletter.

Article IX - Awards Banquet

An annual Awards Banquet shall be held in January in addition to a regular membership meeting. Annual election of officers shall be held at the banquet.

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SLADS AWARDS PROGRAM

General Rules:

[Applicable to all categories *in addition* to any specific rules or exclusions in each section]

- Competition open to all members of SLADS.
- Competition season is from December 1 of the previous year through November 30 of the current year. This is the same as the USEF competition year. Awards date cutoff: December 10.
- Only scores received from USEF licensed judges or USDF 'L' graduates will count toward awards.
- SLADS recognizes scores from USEF/USDF/USEA recognized competitions. SLADS recognizes scores from schooling competitions where USEF/USDF/USEA rules are followed (dress code may be waived) and judges are USEF/USDF/USEA licensed. At schooling competitions: USEF 'r' judges may judge training through fourth levels and USEF 'R' judges may judge through FEI levels. USDF 'L' graduates may only officiate at schooling competitions.
- To obtain recognition, dressage competitions [both schooling & recognized], that are not sponsored by SLADS, must pay a \$10.00 fee to SLADS and send an official copy of the competition results to the dressage awards chairman. This may be done via hard copy or email. SLADS recognized competitions receive a set of SLADS mailing labels, prize list on website and when possible, listing in newsletter to facilitate getting prize lists & omnibuses to SLADS members. Shows must also name SLADS as additionally insured for the event.
- A work requirement must be fulfilled sometime during the competition season. A requirement is defined as a full day to SLADS.
- The work requirement must be fulfilled by the rider or the owner or a "worker" pre-designated as supporting the member at any SLADS sponsored activity or other SLADS designated task.
- Volunteer hours at SLADS shows will be reported by the volunteer coordinator. Project hours earned outside of shows will be reported by the SLADS sponsor.
- Awards will be presented at the SLADS Annual Awards Banquet.
- Award Rules can only be changed prior to the first SLADS recognized competition of the following, except in extraordinary circumstances.
- The manager or secretary of a schooling competition may compete in the competition by appointing an interim manager or secretary to act in their stead during the time when they are competing. Scores earned by a competing manager or secretary at schooling competitions may be submitted for a year end award by SLADS.

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RIDER AWARDS

Qualified Rider Awards

This award is an achievement recognition award. Certificates will be awarded at the Annual Banquet.

- No nomination fee or work requirement necessary. Scores [test copies] for consideration must be submitted to the Dressage Awards Chairman before December 10.
- Awarded to riders who achieve three (3) scores of 60% from three different judges at a given level.
- Scores may be accumulated over a number of years.
- Members who have attained this award are designated by "QRM-Level" in the buzz book. [i.e. QRM-Intro.....QRM-FEI]

Junior/Young Rider, Adult Rider, Jack Benny & George Burns Awards

Awards are based on an average of percentages earned (either by level, by level groupings or across all levels as participation warrants); with minimum score requirements:

Award Categories

Junior/Young Riders have not reached their 21st birthday by the beginning of the competition season (December 1).

Adult Riders have reached their 21st birthday but have not reached their 39th birthday by the beginning of the competition season (December 1).

Jack Benny Riders have reached their 39th birthday but have not reached their 50th birthday by the beginning of the competition season (December 1).

George Burns Riders have exceeded the Jack Benny age requirements by the beginning of the competition season (December 1).

Requirements:

- SLADS due must be paid before any scores will be accrued. Scores earned before dues are paid will not count.
- At least one score from the highest test of the level must be counted in the average.
- All class division scores will count towards this award (Open, Maiden, AA, Jr/YR, Qualifying, Championship, etc.).
- Scores must be earned on a nominated horse.

Minimum Requirements:

INTRO – FIRST LEVEL

- No scores below 58% will be counted toward this award
- A minimum of five (5) scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows. (All scores, meeting or exceeding the minimum score, earned by each nominated horse, will be averaged during the competition season from SLADS

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recognized or sponsored competitions only.)

SECOND LEVEL TO FOURTH,

- No scores below 55% will be counted towards this award.
- A minimum of five (5) scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows. (All scores, meeting or exceeding the minimum score, earned by each nominated horse, will be averaged during the competition season from SLADS recognized or sponsored competitions only.)

FEI

- No scores below 55% will be counted towards this award.
- A minimum of three (3) scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows. (All scores, meeting or exceeding the minimum score, earned by each nominated horse, will be averaged during the competition season from SLADS recognized or sponsored competitions only.)

Freestyle – National Level 1-4 TO FEI

- No scores below 55% will be counted towards this award.
- A minimum of three (3) scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows. (All scores, meeting or exceeding the minimum score, earned by each nominated horse, will be averaged during the competition season from SLADS recognized or sponsored competitions only.)

HORSE AWARDS

Dressage Horse of the Year

- SLADS dues and horse nomination fee (\$5.00) must be paid before any scores will be accrued. Scores earned before dues are paid will not count.
- Rider and owner of the horse must be SLADS members.
- Six awards at each level (Intro through FEI) will be presented.
- Average of percentages earned (by level); with minimum score requirement.
- A horse is eligible at two (2) levels so long as they are consecutive
- All scores, meeting or exceeding the minimum score, earned by each nominated horse, will be averaged during the competition season from SLADS recognized or sponsored competitions only.

Intro – First Level

- Five (5) scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows.
- No scores below 58% will be counted towards this award.
- At least one score from the highest test of the level must be counted in the average.
- **All class division** scores will count towards this award (Open, Maiden, AA, Jr/YR, Qualifying, Championship, etc.).

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- A horse may not win at one level more than once without a change of rider.

Second Level and above

- Three scores are required, from at least two different judges from two different shows.
- No scores below 55% will be counted towards this award.
- At least one score from the highest test of the level must be counted in the average.
- **All class division** scores will count towards this award (Open, Maiden, AA, Jr/YR, Qualifying, Championship, etc.).
- A horse may not win at one level more often than two out of every three years, unless there is a change of rider.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Suzanne Brown Memorial Trophy

- Paid membership, nomination fees and completed work requirement are mandatory. While this award is based on the horse, both the rider and the owner must be SLADS members and nomination fees for Dressage Horse of the Year must be paid before scores will be accumulated toward this award.
- This trophy is presented annually at First Level in memory of Suzanne Brown. It is awarded to the highest percentage first level horse.
- This trophy is awarded for one year. It may be won multiple times by the same horse. The trophy may not be retired.
- Scores earned during the competition season [accompanied by a score validation form where applicable] which are sent to the Dressage & Rider Awards Chairperson for consideration before the cut-off date (December 10) will be counted toward the award.
- Only results from OPEN classes [those which do not restrict entry based on age, professional status, horse's status {i.e. maiden horse} or any other classification] will count toward the Suzanne Brown Memorial Trophy.

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Night Wind Farm “Tootsie” Memorial Trophy

- Paid membership, nomination fees and completed work requirement are mandatory. While this award is based on the horse, both the rider and the owner must be SLADS members and nomination fees for Dressage Horse of the Year must be paid before scores will be accumulated toward this award.
- This trophy is presented annually at Training Level in memory of Night Wind Farm’s Imperfections (aka Tootsie). It is awarded to the highest percentage Training level horse.
- This trophy is awarded for one year. It may be won multiple times by the same horse. The trophy may not be retired.
- Scores earned during the competition season [accompanied by a score validation form where applicable] which are sent to the Dressage & Rider Awards Chairperson for consideration before the cut-off date (December 10) will be counted toward the award.
- Results from ALL classes except Maiden will count toward the Tootsie Memorial Trophy.

Eventing Horse of the Year

Six awards at each level [Intro through Preliminary] will be presented.

A horse is eligible at two (2) division levels so long as they are consecutive

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Intro Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) do not fulfill the USEA definition for Novice Level or the SLADS definition for Beginner Novice Division Level [defined below]. The Intro Level will include divisions with jumps up to 2 feet (2’) in height. There will be no discrimination based on age, professional status, horse’s status or any other classification, except maiden in the Intro Level.

Beginner Novice Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) do not fulfill the USEA definition for the Novice Level but exceed the SLADS definition for the Intro Level [defined above]. The Beginner Novice Level will include divisions with jumps exceeding two feet (2’) up to and including two feet nine inches (2’9”) in height. There will be no discrimination based on age, professional status, horse’s status or any other classification, except maiden in the Beginner Novice Level. Beginner Novice divisions at a horse trial fall into this award category.

Novice Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) meet the USEA definition for the Novice Level [maximum height of two feet eleven inches (2’11”)]. All divisions, including Championship, Novice Horse, Novice Rider, Senior Rider, Junior Rider, Restricted Novice and Open Novice will count.

Training Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) meets the USEA definition for the Training Level [maximum height three foot, three inches (3’3”)]. All divisions, including Championship, Training Horse, Training Rider, Senior Rider, Junior Rider, Restricted Training and Open Training will count.

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Preliminary Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) meet the USEA definition for the Preliminary Level [maximum height three foot, seven inches (3'7")]. All divisions, including Championship, Preliminary Horse, Preliminary Rider, Senior Preliminary, Junior/Young Rider Preliminary, Restricted Preliminary and Open Preliminary will count.

Intermediate Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) meets the USEA definition for the Intermediate Level [maximum height three foot, nine inches (3'9")]. All divisions, including Championship, Intermediate Horse, Intermediate Rider, Senior Intermediate, Junior/Young Rider Intermediate, Restricted Intermediate and Open Intermediate will count.

Advanced Division: Any class or division where the jumping test(s) meets the USEA definition for the Advanced Level [maximum height three foot, eleven inches (3'11")]. All divisions, including Championship, Advanced Horse, Advanced Rider, Senior Advanced, Junior/Young Rider Advanced, Restricted Advanced and Open Advanced will count.

General Requirements:

- Competitors must follow current USEF/USEA rules [dress code may be waived]. When a non-USEF licensed judge is used, fewer points will be awarded in accordance with the following table. The dressage tests required and jump size for each level must coincide with those in the USEA rule book [exception: Intro and Beginner Novice since there are no USEA rules specific to these divisions].
- Points will be awarded for scores earned during the competition season accompanied by a signed validation form which are sent to the Eventing Awards Chairperson for consideration by the awards cut-off date.
- Competitors will select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of ten (10) competition scores from the competition year to count toward any award. The dressage test and a validation form must accompany the final score and placing from each competition.
- Maiden division scores will not count toward any award category.

Specific Requirements:

Intro Division: Horses may win with only Combined Test Competition scores which fulfill the other award requirements.

Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, & Preliminary Divisions: Horses must complete at least one three phase competition [Horse Trials] to be eligible for any award. The horse need not place at the Horse Trials, but the final score and dressage test must be submitted with verification form as proof of completion.

The following table will be used to determine points earned at each competition. points earned at each competition will be added together and the horse with highest point total at the end of the year will be Champion. The horse with the second highest point total will be Reserve Champion, and so forth. Points for are earned when the horse does not place in a division but successfully all of the phases at the competition without elimination.

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Points Conversion Table

	3-Day USEF USEA	Horse Trials USEA	Horse Trials	Combined Tests	Combined Tests
Place	Recognized	Recognized	Non- Recognized	USEF Judge	USDF L Graduate
1st	50	30	20	12	8
2nd	45	28	18	10	6
3rd	41	26	16	8	4
4th	38	24	14	6	3
5th	36	22	12	4	2
6th	34	20	10	2	1
7th	32	18	8	1	0
8th	30	16	6	0	0
9th	28	14	4	0	0
10th	26	12	2	0	0
Completion	10	5	2	0	0

- More than 15 starters, add 2 additional points for all placing through 10th.

Eligibility:

Intro through Novice: One horse may not win the Level Championship twice unless there is a change of rider.

Training through Advanced: One horse may not win the Level Championship more often than two (2) out of every three (3) years beginning with the first year the horse wins the Championship without a change of rider.

SLADS Recognized Competition (7/01)

- In order to become a SLADS Recognized Competition, competition management pays SLADS a \$10.00 fee per show. [All SLADS sponsored competition scores will automatically be tabulated towards awards].
- \$10.00 fee includes a set of membership mailing labels sent to the competition secretary to facilitate notification of SLADS members as to the event.
- Competition secretary needs to send a copy of the show report and all final results within ten (10) days after the show to the SLADS Dressage Awards Chairperson.
- Scores from the show then are tabulated toward the Dressage Year End Awards. It is not necessary for competitors to send in test copies or scores.