



How to enter a Southern Maine Dressage Association Show!

To our valued SMDA Schooling Show Competitors:

As a volunteer-run organization, our goal is to organize shows that are safe, fun, and run in accordance with USDF and USEF rules. It is important that we are clear in our show policies, and that they are enforced consistently to be fair to all competitors. Beginning in our 2009 season, our show Secretaries and Managers will be enforcing these policies for all competitors.

Year End Awards:

YEAR-END AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

- The rider must be a member of SMDA prior to the ride for the score to count.
- Year-end score calculated by test. A horse and rider combination needs a minimum of **three** scores from different judges for each test. Three best scores will be averaged.
- At least **two** scores must be from an SMDA Schooling shows. All scores must be from SMDA Schooling shows or SMDA affiliated shows.
- All tests qualify for year-end awards. Exception: Dressage Equitation classes and Schooling on Show Grounds
- The **average score** must be above 55% to qualify.
- Please submit the SMDA Rider Report Form by November. 1st.

NEW FOR 2010 SHOW SEASON: The same horse/rider combination cannot win the same SMDA year-end award more than once. This policy is being implemented to encourage riders to “move up” when they are consistently earning high scores on a test, and also to be more fair to less experienced riders who are competing for the same award. You will still be able to compete in our shows, we are just putting a one-time limit on the year-end award.

Show entries – limit on levels:

NEW FOR 2010 SHOW SEASON: To be consistent with USDF rules, we are implementing a policy that the same horse/rider combo can only ride tests in consecutive levels at a show. In other words, you cannot skip a level at the same show.

Horse Health:

Protecting the health of our beloved horses is of utmost importance. We require proof of negative Coggins within one year of the date of the show for in-state horses, and within 6 months of the date of the show for out-of-state horses. We also require proof of rabies vaccination within one year of the date of the show. Please do not ask us to make exceptions!

- **Important tip:** Please make sure your vet puts your horse’s show name on the Coggins form and vaccination record. Our show Secretaries cannot process entries where the name on the paperwork does not match the name on the entry form! Also, please make sure that the photocopy of your Coggins is legible.

How we process show entries:

The show Secretary begins processing entries that are received on Opening Date. Entries received before Opening Date will be returned. Complete entries will be processed in the order they are received. A complete entry is one that includes copy of *current* Coggins and rabies, the completed entry form (must be signed by rider, owner, and parent or guardian if the rider is under 18), and a check payable to SMDA.

If you submit an entry that is incomplete (e.g., out-of-date Coggins) our show Secretary will make a reasonable effort to contact you as soon as possible. PLEASE make sure your telephone number and email are legible on your entry form (yes, we know the space is small – please print neatly). Your entry will then be PLACED ON HOLD until you have submitted the missing information. Please understand that this is necessary – our show Secretaries cannot hold your place while waiting for missing information. Our shows tend to fill very quickly, so it is important that you submit a timely and complete entry.

- **Important tip:** It pays to be organized! Schedule your spring shots and Coggins in advance of the first show. Make enough photocopies to last the entire season.

The Wait List:

Our Secretaries will try to squeeze in as many rides as possible. Once the show is full, however, we will start a wait list and you will be notified if you are on wait list status. Whenever possible, we try to fill in scratches with entries on the wait list; however once the ride times have been run it is more difficult as we need to match the open slot with an appropriate wait list ride (for example, a Training 1 slot that has opened up cannot feasibly be filled with a Second Level ride).

If we are not able to get you into the show, the Secretary will contact you and either return or destroy your check.

No Refunds for Cancellations and Scratches:

Beginning in 2009, we are going to begin enforcing our “No Refund” policy. After the Closing Date, we cannot refund your entry fees. It has become just too difficult to try to juggle entries, and we still have to pay for the park and our judges, etc. We realize that this will make some people unhappy, and it may seem unfair if your horse has come up lame or if you have to scratch for another legitimate reason. However, this is the standard practice at recognized shows, and it has become necessary for us to adhere to this policy as well.

Our show fees:

Regular dressage tests are \$20 per test. Dressage equitation is \$10 per class. There is a \$1 number deposit per rider; the deposit will be refunded to you when you turn in your number at the end of the show. Non-SMDA members must also pay the \$3 non-member fee.

Ride Times:

Ride times are posted on the SMDA website at www.southernmainedressage.com and the MDS website www.mainedressagesociety.org either before or by Thursday prior to the show date. Times will also be available by calling the secretary Thursday before the show, between the hours of 6PM and 9PM.

Show Etiquette and Attire:

At our regular schooling shows, traditional dressage attire is required (conservative colored jacket, light breeches, etc.). This year our October show will be a “Fun Show” and you may dress in neat, clinic attire (and don’t forget the Costume Class!) See the USDF website for more information on rules regarding whip length, legal bits, acceptable attire, etc.

In 2008 the Hollis Equestrian Park renovated the warm-up ring, and for safety we request that all riders use the designated warm-up area. Remain at a walk at all times outside of the warm-up. Extend courtesy to other riders. Listen to the announcements and check with the ring steward to make sure you get to the ring on time for your test.

Show day is very busy and some horses get a bit nervous. To help keep things quiet, we request that you please leave your dog at home!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the show Secretary (or any of our Board Members) who will be happy to help you. Especially if you are new to dressage or showing, please ask for assistance to make sure you have all the right information needed to make your show experience a success!

Thank you very much,

The SMDA Board of Directors.