



## ***Morgan Dressage Association Awards of Excellence***

The Morgan Dressage Association is proud to recognize its member's accomplishments and offers year-end awards to members who compete in all individual levels of dressage, musical freestyle, paradressage and dressage sport horse breeding, as well as highlighting an amateur owner/rider with the Synergy Award and a successful breeder with the Morgan Breeder Award. All award-winning competitors will be listed on the MDA website and in the MDA newsletter, with beautiful ribbons for champions and reserve champions. Rules, regulations and requirements of the awards are listed below. Good luck!

### **DRESSAGE SPORT HORSE BREEDING AWARDS (FOUR DIVISIONS)**

Young Horse (3 and under) Colts/Geldings and Fillies  
Stallions 4 and over  
Mares 4 and over  
Geldings 4 and over

Certificates are given first through fifth place, with ribbons for champion and reserve. The following rules apply to Sport Horse Breeding Award applicants:

- One score earned from an officially recognized Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Division/Show, Open or Individual Breed Class (FEI, USDF, EC, BD, EA, ESNZ etc)
- Sport Horse Suitability or in-hand classes at Morgan Breed Shows **do not** qualify.
- The owner or handler (not both) must be a current MDA member.
- Competing horses must be AMHA registered Morgans (or a recognized international registry with AMHA reciprocity).
- The score submitted must meet or exceed 60%.

### **INDIVIDUAL LEVEL AWARDS, MUSICAL FREESTYLE AWARDS, PARA-DRESSAGE, AMATEUR OWNER SYNERGY AWARD AND MORGAN BREEDER AWARD**

The Individual, Freestyle, Para and Synergy MDA Awards are all subject to the following rules and requirements:

- **Three separate scores earned from three different judges at three separately officially recognized competitions** (FEI, USDF, EC, BD, EA, ESNZ etc)
- These three scores may come from three open competitions, or two open and one breed restricted competitions. Not more than one score from a breed restricted competition will be accepted.
- For multiple recognized shows that are held back-to-back over several days, scores from each day will be accepted. Verify with the official governing body that each day is assigned its own show number to confirm eligibility.
- Morgan shows that offer a recognized dressage division that is open to all breeds may count as an open show. You must note that the division is open on the entry form. These shows will also have an

assigned show number on the official competitions calendar.

- At least one of the scores submitted must be from the highest test of the level.
- The three scores will be averaged to calculate the final score.
- **Once a horse and rider combination (or the breeder of this horse) has been awarded a first or second place in the MDA Awards of Excellence program at Training through Fourth Level, they are no longer eligible to win the award at that level, but are eligible to compete for an award at a higher level.**
- FEI level and Para-Equestrian riders may be awarded an MDA Award of Excellence at the same level as many times as they are eligible.
- All riders, handlers and owners must be competing with AMHA registered Morgans (or a recognized international registry with AMHA reciprocity).
- The MDA competition year is November 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Keep in mind that this may not be the governing dressage body competition year.

### **INDIVIDUAL LEVEL AWARDS (TRAINING THROUGH GRAND PRIX)**

The top five horse and riders at each level will receive a certificate honoring their achievement, with ribbons for champion and reserve. Awards will be given in the Open division which is awarded to the highest scoring horse, and to Adult Amateur and Jr. Amateur riders (a competitor is a Junior/Young Rider until the end of the calendar year in which he or she reaches age 21). As well as being subject to the MDA Award Rules and Regulations, the following rules apply to Individual Awards applicants:

- The Adult Amateur or Junior/Young Rider must be a current MDA member.
- The Open division owner or rider (not both) must be a current MDA member.
- Rider (equitation) class scores do not apply.
- The average of the scores submitted must meet or exceed 60% for Training through Fourth level.
- The average of the scores submitted must meet or exceed 55% for FEI level competitors.

### **MUSICAL FREESTYLE AWARDS (THREE DIVISIONS: FIRST/SECOND, THIRD/FOURTH AND FEI)**

Awards are given first through fifth, with ribbons for champion and reserve. As well as being subject to the MDA Awards Rules and Regulations, the following rules apply to Musical Freestyle Award applicants:

- Competitors may mix levels within a single division, i.e. one score could be from First Level and a second score from Second Level to qualify for the First and Second Level divisions. However, competitors may not mix scores from levels outside that division (i.e. they may not use a score from Second Level and a score from Third Level to qualify for either the First/Second Level division or the Third/Fourth Level division.
- The owner or rider (not both) of the horse must be a current MDA member.
- The average of the scores submitted must meet or exceed 60% for Training through Fourth level.
- The average of the scores submitted must meet or exceed 55% for FEI level competitors.

### **PARA-DRESSAGE AWARDS (ONE DIVISION INCLUDING GRADES 1-4)**

The top five horses and riders will receive a certificate honoring their achievement, with ribbons for champion and reserve. As well as being subject to the MDA Award Rules and Regulations, the following rules apply to Para-Dressage Awards applicants:

- The owner or rider (not both) of the horse must be a current MDA member.
- Only one score submitted can be an Introductory test
- The average of the scores submitted must meet or exceed 55%

**AMATEUR OWNER SYNERGY AWARD**  
**(ONE OVERALL WINNER—TRAINING THROUGH FEI)**

The highest averaged score from among the Individual Level Awards that also meets the following requirements will be awarded the Synergy Award. The single winner of this award will receive a custom embroidered fleece cooler as recognition for their teamwork. As well as being subject to the MDA Awards Rules and Regulations, the following rules apply to the Synergy Award applicants:

- Adult Amateur riders must compete on a horse that is owned either solely by the Amateur rider only or jointly with immediate family members.
- Jr Amateur riders must compete on a horse registered only to them or their immediate family.
- Competitors must be recognized as Amateur riders by the official dressage governing body.
- **A Synergy award winner is only eligible to win the award at each level one time.**
- The score submitted must meet or exceed 65% after adjusted for level (see below)
- Scores from Rider (equitation) classes and Musical Freestyle classes do not apply.

**MORGAN BREEDER AWARD**  
**(ONE OVERALL WINNER—TRAINING THROUGH FEI)**

The highest averaged score from among the Individual Level Awards that also meets the following requirements will be awarded the Morgan Breeder Award. The single winner of this award will receive a champion ribbon and a custom embroidered saddle pad as recognition for their breeding efforts. As well as being subject to the MDA Awards Rules and Regulations, the following rules apply to the Morgan Breeder Award applicants:

- The owner or the rider or the breeder can be an MDA member
- Scores from Rider (equitation) and Musical Freestyle classes do not apply.
- **A Morgan Breeder award winner is only eligible to win the award at each level once with the same horse.**

To adjust for the increasing difficulty of competition levels, the following score adjustments will be applied for the Amateur Owner Synergy Award and the Morgan Breeder Award:

Training and First Level/Para Introductory	Average of 3 eligible scores
Second Level /Para Novice, Team	Average of 3 eligible scores plus 2 percentage points
Third and Fourth Level/Para Individual	Average of 3 eligible scores plus 3 percentage points
PSG and I1 Level	Average of 3 eligible scores plus 4 percentage points
I2 and GP Level	Average of 3 eligible scores plus 5 percentage points

For example. An average Third Level score of 63% would have 3 percentage points added to it for a final adjusted score of 66%.

## TO APPLY FOR AWARDS

1. Fill out the MDA Award of Excellence application either using the online form (<https://forms.gle/bkNvg6uUYvbqdELE6>), or print and mail an application **completely AND legibly** for **each** division submitted. If printing and mailing your application, make a copy of the form if more than two divisions/levels are entered.
2. Submit a copy of an **official Score Check sheet** (USDF or equivalent) printed from [USDFScores.com](http://USDFScores.com) (or equivalent official website) with each application. Copies of test covers are no longer accepted. Circle or highlight the scores you wish to enter for the MDA Awards. Keep in mind that the USDF competition year is different than the MDA award year—you may need to send the current year report and a history report to support all of your scores.
3. Submit your application either using the online form (<https://forms.gle/bkNvg6uUYvbqdELE6>), or mail both the application AND the Official Scores Check Sheet to the address on the application by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*Remember, All eligible horses **MUST** be registered with the AMHA (or international registry with AMHA reciprocity). To qualify for an Award of Excellence in the Open or Sport Horse Breeding divisions, the owner **OR** the rider/handler (as described above) **MUST** be a current member of the Morgan Dressage Association at the time the entry is submitted. Additionally, to participate in the Junior/Young Rider division or for the Adult Amateur award, the rider **MUST** be an MDA member. If you have any question as to your membership status, refer to the on-line member directory or contact Emily Thorpe at [memberships@morgandressage.org](mailto:memberships@morgandressage.org). Entries from non-members will not be eligible and will be returned.

To be considered for the award, all entries **MUST be postmarked or received electronically** by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year (applications can be submitted at any time during the year).