

Award Protocol

First and foremost, **Congratulations**; you have made it to the US Dressage Finals and now you will be attending the awards ceremony!!!

Safety is our number one concern. So please read carefully and do ask any questions to awards staff, awards coordinator, or Show Manager. We are here to help!

All Award Ceremonies are mounted in full show attire. Only Black or White polos or boots are allowed per DR123.12. Award ceremonies are still under the dress and equipment rules. No glitter or decorations in the mane or tail are still not allowed. We also ask that you do not use 'bling' bell boots

1. The FINAL Awards Schedule is posted by noon the day before the competition.
2. Please arrive at your gathering time.
3. You will be greeted by our awards staff, which will direct you and place the ribbon.
4. Awards Coordinator will call your class and you will enter down the tunnel starting with 10th place (or the last place pinned), then 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th, and 4th.
5. You will be asked to stop as you enter the arena for your photo. The person at the awards area will bring you up to a spot where you will be stopped **BRIEFLY** to look at the photographers. Once your photo is completed you will ride around the arena and exit at a walk. Thank you! And again Congratulations!
6. If you are 3rd, 2nd or 1st, you will be walked into the arena and lined up.
7. When 4th place has exited the arena, 3rd place will be asked to come forward into the winner's circle where sponsors will shake hands and set up for a formal photo. Then 3rd place will be asked to walk to A.
8. Next 2nd place will come into the winner's circle where sponsors will shake hands and set up for a formal photo. Then 2nd place will be asked to walk to A and join 3rd place.
9. Finally, 1st place will come into the winner's circle where sponsors will shake hands and set up for a formal photo.
10. At this point 1st place will lead the honor round. Please travel a safe distance behind each other and remember we encourage trotting, especially for lower levels.
11. Once around the ring, 1st place will be given the signal to take one more lap while 2nd and 3rd place leave the arena.
12. 1st place will then leave the arena after their second lap.

Owners. We love owners. Without Owners our sport would not be what it is today! Therefore, we do allow owners into the winner's circle for 1st thru 3rd place only, **AND the award coordinator and/or show manager must be notified at least one hour before the awards ceremony.** If your class has not been placed but you might be in the top three, notify us just in case. Owners must come properly dressed. See below

Attendance by Riders: Participation in awards ceremonies by placed rider/horse combinations is not mandatory. If riders placed in US Dressage Final classes choose to participate in awards ceremonies,

they must be present, mounted and in full riding attire at their designated times. For safety reasons competitors may decline to participate in the victory round.

Mounted Rider. All horses must have rider but horses that need to be led in with mounted rider, of course, will be allowed. If 4th thru 10th place, please just walk in, get your photo and go directly to the exit at a walk. If 1st thru 3rd, please follow the award coordinator into the arena and then to the winner's circle. If you are excusing yourself from the honor round, please walk out of the ring. Anyone leading the horse must come properly dressed. See below

Unsafe horse. Sadly, we do have horses that become fractious during awards ceremonies, and safety is very important. If your horse has difficulty with awards ceremonies, and as awards ceremonies are not mandatory, please consider not bringing the horse. If you wish to participate, you are more than welcome to come to your awards ceremony dressed in your riding apparel to accept your award during your awards ceremony.

Dress Code for owners and handlers. Business Casual please...Khakis or slacks (no jeans) with nice turtleneck or blouse with nice sweater or jacket. It is a must to have closed toed shoes such as Paddock boots, or clogs, ie no sneakers. You ask why a dress code? If someone is not properly dressed the photo will not look professional and the photo cannot be used. This is the US Dressage Finals and deserves the highest honors. Come dressed properly. Thank you...Show Management