



## USDF ALL-BREEDS AWARDS PROGRAM

### For Registered Fell Ponies

*Sponsored by FPSNA, Inc.*

Designed to recognize the accomplishments of registered Fell Ponies both in dressage and in-hand competitions sanctioned by USEF/USDF.

These Special Awards are sponsored by the Fell Pony Society of America, Inc. [www.fpsna.org](http://www.fpsna.org), which is a "participating organization" ("PO") for the purposes of the USDF requirements.

This document includes more information about the following:

- ❖ [USDF All-Breeds Awards](#)
- ❖ [USDF All-Breeds Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Awards](#)
- ❖ [Participating Organization \(FPSNA\) All-Breeds Requirements](#)
- ❖ [Mountain & Moorlands as "Sport" Ponies. . .?](#)

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## All-Breeds Awards

### GENERAL RULES

A horse must be declared with USDF for a participating registry/organization (PO) (i.e., FPSNA) by September 30 of the year of competition in order to participate in the All-Breeds Award program.

Horses already declared will remain declared for that organization.

Horse, owner and rider must meet all requirements of the **participating organization, FPSNA.**

“Open” is the standard division and “Training Level through Grand Prix” are the standard levels for All-Breeds recognition.

If competing for FPSNA All-Breeds optional division awards (Adult Amateur, Junior/Young Rider, Dressage Sport Horse Breeding or Materiale), award rules pertaining to that division must also be fulfilled. (Note: other USDF Optional Division Awards including Vintage Cup, FEI Young Horse, and Freestyle, are not currently offered by FPSNA.)

#### *TRAINING, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH LEVELS*

- Minimum of eight scores:
  - From four different judges
  - From four different competitions
  - Including two at 58% or higher from highest test of the level.
- Median score of 60% or higher to qualify.

#### *PRIX ST. GEORGES, INTERMEDIATE I, INTERMEDIATE II, AND GRAND PRIX*

- Minimum of four scores:
  - From four different judges
  - From four different competitions.
- Median score of 58% or higher to qualify.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL-BREEDS AWARDS

Horse must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) when scores are earned.

Owner must:

- Be a USDF participating member (PM) or business member (BM) when scores are earned.
- Verify eligibility with participating organization (PO) (list available at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)).
- Verify that an All-Breeds declaration has been made by accessing the USDF score check or owner’s portfolio on the USDF Web site.

Rider must:

- Be a USDF participating member (PM) (NOT business member) when scores are earned.

If interested in competing for awards in an “optional” division, it is the owner’s responsibility to determine which of the optional divisions will be awarded by their all-breeds PO (see below).

If competing for FPSNA optional all-breed division awards -- Adult Amateur or Junior/Young Rider awards -- rider must verify this status with USDF by September 30 of the award year.

Memberships and horse registrations begin when all application forms and fees are received by USDF office. If joining USDF (including changing membership to participating status) or registering a horse at a competition, membership and registration begins at of the date of application. This date must be in accordance with USDF/USEF dressage division rules.

If a horse does not have an existing All-Breeds declaration, the owner must make a declaration by September 30 of the award year. Once an All-Breeds declaration has been made, it cannot be changed. Horses are eligible for All-Breeds awards based on the registry into which the foal is first registered. If the horse is eligible for multiple registrations and not previously recorded with USDF, the owner must make a choice of registry for the purpose of USDF All-Breeds awards only. If there is no All-Breeds PO for a horse's breed, the owner may declare for one that is participating before September 30 of the award year.

### RECORDED SCORES

All eligible scores are recorded, however, only the top two scores from each individual judge will count towards the median score calculation. The median score is the score exactly between the highest and lowest scores.

Scores must be from open, junior/young rider, adult amateur, or Great American Insurance Group/USDF qualifying and championship classes, other classes specified in the general rules, or from the same classes restricted to horses of the particular breed.

- If scores are earned in open and breed-restricted classes, the combination of the scores is used to calculate the median score.
- Classes restricted to horses of a particular breed must be judged by a USEF-licensed dressage judge.
- Scores earned in classes restricted to horses of a particular breed or restricted by height will recorded for only All-Breeds awards.

### AWARDS

Participating Organizations may award up to five certificates per level per division. Other prizes may be given by the organization at their discretion.

Given that there are enough horses that have met the minimum award criteria, in the standard "open" division, POs must award first and second place in each level (Training-Grand Prix). They have the option of awarding up to five places per level.

Given that there are enough horses that have met the minimum award criteria, POs must award at least first place in each level of the optional divisions that they have selected.

First and second place winners at each level in all standard and optional categories (as determined by their PO) will receive a custom cast USDF medal. All winners (those placed by their association) will receive an award certificate. Only first and second place in each category will be awarded on stage at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention.

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# All-Breeds Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (DSHB) Awards

## GENERAL RULES

A horse must be declared with USDF for the participating organization (FPSNA) by September 30 of the award year in order to participate in the All-Breeds Award program.

Horse and owner must meet all requirements of the **participating organization, FPSNA**.

All rules pertaining to the DSHB HOY division must be fulfilled.

For competition purposes, the age of a horse is considered to be one-year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.

Age/sex eligibility is determined as follows:

- Fillies and colts three years of age and under may show **ONLY** in dressage sport horse prospects classes/categories.
- Mares and stallions age four and over may show only in breeding stock classes/categories.
- Geldings of any age may **NOT** show in breeding stock classes/categories. Geldings age three and under may show **ONLY** in sport horse classes/categories.

## SCORES REQUIRED

- Minimum of three scores:
  - From at least two different judges
  - From three different USDF-recognized/USEF-licensed competitions.
- Median score of 65% or higher to qualify.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR ALL-BREEDS DSHB AWARDS

Horse must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) when scores are earned.

Owner must:

- Have a USDF participating membership (PM) or business membership (BM) when scores are earned.

- Verify eligibility with participating organization (PO) (list available at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)).
- Verify that an All-Breeds declaration has been made by accessing the USDF score check or owner's portfolio at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org).

There is no membership requirement for the handler.

Memberships and horse registrations begin when all application forms and fees are received by the USDF office. If joining USDF (including changing membership to participating status) or registering a horse at a competition, membership and registration begins as of the date of application. This date must be in accordance with USDF/USEF dressage division rules.

If a horse does not have an existing All-Breeds declaration, the owner must make a declaration by September 30 of the award year. Once an All-Breeds declaration has been made, it cannot be changed.

Horses are eligible for All-Breeds awards based on the registry into which the foal is first registered. If the horse is eligible for multiple registrations and not previously recorded with USDF, the owner must make a choice of registry for the purpose of USDF All-Breeds awards only. If there is no All-Breeds participating registry for a horse's breed, the owner may declare for one that is participating before September 30 of the award year.

Owners of foals who have not yet received pedigree papers from their association may submit, prior to September 30 of the award year, a letter from the association stating that the foal is eligible for the Adequan®/USDF All-Breeds Awards from that association.

#### RECORDED SCORES

Each score will be recorded only once. All eligible scores are recorded, however, only the top two scores from each individual judge will count towards the median score calculation. The median score is the score exactly between the highest and lowest scores.

Scores must be from the same age/sex category.

Scores must be from Great American Insurance Group/USDF Breeders' Championships Series Finals (USDFBC) score sheets (which are appropriate to each judging category) and that are current at the time of competition and earned at USDF-recognized/USEF-licensed competitions.

Scores must be from open in-hand, USDFBC in-hand classes, and applicable breed-only and individual breed classes (IBC's). Therefore, scores from other championship, amateur or junior handler, group, or under saddle classes will not be considered.

An open DSHB class is defined as any class which is open to all horses within the specified age and sex group. There are no restrictions based on breed, size, previous performance, qualifications, residence, or membership of owner, breeder, or handler.

A USEF DSHB judge or DSHB guest-carded judge must officiate.

Only the final adjusted percentage score (after callbacks) for each class will be counted.

## AWARD PRESENTATION

Some USDF All-Breeds Participating Organizations (POs) do not give awards in the DSHB division. It is the responsibility of the owner to verify if their PO does award the DSHB division.

Given sufficient horses that have met the minimum award qualifications, POs must award first place in each of the age/sex levels, and may award up to five places per age/sex level (colt/gelding, mare, or stallion) and give other prizes at their discretion.

Categories which may be awarded:

- Fillies of current calendar year
  - Colts/geldings of current calendar year
  - Yearling fillies
  - Yearling colts/geldings
  - Two-year-old fillies
  - Two-year-old colts/geldings
  - Three-year-old fillies
  - Three-year-old colts/geldings
  - Four-year-old and older maiden mares and geld mares (mares without foals)
  - Four-year-old and older broodmares with or in foal as of January 1 of competition year (mare only to be judged)
  - Four-year-old and older stallions
  - Materiale Ridden Classes (FPSNA ridden class awards only offered to ponies at least 4 years old)
- Participating pony registries and registries with pony divisions may offer pony awards in the above categories.

For those POs that have selected DSHB as an optional level, USDF will award the first and second place winner of each age/sex level a custom cast medal, assuming sufficient horses have met the eligibility minimum median.

An award certificate will be presented to each winner determined by their PO.

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For more information, see the complete rules for the USDF All-Breeds Awards Program at the USDF website. *Don't forget to check your scores!* Go to [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org). Look for Score Check on the competition/awards page.

Award year ends September 30.

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## Requirements of FPSNA (All-Breeds Participating Organization (PO))

### The Pony:

1. must be registered with the Fell Pony Society (UK) or a recognized FPS Daughter Society.
2. must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) and compete, both under its full FPS-registered name, when scores are earned
3. must be declared with USDF to be participating with FPSNA in the All-Breeds Program no later than September 30 of the award year, which requires that a copy of the pony's FPS registration papers be on file with USDF. (This is a one-time declaration that does not need to be repeated annually.)
4. must meet all current requirements specified by the [Fell Pony Society Regulations](#) for showing at FPS-affiliated shows. These requirements include but are not limited to:
  - a) The Pony may not be registered in Section X of the stud book;
  - b) The Pony must be 14.0 hh (142.2 cm or 56 inches) or less, not including ½ inch (or 1.27 cm) allowance for shoes (if applicable). (USEF rule DR134\* for pony measurement otherwise applies.) In order for a pony to become eligible for consideration in FPSNA's All-Breeds program, a copy of the pony's USEF Certificate of Measurement, or alternative certification that is acceptable to FPSNA\*, confirming that it meets this FPS height requirement, must be forwarded to the FPSNA ALL-Breeds Program Coordinator, Rene' Bender\*\*. Ponies without a valid height certificate acceptable to and on file with FPSNA will not be eligible for awards.
5. The Pony must also be at least 4 years old to compete in any ridden class, with the age calculated from 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of its birth, as per the [FPS Handbook for Showing and Competing](#).

### The Owner (and Rider (if applicable) if not the same person)

1. must be member(s)-in-good standing with FPSNA
2. must be member(s)-in-good standing with USDF according to All-Breeds Requirements
3. must fulfill any other requirements of the USDF All-Breeds Program

### All-Breeds Awards Offered by FPSNA to Qualifying Fell Ponies:

- Open Division (All Classes: Training Level through Grand Prix)
- Optional Division Awards limited to the following:
  - a) Junior/Young Rider (All Classes: Training Level through Grand Prix)
  - b) Adult Amateur (All Classes: Training Level through Grand Prix)
  - c) Dressage Sport Horse Breeding (In-Hand)
    - 1) Fillies of current calendar year
    - 2) Colts/Geldings of current calendar year
    - 3) Yearling Fillies
    - 4) Yearling Colts/Geldings
    - 5) Two year old Fillies
    - 6) Two year old Colts/Geldings
    - 7) Three year old Fillies
    - 8) Three year old Colts/Geldings

- 9) Four year old and older Maiden Mares and Yield Mares (mares without foals)
  - 10) Four year old and older Broodmares (with or in foal) Mare only to be judged
  - 11) Four year old and older Stallions
- d) Materiale (Ridden) (Restricted to only those Materiale Classes designated for horses/ponies aged 4 and older)

- Up to 5 certificates will be awarded per level to qualifying ponies in each division
- For the 2011 award year, FPSNA will sponsor the participation fee (\$18) which USDF normally charges each recipient per award won. This fee will only be paid for FPSNA Special Awards on behalf of members who qualify within our program.
- Once a pony/rider combination fulfills the USDF award criteria for a specific level, the same pony/rider combination cannot compete at the same level the following year (i.e., they must advance to the next level to be eligible for any award).

**\*Important Notes:**

USEF Certificate of Measurement must be obtained at a USEF/USDF licensed competition in which the pony is entered to compete. For more information on USEF Measurement Certificates, please see rules and measurement form [here](#). For the purposes of FPSNA Awards Programs ONLY, FPSNA considers current versions of either of the following as acceptable alternatives for the USEF Certificate of Measurement: 1) FPSNA Veterinary Certification of Height ([here](#)) or 2) JMB Measurement Certificate. All annual height certificates expire on December 31 in the year of measurement, unless the pony is at least 8 years old at the time of measurement (as per USEF DR134.) (N.B. *For the purposes of measurement as well as any competition*, the age is calculated from 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of its birth, as per the [FPS Handbook for Showing and Competing](#).)

\*\*Rene' Bender, FPSNA All-Breeds Program Coordinator, P.O.Box 31  
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## Mountain & Moorlands As "Sport" Ponies. . .?

Some may ask, "Is appropriate to judge an M&M pony or cob as a 'sport horse'?"

Promoting native ponies as "sport horses" is nothing new. The first M&M studbooks were established for this very reason by the Polo Pony Society, later aka Polo and Riding Pony Society, later yet aka National Pony Society. i.e., 100 years or so ago. Back then they apparently thought native ponies were very suitable for riding sports. And what is especially important for a good ridden pony for whatever discipline (like dressage)? Correct conformation and movement. It doesn't matter what the breed is, all native pony breed standards, like any sport pony or horse standard (which are one and the same), insist on this as a primary focus -- if the natives didn't have this they would not still be here today. They needed the same traits to survive all those eons in the wild (plus a good measure of hardiness! :) And it is thus no coincidence that conformation and movement also make up 90% of the score at Dressage at Devon. (At this particular event numerical scores earned are weighted as follows: Movement 60%, Conformation 30% and General Impression 10%.)

The USEF/USDF "dressage sport horse" standard, like that used at Dressage at Devon, is probably not at all what one thinks -- it makes no difference whether it is a horse or pony, the standard is the same, and it is pretty generic! In fact, there is absolutely nothing contradictory in this standard compared to any M&M breed standard:

*From USEF Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Regulations: DR10 -- Judging Specifications*

*"6. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.*

*7. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits contributing to ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable are more important than gaits which are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going away from the judges' position."*

Thus, this "dressage sport horse standard" is perfectly in line with all M&M breed standards. The same emphasis on "form and function" is also fundamental to any native pony breed. The judges are not (supposed to be!) looking for flashy, high-level dressage movement - just a sound, trainable, free-moving horse or pony with correct conformation, which are all that is required for basic dressage. We expect these traits in all the M&M breeds, no matter what discipline for which they are used. So go get 'em guys and show them what the natives are made of! Dressage is not just for horses anymore. . .!

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