



KDEA E Newsletter –May 2024

KDEA Mission Statement

KDEA serves the South Central Kansas dressage and eventing community by providing educational, social, and competitive opportunities that promote a harmonious partnership between horse and rider



KDEA Officers and Board 2024

President: Cassie Black

Vice President: Cyndi Harris

Secretary Jennifer Thuener

Treasurer: Hillary Akers

Board: Susan Lang, Becky Rolph, Kim Miller, Natalie Petz, Lisa Del Mundo, Marty Foster Dennett, Joanna Gunzelman, Eysley Hatfield-Jr Rep, Natalie Parnell-Jr Rep

In This Newsletter....

President's Message

Upcoming KDEA Meeting – June 4th at 6:30pm

KDEA Schooling Show – May 18th at Three Wooden Crosses

KDEA Schooling Show on April 13th – Windy but very full show!

KDEA Awards

KDEA Polos

KDEA Western Dressage USEF “Lite” Show – June 15th

KDEA Biomechanics Seminar – Sept 27-29

USDF Sport Horse Seminar - July 27-28 in Wichita, KS

KDEA Educational Session – Scoring Dressage Tests (in case you missed it at the last meeting)

What You Need To Know – Kissing Spines – link to article.

President's Message:

We have just started show season and already have some big accomplishments among our KDEA members! New member Melissa Jamison earned her USDF silver medal, and several riders achieved their highest scores to date with their horses at both the KDEA Schooling show and the CPDS Western Dressage Lite show. We love to hear about our members' big wins and are happy to brag on Facebook and in the newsletters! You all have worked hard with your horses, and we love to tell the world!

KDEA is a big family of like-minded people. We are all on a journey with our horses to learn as much as we can to be the best partners that we can be. While our journeys may not be the same, we are working toward the same goals. KDEA is excited to be a part of that journey by offering shows, and educational opportunities each month. We have an exciting symposium with Alejandra Gonzalez in September and more shows available at all levels all summer. We also have our Grant that will help members financially in working toward their goals. More information can be found about all of these on our webpage and Facebook.

As always, thanks for your support of the local horse community, and, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to any officers or board members.

Cassie Black KDEA President 2024

KDEA Meeting – The next KDEA Meeting will be Tuesday, June 4th at the home of Cassie and Evan Black in Douglass, KS. The education topic will be Trailer Safety, presented by Rod Knoffloch. We will also be discussing the KDEA Lite show and other upcoming educational activities.

KDEA Schooling Show – Saturday, May 18th at Three Wooden Crosses in Augusta. The judge for our show is Laurie Hedlund (who is staying for a clinic on Sunday....check with Cassie or Trisha Kaufman for more info). The show facility at TWC was very well received last year – ample parking, REAL bathrooms, a concession stand with inexpensive food, big show arena. The only downside is there is no indoor arena in the event of rain. So, if we have rain right before the show date....watch for more info on whether we have to cancel due to a muddy arena (trailer area is ok, it is just arena that gets slick). If you want to volunteer, contact Marty Foster Dennett at shobewalkin@gmail.com, or watch for her emails seeking volunteers.

KDEA Schooling Show – April 13th. What a turnout for what ended up being a very WINDY show. Thanks to Eagle View for preparing the property for us and to Gail Matheus for judging (on her birthday) and to Gail Knoffloch for being Stadium Judge. We had lots of entries for this show and ran from 8:30 to 4:00pm. Marty Foster Dennett did a great job of getting volunteers for us. Results can be found on KDEA website, including Thoroughbred Incentive Program results.

KDEA Awards Program. It is not too early to begin submitting your scores to Kim Miller (Awards chair). You can submit scores as you earn them throughout the year, and Kim will keep an updated list of those scores online, so you can see your progress toward meeting the minimum number of tests (and KDEA shows) to quality. The award year is from 11/1/23 to 10/31/24.

KDEA Polos. Everyone who ordered polos should have received them. Contact Kim Miller if you did not. Hope to see some of those shirts at the next KDEA schooling show!

KDEA Western Dressage Show. The date is fast approaching...Saturday, June 15th at Eagle View. Haley Kottler is working on show sponsorships, and we are also soliciting donations for our silent auction/raffle. **Opening date for entries is May 1st**...so watch your calendar. The entry information is posted on the KDEA website as well as on HorseShowConsulting.com, operated by our Show Secretary, Stacia Wert Gray. Susan Lang is the day-of manager, but all entry forms, Coggins, evidence of vaccines, show \$\$ go through Stacia. Remember that you have to **submit evidence of your Rhino/Flu vaccines...within 6 months** of the show date...with your entry. **Trainer who signs the entry blank** (the person responsible for the health and well being of the horse the day of the show) must be a current United States Equestrian Federation member and must be current on SafeSport training.

KDEA Biomechanics Seminar with Alejandra Gonzalez, Sept 27-29. Put this date on your calendar for a 3 day rider biomechanics seminar. Friday evening will consist of a lecture, with Sat/Sun rides (private and/or semi private) focusing on biomechanics. Our clinician will be Alejandra Gonzalez from Costa Rica, who is a 4-star Parelli Professional. Marie Maloney and Susan Lang met her at the February 2024 Western Dressage Association Judge's Seminar in Denver, CO, and the Education Committee will be working on details of this fall KDEA seminar.

USDF Sport Horse Seminar.

The USDF Sport Horse Seminars are two-day programs designed to educate breeders, riders, trainings and potential sport horse owners about the qualities desired in a sport horse, and how to rate these qualities. These seminars are also a prerequisite to become a USEF-licensed Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judge. July 27-28, 2024, Hara de Vess Stables, Wichita, KS. Clinicians are Hilda Gurney, Kristi Wysocki and Gwen Ka'Awaloa. There is classroom instruction both mornings, and then live horse evaluations in the afternoon at Hara De Vess Stables. Registration will open April 1, 2024 and must be made through the USDF website (cost is around \$300 for the two days)

<https://www.usdf.org/education/other-programs/sport-horse-seminars/seminar.asp>

What You Need to Know – Link to Kissing Spines article

https://thehorse.com/193465/close-contact-kissing-spines-in-horses/?lid=vsflobckxzk&utm_source=braze&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_content=TheHorse%20-%20Newsletter%20-%2020240324-%20Sports%20Medicine&uuid=__equine_main_5481_smlang2@cox.net

KDEA Educational Session: Scoring Dressage Tests. This was presented at the April KDEA meeting, so, if you were not there, here is the handout.

Scoring Dressage Tests

1. Judge's scribe writes down scores from 0 to 10, and the judge can give a score with a "round number" such as a 6, or can give a score with a .5 such as a 6.5 These numbers, and their corresponding words, are used to evaluate your test. The comment that you are given should match the score's "meaning" as shown in the chart below.

For example, if the sole comment is "Good" the score should be an 8

If the comment is Good circle, but lost balance in transition, then the score might be a 7

10	Excellent	6	Satisfactory	2	Bad
9	Very Good	5	Marginal	1	Very Bad
8	Good	4	Insufficient	0	Not Performed
7	Fairly Good	3	Fairly Bad		

2. When you ride a Freestyle, scores on the "Artistic side" can be scored in decimals (i.e. 7.2)

3. Coefficients – What are they? Why should you know where they appear in a test?

They more heavily weight the WALK in all tests (to help make all 3 gaits more equally scored)

They more heavily weight movements or figures that are key to showing proficiency at the level.

4. Collective Marks – What are they? What are their Coefficients? Do they vary?

- Dressage: Gaits, Impulsion, Submission, Rider Position and Seat, Rider Correct and Effective
- FEI Dressage: Rider
- Western Dressage: Gaits, Impulsion, Rider Position and Seat, Rider Correct and Effective, Harmony
- Eventing: Harmony
- Working Equitation: Gaits, Impulsion, Submission, Rider , Presentation

- Some Collectives have Coefficients, and coefficients may vary with the level of test
- Collective marks should be relative to the body of the test (test movements). If you had 5s and 6s on the movements, then all the Collectives should not be 7s and 8s when you produced 5 and 6 scores.
- Gaits score is mostly independent of the body of the test (unless horse is so tense and unable to perform that the natural gait cannot be seen).

5. How to score the dressage test (see info below for Eventing tests)

- Add up all points from the body of the test (test movements).
- Add up all the points in the Collectives (the “back side of test”)
- Be sure that you apply the x 2 for the collectives in both the body of the test and the collectives.
- Beware that Freestyles have some coefficients higher than 2
- Subtract any errors (see further discussion below)
- Divide by the total possible (found several places on the test)
 - Tests have varying total possible points, so be sure to look at the test itself
 - English and Western tests are carried to 3 decimal points – i.e. 63.364

6. When you get your test back at a show, make sure that you look at the scoring to make sure it is correct.

It is easy to forget to apply a coefficient, or miss a number when tallying.

It is also easy to divide by the wrong # of points for that test (as points per test vary)

Sometimes a score is hard to read, and may have been mis-calculated.

7. Eventing Tests are scored like a dressage test, then what would be the dressage percentage is subtracted from 100 to convert to Penalty Points.

- So if your score is a 65.35, then subtract that from 100 to get 34.65
- Any Stadium jumping or Cross Country penalties incurred are then added to this score to result in your final penalty point score. The lowest score wins.

8. Errors – What are they in Dressage Tests (English and Western)

Going off course, forgetting to salute, posting where sitting is required

- First Error – minus 2
- 2nd Error – minus 4 (total of minus 6)
- 3rd Error – elimination
- (FEI Tests - -2% for 1st error, and 2nd Error is elimination)

9. Errors – Additional rule for Eventing Tests

- Wearing protective boots into arena – minus 2 and must be corrected before test can continue
- See also <https://useventing.com/safety-education/forms-documents/overview-of-eventing-rules-for-dressage-judges>

10. Errors – For Working Equitation

- -5 for Failure to Salute
- -10 Each Occurrence of Outside Assistance’

- -5 for 1st Error, -5 second error; third error = Elimination
- Use of Voice allowed as long as not excessive

11. Other Errors -- Dressage

Use of Voice - minus 2 off score for the movement every time voice is heard (not cumulative toward elimination)

Use of Voice is allowed in Western Dressage as long as soft and affirming

11. How does an error affect your score?

- Contrary to popular belief, the -2 does not come off at the end (i.e. your 65% becomes a 63% (unless you are riding FEI)
- The total points are added together, then the errors are deducted, and then divide by total possible
- So your error only affects your total score slightly.

12. What do do when you hear the whistle/bell while you are riding your test:

- You are off course, or the judge needs to stop you for some other reason (safety, loose horse in area, blood seen on horse, etc)
- Stop where you are, and go to the judge for instruction
- Judge will tell you where they want you to resume the test.
- The score for anything you already performed will remain, and then the judge will pick up where you went off course to finish scoring that movement.
- If you go off course again in the same movement (i.e. you still didn't get it right) the judge will ring the bell/whistle again, and re-direct you. They should not give you another error.