



PARA & VIRTUS HORSE OF



THE YEAR

The HOTY awards recognise South Australia's best performed HOTY combinations and are announced and presented with an embroidered rug at the ESA Annual Awards Night, which is held at the end of January or early February each year.

The awards are based on the aggregate of 8 tests held at SA dressage competitions over the course of the calendar year, as well as the nominated 2026 Australian Para Dressage National Championships. Competitors should check the DSA HOTY calendar for updates throughout the calendar year.

POINT ALLOCATION

The winner of each Para Equestrian HOTY division (Para, Virtus) will be determined by the highest aggregate points from their best 8 tests in nominated competitions throughout the year.

Results are taken from competitive results on the EA database.

In the event of a tie in points accrued at the end of the calendar year, a count back on the marks gained in the collective marks **will occur to determine the winner**

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2025 Winner Kirsty Van Loon & Nero R

EA PARA EQUESTRIAN HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of results from all grades (I to V) at the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over, including EA Preliminary to EA Elementary

FEI PARA EQUESTRIAN HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of results from all grades (I to V) at the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over, including FEI Novice to FEI Grand Prix

VIRTUS EQUESTRIAN HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of results from Virtus performance level tests at the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over

Para & Virtus Dressage Awards 2026

Criteria for Awards

1. Riders must be current ESA Competitive members.
2. Horses/ponies must be EA (SA registered) and have a Dressage Competition Licence.
3. Para equestrian riders must be classified (EA or FEI).
4. Virtus equestrian riders must be classified.
5. Points are awarded individually to each horse/pony and rider combination placing in official tests at the events.
6. Riders with more than one horse/pony will accrue separate points for each horse/rider combination.
7. Points are only awarded if 60% or over is obtained.
8. Points are awarded based on placement in the table below for each test at each competition.
9. There is no restriction on the number of EA tests that can receive points in non-championship events run over two days, a maximum of 2 tests per day.
10. A maximum of 2 FEI tests can count toward FEI HOTY for championship and non-championship events run over two days.
11. Participant, Closed Restricted, H/C and Freestyle tests do not count.
12. Recipients are expected to be in attendance to receive their award
13. The PARA Committee reserves the right to review if and when needed, and the decision is final.

Table 1 - P-HOTY Point Allocation

Scores	Points
Between 60% to 61.999%	= 1 point
Between 62% to 63.999%	= 2 Points
Between 64% to 65.999%	= 3 points
Between 66% to 67.999%	= 4 points
Between 68% to 69.999%	= 5 points
Between 70% to 71.999%	= 6 points
72% and over	= 7 Points

2025 Runner-Up
Melinda Hersey
&
Katniss Everglee



We recognise that riders may have previously competed before the opportunity to enter the 2026 P-HOTY. We will accept combined entries from January 1, 2026, to March 1, 2026, and will duly acknowledge their points.