

2025 HOTY WINNERS



2026 EQUESTRIAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DRESSAGE HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

+ the
NEW



DRESSAGE SOUTH AUSTRALIA CENTURY POINT AWARDS

HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

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.

AWARD CATEGORIES

FEI BIG & MED TOUR DRESSAGE HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of FEI results from the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over at Grand Prix, Inter2, InterA and InterB, includes AOR & OPEN FEI riders. Includes Youth & Pony if they nominate to compete FEI HOTY

FEI SMALL TOUR DRESSAGE HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of FEI results from the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over at Prix St George and Inter1, includes AOR & OPEN FEI riders. Includes Youth & Pony if they nominate to compete FEI HOTY

EA DRESSAGE HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

(for OPEN riders) aggregate of results Preliminary - Advanced from the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over

AMATEUR OWNER RIDER & HORSE OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of AOR results from Elementary - Advanced from the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over.

FOUNDATION HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

(For AOR riders competing Prelim/Novice) aggregate of AOR results Preliminary - Novice from the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over

DRESSAGE PONY & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of results from all levels at the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over, includes EA & FEI Pony.

YOUTH DRESSAGE HORSE & RIDER OF THE YEAR

Aggregate of results from all levels at the nominated competitions where scores are 60% or over, includes EA & FEI Youth

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL AWARDS:

Riders are required to submit their nominations via 'Jotform'. Enrolments will open in January 2026 and will be advertised on the DSA Facebook page. There will be a rolling intake; however, points will not be backdated if a rider enters after competing in a nominated event. One rider may enter the same award on multiple horses or may enter different horses for different awards but cannot nominate the same horse for multiple awards.

The awards are based on the aggregate of the nominated HOTY competitions held at SA dressage competitions over the course of the calendar year, as well as the following events held interstate

- Australian Dressage Championships
- Australian National Youth Championships
- AOR National Championships (EA riders only)

For a list of nominated events, please refer to the DSA Competition Calendar on the ESA website <https://www.sa.equestrian.org.au/dressage-sa>

Competitors should check the HOTY calendar for updates throughout the calendar year.

POINT ALLOCATION:

The winner of each HOTY EA division (EA, AOR, Foundation, Youth & Pony) will be determined by the highest aggregate points from their best ten placed tests from the nominated competitions held during the year.

Riders competing in the FEI Dressage Horse and Rider of the Year, for Open and AOR riders or Youth and Pony if they nominate to compete in FEI will have their scores calculated from their best seven placed tests from the nominated competitions held during the year.

Results are taken from the competitive results on the EA database. In the event of a tie in points accrued at the end of the calendar year, the winner will be determined by the average percentage of the 10 best placed EA tests or the 7 best FEI tests, after applying a weighting score using the weighting scale outlined in Table 2.



Criteria for Awards

1. Riders must be current ESA members.
2. Horses/ponies must be EA (SA registered) and have a Dressage Competition Licence.
3. Points are awarded individually to each horse/pony and rider combination placing in official tests at the nominated events.
4. Riders with more than one horse/pony will accrue separate points for each horse/rider combination in their nominated award category.
5. Points are only awarded if 60% or over is obtained.
6. Points are awarded for placing as per the tables below for the tests at each nominated competition.
7. Dressage clubs in SA have the option of nominating one event each year as a 'Jackpot' event that has weighted points for HOTY set out in the table below.
8. There is no restriction to the amount of EA tests that can receive points on non-championship events that are run over two days - a maximum of 2 tests per day.
- A maximum of 2 FEI tests can count toward FEI HOTY for championship and non-championship events run over two days.
9. Participant, Closed Restricted, H/C and Freestyle tests do not count.
10. Pony dressage classes count for points.
11. Youth rider age is from the beginning of the calendar year in which the rider turns ten years for horses and eight years for ponies to the end of the calendar year in which the rider turns 21. This is a combined group based on current EA Rules for Juniors and Young riders.
12. To qualify as an Amateur Owner Rider (AOR), riders must meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the National Dressage Rules (Rule 4.6.1) and declare their AOR status at the time of entry. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure their entry clearly identifies them as an AOR and that the draw reflects their AOR status. This cannot be backdated after the competition. If a rider is not listed as an AOR combination on the official draw, they will not accrue AOR Horse of the Year points for that competition. The onus remains on the rider to ensure their AOR status is correctly recorded prior to the competition.
13. If a competition is cancelled prior to scheduled completion (e.g. due to severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances), no HOTY points will be allocated to any riders. This applies to both single-day competitions and competitions conducted over two or more days.
14. DSA reserves the right to review if and when needed, and the DSA decision is final.

HOTY Point Allocation

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Australian National Championships	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
SA State Championships	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
SA 'Jackpot' HOTY	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	-
SA HOTY Events	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-

HOTY POINTS

@ NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

	PONY	YOUTH	AOR*	OPEN	FEI
Australian YOUTH Dressage Championships		✓			
Australian AOR Dressage Championships			✓		
Australian Dressage Championships	✓			✓	✓

*AOR
Prelim to
Advanced
ONLY



Weighting for Equal HOTY Points to Determine Winner

EA Classes	
Preliminary	0
Novice	+1
Elementary	+2
Medium	+3
Advanced	+4
FEI Classes	
Small Tour	0
Medium Tour	+2
Big Tour	+4

DRESSAGE SOUTH AUSTRALIA CENTURY POINT AWARDS

2026 CENTURY POINT AWARD

The inaugural 'Century point award' has been introduced for 2025 to acknowledge horse and rider combinations who are consistently supporting South Australian Dressage Clubs running HOTY events.

The awards will be presented at the completion of the 2026 calendar year at an event in 2027 that will be promoted by Dressage SA.

The DSA competition calendar, listing the HOTY events is located at
<https://www.sa.equestrian.org.au/dressage-sa>

Up to 15 Century Point Awards will be awarded annually.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CENTURY POINT AWARD

1. Riders must be current ESA members.
2. Horses/ponies must be EA (SA registered) and have a Dressage Competition Licence.
3. Points are awarded individually to each horse/pony and rider combination competing in official HOTY tests in South Australia at the nominated events.
4. Riders with more than one horse/pony will accrue separate points for each horse/rider combination in their award category EA/FEI.
5. There is no restriction to the amount of EA tests that can receive points on non-championship events that are run over two days - a maximum of 3 tests per day.
A maximum of 2 FEI tests can count toward FEI HOTY for championship and non-championship events run over two days. A maximum of 1 FEI test will count on a 1 day competition.
6. Participant, Closed Restricted, H/C and Freestyle tests do not count.
7. Pony dressage classes count towards the points.
8. Riders are required to nominate for the Century point award via "Jotform". Enrolments will open in January 2026 and will be advertised on the DSA Facebook page. There will be a rolling intake, however points will not be allocated if a rider enters after competing at a nominated event.
9. To be eligible for this award the combination must enter the 2026 HOTY and will get automatic entry into the Century Point Award.
10. DSA reserves the right to review if and when needed, and the DSA decision is final.

EA CENTURY POINT AWARD

Each official ride in any nominated SA HOTY event will accrue **5 POINTS** toward the combinations annual tally.

There is no minimum percentage required.

If the combination reach 100 or more points in the calendar year they will be eligible to receive a century point award.

FEI CENTURY POINT AWARD

Each official ride in any nominated SA HOTY event will accrue **10 POINTS** toward the combinations annual tally.

There is no minimum percentage required.

If the combination reach 100 or more points in the calendar year they will be eligible to receive a century point award.

If fewer than 15 combinations satisfy the award criteria, the remaining awards will be determined by ranking eligible combinations according to the percentage of rides completed during the calendar year. To be eligible under this provision, a combination must have attended a minimum of 50% of the available HOTY competition tests. Combinations that do not meet this minimum participation threshold will not be eligible for consideration. This ensures the award remains aligned with the intent of the award – to recognise consistent participation and support of South Australian Dressage.