

Rookie Horse Championship Series Official Rules

The "Rookie Horse Championship Series" is a program that WDAOK provides for its members. **The purpose is to provide a "first step" or a "next step" into the Western Dressage show arena and to promote participation in schooling shows and increase Western Dressage Membership.** WDAOK rewards the slow, classical training methods, and the use of Western Dressage to develop a sound performance equine, and build a solid partnership that honors the horse. This program is designed to be a starting point for equine who have reached at least 4 years of age, or a next step for the equine that may have some past show experience but not shown above Western Dressage Intro II, or Dressage Intro B. This program is not intended to be the peak of the equine's performance career. Every effort will be taken by WDAOK to protect all equine and their development as they participate in this program.

2017 Western Dressage Association of Oklahoma (WDAOK) Series Rules

1. Must be a member of WDAA and WDAOK in good standing at the time of the nomination.
2. The Rookie Horse Series will run **all year** with a Championship for both Amateurs and Open riders held at the end of the year. No division for age of horses at the Championships.
3. Open to all equine that have not been shown above Intro 2 in Western Dressage or Dressage Intro B.
4. The Rookie Horse Championship Series divisions will be Open and Amateur. The age of the equine will be divided into 4 year olds, 5 year olds, and over 5 for purposes of high average and high score awards. The Rookie Horse Championship will be by division of Rider (Open/Am), not by age of the equine.
5. To declare your equine's age, the birthday that they will have in the year of the competition is their age for the entire competition year.

Examples;

- *An equine born on March 22, 2012 will be 5 for competition year 2017.*
 - *An equine born on March 22, 2013 will be 4 for 2017.*
 - *An equine born on March 22, 2014 is not eligible to compete in the Rookie Series.*
6. The nomination (\$50) is for the equine and rider combo. 80% goes into the pot for the Championship.
 7. Riders may compete on multiple Rookie equine but a nomination fee (\$50) must be paid for each equine/rider combo **prior to the first schooling show that they are going to count for the series.**
 8. In order to be eligible for the Rookie Horse Championships your equine must be schooled in at least three schooling shows or "buy in" to the Rookie Horse Championship. See #10
 9. The rider is responsible for turning in their qualifying schooling show report card to the awards chair by the Monday preceding the Championship Show. **If you do not turn in your schooling score on time you will not be eligible to ride in the Rookie Horse Championship and nomination fee is forfeited.**
 10. If a rider would like to nominate and ride in the Championship but does not have the opportunity

to school they **must** pay an additional \$100 “buy in” (not part of the Championship pot.). All other Rookie Series rules apply.

11. The equine must be shown in any legal bit as defined in WDAA rulebook. All other WDAA rules apply.
12. **The Champion** will be the Equine and Rider with the highest score of the Intro test to be determined by the board and announced by October 1, 2017.
13. **High Average Rookie Horse** (no payout) will be averages of the top three **schooling show scores** by division:
 - Open 4 year old**
 - Open 5 year old**
 - Open over 5**
 - Amateur 4 year old**
 - Amateur 5 year old**
 - Amateur over 5**

High Score Rookie Horse (no payout) – the highest score turned in for the schooling year.

- Open 4 year old**
- Open 5 year old**
- Open over 5**
- Amateur 4 year old**
- Amateur 5 year old**
- Amateur over 5**

Note: All nominations will be required to show proof of age. A copy of the registration papers may be provided. Unregistered equine may be accepted if documentation such as vet verification or a breeding certificate can be provided. If the age of the equine cannot be properly established, WDAOK reserves the right to cancel the nomination and return the nomination fee.

