



# *International Side Saddle Organization*

## **Awards Program Description and Rules**

The ISSO Awards Program is designed to encourage our members to display their side saddle skill and knowledge in public competitions, events, and activities. Points are awarded for nearly any side saddle-related activity, including non-competitive ones.

Awards are given to the top ten riders for the year. The top two riders are referred to as the ISSO Champion and ISSO Reserve Champion riders for that year. In addition, there are awards for breeds and performance categories.

Any questions about the ISSO Awards Program, including rules clarifications, should be directed to the Points Secretary: Janet Brown, 337 Bumpass Rd., Bumpass, VA 23024, (804)539-4070, or [PointsSecretary@sidesaddle.com](mailto:PointsSecretary@sidesaddle.com)

### **Rider Award Categories:**

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- **Hunter Award** – all hunter classes, such as Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Over Fences and Hunter Hack with fences two (2) feet or over. The exception is Hunter Pleasure, which falls under Pleasure.
  - **English Pleasure** – all English pleasure including Bridle Path Hack, Road Hack, Hunter Pleasure, and Pleasure Over Fences regardless of height
  - **English Equitation** – any event judged primarily on equitation ridden in an English side saddle, including hunt seat, saddle seat, or combined seat classes if ridden in an English saddle
  - **Dressage** – all dressage tests, Dressage Suitability, and High Performance classes
  - **English Activities** – all English ridden classes not included in the other categories, including Hunter classes with fences under two (2) feet, dressage prospect, trail classes, and gymkhana games ridden in an English saddle
  - **Western Pleasure** – any Western pleasure or stock seat class
  - **Western Equitation** – any event judged primarily on equitation ridden in a Western side saddle
  - **Western Activities** – any Western ridden classes not included other categories, including horsemanship, reining, trail classes and gymkhana games if ridden in a Western saddle
  - **Costume Award** – all classes judged on costumes, including historical and fancy dress
  - **Non-Arena Competitive** – events such as hunter paces, mini or 3 day events, horse trials, endurance races, ride-and-drive, or competitive trail rides (see Rule 14)
  - **Paid Performance** - paid non-competitive side saddle activity such as entertainment performances or lectures (see Rule 15)
  - **Non-Competitive** – Events that do not award placings such as fox hunts, organized trail rides, parades, exhibitions, clinics, trade show booths, and reenactments receive 10 points for mounted participation and 5 points for un-mounted participation.
  - **Age Groups** – Youth (0-12), Junior (13-18), Senior (19-49), Masters (50+). Rider age as of Jan 1.
  - **State/Country awards** – Any state or country with ten or more members registered for points will be given a High Point Award
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# ISSO Awards Program Rules

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**1. Definitions:** Parades, hunts and competitive trail rides, etc., are referred to as classes. "Horse" refers to all equines, including donkeys and mules.

**2. Membership Requirement:** Owners (or lessee) and riders must be current ISSO members in good standing for the year.

**3. Fees:** All horses must be registered with the Point Secretary prior to any points being counted. The registration fee is \$20.00 per member for the first horse. Additional horses will be charged a \$10.00 registration fee. Submit a completed Horse Registration form and fees prior to submitting points for the horse or with the first points submission.

**3.a.** The registration fee follows the rider, not the horse. That is, if a second member wishes to earn points on a horse already registered by another member, the second member must still pay the \$20.00 fee.

**4. Breed Awards:** Registered horses must have a copy of its registration papers or other acceptable proof of breed on file with the Points Secretary to be eligible for any breed award. Horses without breed registry papers on file with the Points Secretary are automatically entered as an "Unregistered Equine". A horse may earn points in multiple breeds if double registered.

**5. Award Prerequisites:** There must be five members competing in each category (or breed) for an award to be given. The high point earner in any category/breed must earn at least 20 points. A category/breed with fewer than five competitors or a high point earner with fewer than 20 points may be awarded if sponsorship is provided. Only the Champion and Reserve in each category/breed will be awarded unless additional placings are sponsored. ISSO reserves the right to combine categories/breeds with fewer than five participants. Other awards may be given as sponsored. For sponsorship information, please contact the Points Secretary.

**6. Side Saddle Requirement:** All riding points must be earned while riding on a side saddle. Unmounted points must substantially involve side saddle (i.e. – sidewalking an aside parade rider, lecture on riding habits, ISSO booth at trade expo).

**7. Tallying Rider Points:** Rider points follow each horse/rider combination. Thus, a rider may have multiple listings in, for example, hunters on different mounts. *Exceptions:* In the Equitation categories, points follow the rider, regardless of horse ridden. The Top Ten riders are calculated by rider, totaling all points awarded in any mounted or unmounted activity. In the event of multiple horses per rider, only the top three earning horses will be counted.

**8. Tallying Breed Points:** Breed points follow the horse, regardless of the rider.

**9. Correct Form To Be Used:** Points must be recorded on the CORRECT ISSO form provided for that purpose. Current forms may be obtained from the ISSO web site or the Points Secretary.

**10. Required Documentation:** A copy of the show bill or prize list must accompany the point form. The show secretary or managers' contact information must be on the show bill. Parades, hunts and other events with no show bill must have some official proof of participation and placing from the manger or chairman (letter, flyer, copy of entry form, website announcement, newspaper account, etc.).

**11. Incomplete Forms Will Be Returned:** Forms must be completely filled out, including signatures. A member of the event committee, show secretary, or similar official must sign the form. Incomplete forms, unsigned forms, or forms lacking the requisite supporting documents will be returned and no points awarded. Returned forms may be resubmitted upon completion.

**12. Submission Deadline:** Points must be submitted to the Points Secretary within 30 days of the last day of the event. The point year ends December 31. ALL points earned after December 14 must be postmarked by January 15 or they will not be counted.

**13. Competitive Points:** Points earned in competitions are calculated using the chart following these rules. Points are awarded based on placing and number of entries in the class. Classes with only one entry will be awarded half of the points normally awarded for the placing of the entry. No bonus points are given for breed or nationally recognized shows

**14. Non-Competitive Points:** Points will be given for each non-competitive parade, demonstrations of 30 minutes or more, etc., in which one participates while riding aside. A maximum of three (3) events will be accepted for any given date. 10 points are awarded for each ridden or mounted event and 5 for non-ridden or un-mounted participation. Demonstrations must be primarily educational in purpose. Entertainment performances of less than 5 minutes receive 1 point per production, maximum of 3 per day. Paid work as an instructor, clinician, or performer is not eligible for points in this category, but volunteer work is.

**15. Paid Performance Points:** Points will be given for each non-competitive event lasting 30 minutes or more in which one participates while riding aside or participating with a side-saddle theme (such as lecture on history of aside riding, movie consultation) and receives payment. 10 points are awarded for each ridden or mounted event and 5 for non-ridden or un-mounted participation. A maximum of three (3) events will be accepted for any given date. Points are capped at 20 per day. Payment is a fee-for-service or honoraria. Reimbursement of expenses or compensation in the form of a meal, etc. is not payment for ISSO Awards Program purposes, and activities compensated in this manner should be recorded as “Non-Competitive”. Paid competitive riders should record their points in the appropriate activity category.

**16. Indicate Seat Ridden:** For points earned in all-seat classes such as Open Pleasure or Open Equitation, competitor must indicate Western or English by choosing the appropriate column.

**17. Verification By Points Secretary:** Points in question will be checked with the event official listed on the points form or supporting documentation. If the event official cannot be located by conventional methods, the points in question will be disqualified. Any member found knowingly falsifying points will be disqualified for the year and will forfeit all registration fees.

**18. Unclear Categories:** Points will be awarded to various categories at the Point Secretary’s discretion when it is not obvious from the show bill as to the category in which they belong. The Points Secretary’s decision as to applicable category is final.

**19. Disqualified Persons:** No points will be accepted from any entity indebted to ISSO.

**20. Points per class will be awarded as follows:**

10 or fewer entries*		11-20 entries		21+ entries	
Placing	Points	Placing	Points	Placing	Points
1st	10	1st	15	1st	20
2nd	9	2nd	14	2nd	19
3rd	8	3rd	13	3rd	18
4th	7	4th	12	4th	17
5th	6	5th	11	5th	16
6th	5	6th	10	6th	15
7th	4	7th	9	7th	14
8th	3	8th	8	8th	13
9th	2	9th	7	9th	12
10th	1	10th	6	10th	11

\*Classes with only one entry are awarded half the points normally given (ie - 5).

Non-competitive Mounted points: 10 per event, max 3 events/day

Non-competitive Unmounted points: 5 per event, max 3 events/day

No bonus points are awarded for recognized, national, rated, or other recognized shows.