



Area 1 Year End Award Criteria

It is the responsibility of the competitor to know the qualifications and terms of the year end award criteria. Those who have not met the criteria as outlined below are ineligible to receive an award. Any questions regarding awards and eligibility can be directed to Area 1 Awards Coordinator, Joan Fleser at awards@area1usea.org or (518) 424-0386 unless specified otherwise. **This sheet is an overview of the awards earned by points. For a full list of Year End Awards offered by Area 1 and its programs, please visit [this page](#).**

Please note in 2025, the Area 1 Council approved the requirement for riders to record 5 volunteer hours to be eligible as part of the mission to help support our Area 1 venues and competition organizers as well as reduce the possibility for ties.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- USEA Area I awards will be based on points earned by a single rider and horse combination at no more than six of their top events in the calendar year. The age of the rider is determined from the beginning of the calendar year. Point accumulation is based on the USEA's [Leaderboard Point System](#).

IMPORTANT: All riders must reside in Area 1 in accordance with their USEA record AND their five (5) volunteer hours must take place within Area 1 in order to qualify for the Area 1 Year End Awards.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Senior Rider (Starter - Advanced)
 - All riders, professional and amateurs alike, 19 and above on a horse of any grade.
- Adult Amateur Rider (Starter - Advanced)
 - Riders 19 through 49 years of age on a horse of any grade who is declared an amateur with the USEA. This category has no association with the Area 1 Adult Rider Program.
- Master Amateur Rider (Starter - Advanced)
 - Riders 50 and over years of age on a horse of any grade who is declared an amateur with the USEA.
- Junior Rider (Starter - Advanced)
 - Riders through the end of the calendar year of their 18th birthday on a horse of any grade.
- Young Rider (Preliminary - Advanced)
 - Riders through the end of the calendar year of their 21st birthday on a horse of any grade. This category has no association with the Area 1 Young Rider Program.

NOTE: Some riders may qualify for more than one awards category. For Modified and above, USEF Amateur Cards will be used to determine amateur status. For Starter through Training, amateur status will be determined by the USEA Amateur Affidavit. This should have been signed when submitting your annual USEA membership form. PLEASE CHECK AND MAKE SURE YOUR AMATEUR STATUS IS CORRECT. If you are unsure of your status, refer to the [USEF rule book, GR 1306 and GR 1307](#). These sections clearly detail what constitutes a professional and an amateur. If you still have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. You can contact the Area 1 Awards coordinator at awards@area1usea.org.

QUALIFICATION PERIOD:

- The qualification period will run from December 1 through October 31.
- All riders must reside in Area 1 in accordance with their USEA record AND their five (5) volunteer hours must take place within Area 1 in order to qualify for the Area 1 Year End Awards.
- Any points earned for the competition year after October 31, will be counted towards the following competition year.

POINTS:

- Final number is a tally of points earned by a single rider and horse combination at no more than six of their top events within the qualification period.
- Point accumulation is based on the USEA's [Leaderboard Point System](#).
- For Starter-Training levels, points will only count from competitions within Area 1*
- For Modified-Advanced and all FEI levels, points will count from any competition (not just within Area 1)*
- For all levels, points earned at Area 1 Team Events (YRC/ATC), Classic 3-Day Events, and the AEC count**

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT (Implemented in 2025): :

- To be eligible for Year End Awards, riders must complete a minimum of five (5) volunteer hours during the qualification period
 - Volunteer hours must be performed in service of a USEA-sanctioned event such as horse trials, clinics, or meetings within Area 1.
 - Volunteer hours will be verified through the USEA's Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) platform.
 - If an organizer is not using VIP, volunteers may submit the [Area 1 volunteer form](#).

TIE BREAKING:

- To cut down on the number of ties across the divisions and reward the best results, we will break ties based on two levels of criteria:
 - First level (in line with USEA special considerations): Ties will be broken by averaging the top six final scores (not point values).
 - Second level, use the greatest number of Volunteer hours. If there is still a tie, the tie will stand.