



Announcing: The Dover Adult Amateur Jumper Medal

National Pilot in Maryland 2016

The Dover Adult Amateur Jumper Medal (Dover AAJ Medal) is a new and innovative medal program designed to recognize, reward and incentivize the adult amateur jumper rider competing at 2'9" - 3' at the regional level.

The Dover AAJ Medal will recognize an adult amateur's individual achievement and consistency as well as ribbon success in the show jumper arena. Eligible riders will accumulate clear rounds as well as first and second placings for end-of-year Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal awards.

The Dover AAJ Medal is being offered at over 30 horse shows in Maryland in 2016 with the endorsement and under the rules of the Maryland Horse Shows Association (MHSA).

Fact Sheet and Q and A

How is the Dover AAJ Medal different from other medal programs?

The Dover AAJ Medal differs from other medal programs in several ways. The Dover AAJ Medal:

- A. Is not an equitation medal
- B. Is designed to encourage/reward the adult amateur rider to set personal riding goals, to compete more often and to achieve their personal best with their equine partner in the jumper ring
- C. Offers an innovative awards platform; Year-end awards will be presented to riders based on achieving a specific number of clear rounds to reach Bronze Medal status and clear rounds combined with second and first placings to achieve Silver or Gold Medal status
- D. Is specifically designed to operate at the regional/state level with the intention of engaging more adult amateur riders to regional/state horse shows

What are the dates for the competition year for the Dover AAJ Medal?

The competition year for the Dover AAJ Medal follows the MHSA competition year: Dec 1, 2015- Nov 30, 2016. All clear rounds and placing counts end at the close of the competition year and do not carry over.

Who is eligible to compete in the Dover AAJ Medal program?

Adult amateur jumper riders eligible to compete as an adult amateur under the Maryland Horse Shows Association (MHSA) rules and showing at the 2'9"-3' level are invited to participate.

Do riders need to be members of any organization to compete in the Dover AAJ Medal?

No. A rider does not have to be a member of any association to compete in the Dover AAJ Medal. Riders must be deemed eligible as an adult amateur according to MHSA rules. If a rider wishes to receive their Dover Medal at the MHSA year-end banquet, they will need to be a member of the MHSA.

How are medals won through the Dover AAJ Medal?

The Dover AAJ Medal is a different type of medal program. This is not an equitation medal. The program is designed to recognize consistency, goal setting as well as excellence in the jumper ring. Here is how year-end Dover AAJ Medals can be won:

- Bronze:** Must complete 7 clear rounds in the designated Dover Medal class during competition year
- Silver:** Must complete 8 clear rounds and win at minimum 2 second places in the designated Dover Medal class during the competition year
- Gold:** Must complete 9 clear rounds and win a minimum of 2 classes and 2 second places in the designated Dover AAJ Medal class during the competition year

Are there any Dover rewards for winning the Dover AAJ Medal class?

Yes. Dover is supplying each participating horse show with a \$20 Dover gift certificate for the winner of the Dover AAJ Medal class and \$10 Dover gift certificate for second place.

How many horses can an adult amateur compete in the Dover AAJ Medal?

Riders may compete as many horses as they like in the designated Dover AAJ Medal class...however only a rider's first horse on course will count towards their Dover AAJ Medal tally. This will assist in maintaining a level playing field.

How are Dover AAJ Medal tallies tracked?

Dover AAJ Medal tallies are tracked by rider for each horse show. Only a rider's first entry on course will count toward the Dover AAJ Medal. Tallies will be available for review online at www.MDHSA.org. Please allow 10 business days for tallies to be updated.

Can an adult amateur ride different horses at different horse shows?

Yes. An adult amateur may ride different horses at different horse shows during the competition year. The rider's first horse on course will be considered their Dover AAJ Medal entry for that horse show.

Do adult amateurs need to register for the Dover AAJ Medal before entering the class?

No. Eligible adult amateurs will be automatically entered if they enter and compete in the designated Dover AAJ Medal class.

Is there an additional cost to enter the designated Dover AAJ medal class?

No. There are no additional fees to enter the Dover AAJ Medal class. The horse show's standard class entry fees apply.

What shows are participating in the Dover AAJ Medal program in 2016?

There is a complete list of horse shows participating in the Dover AAJ Medal at www.MDHSA.org.

How can I check if my Dover AAJ Medal tally is accurate?

Clear rounds and first and second placings will be tracked at the Maryland Horse Shows Association's website; www.MDHSA.org. Please allow 10 business days from date of show for tallies to be updated.

When will Dover AAJ Medals be awarded?

All Dover AAJ Medals will be awarded at the close of the competition year. Only one (their highest) Dover AAJ Medal will be awarded per rider.

Is this a pilot program?

Yes. Due to the innovative nature of this new program, a pilot program is being conducted in Maryland in 2016 to ensure the program is correctly formulated and can be effectively replicated in other states.

Dover Saddlery is pleased to have the Maryland Horse Shows Association's endorsement and assistance with this pilot program. Given that this is a new and innovative program, adjustments/tweaks may be necessary during the pilot to create a successful, meaningful program. Changes will be discussed with the MHSA and the Advisory Committee prior to enacting. We expect any adjustments to be minimal and done only when necessary.

For questions or additional information
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