



## ORION CUP NATIONAL CHAMPION

*The Orion Cup is named after a very special horse in Canadian dressage history. Orion was Pia Fortmuller's KWPN Grand Prix partner. He was an Olympic Team horse for Canada, trained to the Advanced level by Pia's former coach, Leslie Reid, who represented Canada with Orion at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong.*

*In the fall of 2009 Orion was sent to Europe to be sold, during the same time that Pia, a 2006 NAJYRC Gold Medalist, also moved to Europe to continue her training. It was during this time the two began a partnership, and Pia subsequently purchased Orion. At the age of 25, Pia rode in her first Grand Prix with Orion, and they went on to compete very successfully at the International Grand Prix level in Europe. Orion took Pia all the way to the Canadian Senior Team, and their career together culminated when they were named the reserve combination for the 2012 Olympic Dressage Team in London.*

*Sadly, Orion died in January 2014. His passing was not only a loss to Canadian dressage, but a devastating personal loss to Pia and her family. The Orion Cup has been established to pay tribute to this very special gelding. It is poignant and inspiring that just as Orion was instrumental in the start of Pia's Grand Prix career, the Orion Cup will provide other talented Canadian athletes with a start to their own. Pia says it best in her own words. "I never truly lost Orion for he will always live on in my heart, and it brings me an incredible amount of joy to know that Orion will also live on in the legacy of the 'Orion Cup.'"*

### Purpose

The purpose of the Orion Cup is to encourage and support young Canadian athletes with the momentous step of making the transition from the Young Rider level to the Grand Prix level. The Orion Cup provides an important developmental opportunity for athletes, by encouraging competitions to offer classes for U25 at the Grand Prix level.

The following is a summary of the benefits and advantages of the Orion Cup.

- provides a competition goal between the 'Training to Win' and the 'Living to Win' stages in the Long Term Equestrian Development (LTED) guideline for athletes and coaches.
- develops experience for athletes between the ages of 16-25 years old. The Orion Cup not only encourages young athletes to focus on training and planning, but also provides a tangible goal for both.
- is designed so that aspiring young athletes can experience the 'big leagues' with more confidence, and without the intimidation of competing against seasoned professionals.
- Winning a national title will help athletes secure sponsorships and open future training opportunities.
- encourages show organizers to offer the Grand Prix (16-25) test at their competitions.



## Award

The recipient of the Orion Cup will receive a commemorative jacket and cooler plus a \$1,000 cash prize. In addition, the recipient will be recognized as the Orion Cup National Champion

## Orion Cup Requirements

### 1. EQUESTRIAN CANADA REQUIREMENTS

Equestrian Canada has prepared and adopted the following requirements for the Orion Cup.

### 2. DECLARATION PROCESS / FEE

All athletes must declare their interest in being considered for selection for the Orion Cup. [The Declaration Form](#) must be completed by **May 31st**. The declaration fee for the Orion Cup is 50.

**Late declarations** will be accepted until **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Under no circumstance will a late declaration be accepted after **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. The late declaration fee is 150CDN.

*Incomplete declaration forms will be considered invalid. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the applicant from being considered.*

### 3. NO ALTERATIONS

Should an athlete/horse combination change during the qualifying period, a late declaration is required, and the new combination must obtain all new qualifying marks. The late declaration fee of \$150 CDN will apply. No carryover marks from a horse with another athlete or an athlete using a different horse will be permitted.

### 4. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

The Qualification Period for the Orion Cup shall begin **January 1 and end September 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### 5. QUALIFICATIONS

#### a. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS / CLASSES AND QUALIFYING SCORE

- i. Qualifying classes (with the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test) must be ridden at EC Gold, USEF national or FEI sanctioned (CDI) competitions
- ii. Scores obtained at Platinum (CDI) competitions will receive a 1% bonus
- iii. Two scores are required from the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test. Athletes may use scores obtained in Test of Choice (TOC) classes for qualification.
- iv. All qualifying scores must be obtained from a panel with a minimum of two judges composed as follows:
  1. Two EC Senior dressage judges or two foreign National Senior dressage judges or one of each;
  2. One FEI dressage Judge and one EC Senior dressage Judge or one foreign National dressage judge; or
  3. Two or more FEI dressage Judges
- v. the full panel score must be submitted as the qualification score
- vi.

### 6. RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

The following Rules are in place for the Orion Cup:

- (a) Current FEI Rules for Dressage events with rule changes included;



- (b) Current FEI General Regulations with rule changes included;
- (c) Current FEI Veterinary Regulations; with rules changes included;
- (d) Current EC Dressage Rules with EC rule changes included;
- (e) Current EC General Regulations with EC rule changes included.

In the event the FEI publishes changes to their rules listed above, the new (most current) rules shall take effect where relevant in criteria. FEI rulebooks can be downloaded from the FEI website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

In the event EC publishes changes to their rules, the new (most current) rules shall take effect where relevant in criteria. Please check the Equestrian Canada website [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) for the most current rules and rule updates.

It is the responsibility of declared athletes and owners of declared horses to ensure that they know and understand the Selection/Nomination Procedures, Rules, Policies, and Regulations.

#### **7. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS / RESTRICTIONS**

- a. Athletes must be between the ages of 16 and 25 at the time of declaration (see FEI rules Annex 6 – U25).
- b. Athletes must hold an EC Gold or Platinum Sport Licence, at the time of all qualifying performances.
- c. The athlete must be a Canadian citizen at the time of declaration and selection.
- d. Athletes may not take part in this selection process while under the influence of any prohibited substance identified by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) <http://cces.ca/>, the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”) <https://www.wada-ama.org/>, or the FEI <http://www.fei.org/>.

#### **8. HORSE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS / RESTRICTIONS**

- a. Horses must have a current Equestrian Canada National Passport or a current FEI document (what had previously been called a FEI passport)
- b. Horse must have an active Equestrian Canada Horserecording

#### **9. SELECTION OF THE ORION CUP AWARD RECIPIENT**

- a. Scores and competition details must be submitted using the [Score Report Form](#) by **12 midnight ET on September 15<sup>th</sup>**. **Late submissions will not be considered.** *Incomplete forms will be considered invalid. Any intentional misrepresentation of information will eliminate the applicant from being considered.*
- b. The two scores submitted from the Grand Prix (16-25) test for each athlete/horse combination will be averaged to determine the winner of the Orion Cup. Scores obtained at Platinum (CDI) competitions will receive a 1% bonus before being averaged and ranked.
- c. In the event of a tie between any two or more athlete/horse combinations, the single highest Grand Prix (16-25) test score will break the tie. Should there still be a tie then the second highest Grand Prix (16-25) score will break the tie.

#### **10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ORION CUP AWARD RECIPIENT**

Equestrian Canada will announce the award recipient upon the completion of the selection process.



## **11. PRESENTATION OF THE ORION CUP AWARD**

The presentation will be done publicly at a dressage competition or venue in the year that the award is earned.