Rules and Regulations

Rules and regulations for judging, exhibiting, and riding the Walking Horse in Michigan will be in accord with those of the affiliated licensed Horse Industry Organization (HIO) and/or the Walking Horse Association of Michigan (WHAM) or their legal successors. All versatility classes will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the affiliating HIO's current Versatility Rulebook or unless otherwise declared.

I. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS AND JUDGING STANDARDS

All classes will be judged according to the rules and regulations of the affiliating HIO and/or with the restrictions and/or exceptions in the Walking Horse Association of Michigan rules and regulations:

A. Pleasure Horse Division:

Horses must comply with current rules and regulations of affiliating HIO for both shoeing and exhibition. Within this division there are subdivisions for Plantation Shod, Lite Shod, Trail Pleasure and Country Pleasure. Please consult with the affiliating HIO for its rules and regulations defining these subdivisions.

- **Plantation Shod Division:** This is the most animated division. Horses must meet the described shoe rules as published in the HIO rules and regulations. Horses in this division are eligible to exhibit in only this division as long as they are shod as described for this division.

- **Lite Shod Pleasure Division**: This is the next most animated division. Horses must meet the described shoe rules as published in the HIO rules and regulations. Horses may show in this division as well as in the Plantation Pleasure division at the same show.

- **Trail Pleasure Division:** This is for horses doing correct walking gaits with effortlessness geared toward encouraging stamina and longevity on the trails. This horse should carry its head in a natural and relaxed position. The horse must be extremely well mannered, responsive and quiet. The horse must be manageable on a light rein at all gaits. Horses must meet the described shoe rules as published in the HIO rules and regulations.

- **Country Pleasure:** Please refer to the rulebook of the governing HIO for registry requirements. WHAM does not require registry of any gaited equine to compete in this division. The Country Pleasure Class is open to all breeds. Horses entered in the Country Pleasure Division are not eligible to show in any other Walking Horse Divisions (*Plantation Shod, Lite Shod Pleasure or Trail Pleasure*), unless otherwise declared in the specific show bill at the same show. Horses in the Country Pleasure Division may show in versatility classes at that show.

B. Special Classes Division:

1. Michigan Bred: These horses must have a Michigan address in the "BRED BY" box of their registration papers. It is recommended that exhibitors bring a copy of their papers to the show office
2. Novice (All Divisions): Show management will have sole discretion concerning novice status.
3. Versatility classes show the versatile nature of the Walking Horse. These classes are generally open to all pleasure divisions. See the governing HIO for versatility handbook rules and regulations.
4. Rookie: Described as follows:
   - Exhibitor/Rider only and must be a WHAM member.
   - Ride any horse
   - Must sign up once at any show to be considered for the Rookie of the Year award (forms to be available at the show office for WHAM Sponsored/Affiliated shows).
   - Eligibility Rule: They are either a first year rider/competitor or they have not won a blue ribbon at any Walking Horse affiliated show. Once a blue ribbon is obtained by the exhibitor, they can continue to compete in "Rookie" designated classes for the remainder of that show season only.
   - Allowed to ride in other classes at the same show and points will be counted as such through the show season.
   - The following classes are excluded from consideration for "Rookie" designation: Leadline, PeeWee, Stick Horse or Grooms Class

II. WHAM AFFILIATION & SHOW RATING

1. WHAM Affiliation:

For any show to support year end awards, they must meet the "WHAM AFFILIATION" criteria as follows:

a. Located in Michigan
b. Governed by a Walking Horse HIO
c. Support WHAM Corporate Sponsors
d. Show bill submission to the Rules and Regulation and Horse Show Approval chairperson for review at approximately 60 days prior to event and show bill must state "WHAM Affiliated".

Note: WHAM Board reserves the right to revoke WHAM Affiliation

2. Show Rating Categories:

Shows are rated as follows:

a. "A" Class shows are shows that are WHAM Sponsored or WHAM Affiliated
b. "C" Class shows are those shows that are not WHAM Sponsored or WHAM Affiliated.
   Examples are (but not limited to):
   - Out-of-State Shows
   - 4-H Shows
   - Equestrian Team events

   See Year End Award point system listed below for point calculation methods

III. YEAR END AWARD POINTS PROGRAM (Categories & Overall)

1. Year End Award General Categories

The following general category descriptions will be the outline of the Walking Horse Association of Michigan standard year end awards. Each WHAM affiliated show bill may have classes that support the year end award category for point calculation. *See example*.

EXAMPLE:
Each show bill may contain classes that have at least the year end award category descriptions. For example:

Year End Award Category Description: **Lite Shod 2-Gait English**
Examples of specific classes that will have points that count to the year end award category: (but not limited to)

- **Lite Shod 2-Gait English** Men's
- **Lite Shod 2-Gait English** Ladies AOT
- Open **Lite Shod 2-Gt English** NWHA Members Only
- Mares and Gelding **Lite Shod 2-Gt English**
- **Lite Shod 2-Gt English** Open
- **Lite Shod 2-Gt English** AOT
- **Lite Shod 2-Gt** Amateur

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Note: For year end champion awards, all specific classes that contain the year end award category description will have points accumulated to the year end award category description. In the example above – a horse could compete in all seven classes and have those points count towards year end award: "Lite Shod 2-Gait English"

A. Trail Pleasure Division

1. Trail Pleasure 2-Gait English
2. Trail Pleasure 3-Gait English
3. Trail Pleasure 2-Gait Western
4. Trail Pleasure 3-Gait Western

B. Lite Shod Division

5. Lite Shod 2-Gait English
6. Lite Shod 3-Gait English
7. Lite Shod 2-Gait Western
8. Lite Shod 3-Gait Western

C. Plantation Pleasure Division

9. Plantation Pleasure 2-Gait English
10. Plantation Pleasure 3-Gait English
11. Plantation Pleasure 2-Gait Western
12. Plantation Pleasure 3-Gait Western

D. Junior Horse Pleasure Division

13. 2 Yr Old (*Eng or West or Opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP)*
14. 3 Yr Old (*Eng or West or Opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP) (incl 3 & Under)*
15. 4 Yr Old (*Eng or West or Opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP)(incl 4 & Under)*

E. Country Pleasure Division:

16. Country Pleasure (*2-gait or 3gait*) (*Eng or West or Opt Tack*)

F. Other Divisions

17. Masters 50 & Over 2-Gait (*Eng or West or Opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP*) (*points given to rider*)
18. Adult Equitation 3-Gait (*Eng or Stock Seat*) (*points given to horse/rider combination*) (*18yrs & older*)
19. MI Bred Pleasure 2-Gait (*Eng or West or opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP*)
20. MI Bred Pleasure 3-Gait (*Eng or West or opt tack) (open to divisions TP, LS, PP*)

Note: MI Bred Classes are limited to Walking Horses that were bred by a Michigan owner as stated on their registration papers.

G. Halter Division:

21. Weanling
22. Yearling

H. Youth Division – Rail Classes:

23. Youth 11 & Under Pleasure 2-Gait English (*all divisions) (TP, LS, PP*)
24. Youth 11 & Under Pleasure 2-Gait Western (*all divisions) (TP, LS, PP*)
25. Youth 17 & Under Trail Pleasure 2-Gait (*Eng or West*)
26. Youth 17 & Under Trail Pleasure 3-Gait (*Eng or West*)
27. Youth 17 & Under Lite Shod 2-Gait (*Eng or West*)
28. Youth 17 & Under Lite Shod 3-Gait (*Eng or West*)
29. Youth 17 & Under Plantation Pleasure 2-Gait (*Eng or West*)
30. Youth 17 & Under Plantation Pleasure 3-Gait (*Eng or West*)

Note: For the purpose of WHAM Year End Points, the youth accumulates points and may ride a variety of horses to accumulate points in these classes and points are also binned to the Overall 11 & Under Youth of Year (Rail) or Overall 17& Under Youth of the Year (Rail)

Youth Division – Versatility Rail Classes*

31. Youth 11 & Under Showmanship
32. Youth 11 & Under Equitation 2- Gait *(Saddle seat or Stock Seat*)
33. Youth 17 & Under Showmanship
34. Youth 17 & Under Equitation 3-Gait (*Saddle Seat or Stock Seat*)

**Note: For the purpose of WHAM Year End Points - Youth Division – These Versatility Rail Classes are counted for points awarded to the horse/rider combination and points will also be binned to the Overall 11& Under Youth of the Year (Versatility) or Overall 17 & Under Youth of the Year (Versatility)*

ATTENTION YOUTH: Youth Rider/exhibitor must be 17 or under on January 1st of the current show season in order to compete in this division. Youth division prohibits the exhibition of stallions. Youth 11 & Under must wear certified ASTM helmets at all times while seated on a horse on the show grounds. Youth 17& Under are encouraged to wear certified ASTM helmets in all riding classes.

I. Versatility – Specific year end awards will be given to those horses that compete in the first seven listed versatility classes. Any horse and rider combination must compete in at least (5) out of the following thirteen (13) versatility classes to be considered for the overall versatility year end award. Youth 11&Under need only compete in four (4) out of the following thirteen (13) classes for the versatility year end award:

1. Waterglass
2. Barrel Racing
3. Pole Bending
4. Western Riding
5. Reining
6. Trail Obstacle
7. Model 2 year and older (*open to all divisions, stallions, gelding, mares) (English or Western*)

Note: All "Model" and "In-Hand" designated classes will fall into the same "Model" category for year end awards.

Versatility Optional Classes – these will be counted in overall year end versatility points for both youth and adult.

8. Versatility Driving
9. TWH Over Fences
10. Pleasure Driving
11. Dressage
12. Equitation
13. Showmanship

Note: Model, Equitation and Showmanship classes in all divisions are considered versatility classes and will fall into that category for overall year end versatility awards. Youth 11 & Under2-Gait versatility classes will be counted in Overall Youth 11&Under Rider of the Year (Versatility).

Note: It is highly encouraged that any show manager submitting for WHAM Affiliation use specific "English" or "Western" class designations on their showbill. "Optional Tack" should only be reserved for those classes that are traditionally listed as (O/T – Optional Tack) such as Masters 50&Over, Michigan Bred and Country Pleasure. If a rider competes in an Optional Tack class, the points achieved will only count towards the Overall Year End Award categories. Example: Youth 11&Under 2-Gt Pleasure Optional Tack will only count towards Overall 11&Under Youth of the Year (Rail)

2. Year End Award "Overall" Categories

The Walking Horse Association of Michigan (WHAM) will present Overall Year End Champion Awards for those members and their horses that accumulate the most overall points in the below listed categories. *(Champion only)*:

a. **Overall 11 & Under Youth of the Year (Rail):** This award goes to the youth with the most overall points on any number of horses riding in the 11& Under designated rail classes.
b. **Overall 17 & Under Youth of the Year (Rail):** This award goes to the youth with the most overall points on any number of horses riding in the 17& Under designated rail classes
c. **Overall 11 & Under Youth of the Year (Versatility):** This award goes to the 11 & Under youth/horse combination with the most overall points that have competed in at least four (4) of the thirteen (13) above versatility classes.
d. **Overall 12 - 17 & Under Youth of the Year (Versatility):** This award goes to the 12 – 17 Youth & Under youth/horse combination with the most overall points that have competed in at least five (5) of the thirteen (13) above versatility classes.

e. **Overall Rail Horse of the Year –** This award goes to the horse that accumulates the most overall points in the above listed year end award general categories, excluding Youth Classes which are counted toward their own Overall Year End Award.
f. **Overall Versatility Horse of the Year –** This award goes to the horse/adult rider combination that accumulates the most overall points in the above listed year end award general category of "Versatility" and who have competed in a minimum of five (5) of the thirteen (13) above versatility classes.
g. **Dam of the Year**: This award goes to the nominated mare that is owned by a WHAM member based on the collective points of the listed offspring who are owned by WHAM members. (*contact Points Chairperson for nomination form*)
h. **Sire of the Year**: This award goes to the nominated stallion that is owned by a WHAM member based on the collective points of the listed offspring who are owned by WHAM members. (*contact Points Chairperson for nomination form*
i. **Rookie of the Year**: The award goes to the Rookie who has signed up to participate and who has accumulated the greatest number of points (*note: please see "Special Class Division" for further detail*)

IV. YEAR END POINTS PROGRAM (Eligibility & Point System)

1. Year End Point Award Eligibility:

a. Exhibitor must be a WHAM member in good standing. Points will not accumulate until the date your dues are paid.
b. A Year End award will be given in each of the above listed categories (*Champion and Reserve Champion*) and Overall Year End awards (*Champion Only*), providing the eligibility requirements are met.
c. In cases of a tie for "Champion" status, the following rules will apply
   - The horse with the most blue ribbons will be "Champion"
   - If there is an equal number of blues, then the horse that beats the most entries will be "Champion"
   - If this does not break the tie, then "Co-Champions" will be awarded.
d. Amateur, Amateur Owned and Trained, and Open classes will be combined into one category by division
e. The points are accumulated to the horse (except where otherwise specified)
f. Upon approval of the WHAM board, privately sponsored award may be accepted.
g. Versatility points are based on horse and rider combination.
h. An exhibitor with a "Lite Shod" horse may ride in both the "Lite Shod" and the "Plantation Shod" classes.
i. Some categories such as "MI BRED PLEASURE" are open to all three styles of Walking Horse (Lite Shod, Plantation Shod and Trail Pleasure) Please see the "Other Division" section of the rules for more combined classes.
j. Trail Pleasure Horses cannot cross class divisions in any one given show. For example, a Trail Pleasure horse cannot compete in Trail Pleasure and Lite Shod designated classes at the same show.
k. Year End Award Title Eligibility:
   CHAMPION
   - An exhibiting horse or rider must compete in WHAM sponsored or WHAM Affiliated shows.
   - Must win a minimum of one blue ribbon (1st place) in that particular award category at a WHAM Affiliated show.

   RESERVE CHAMPION:
   1. An exhibiting horse or rider must compete in WHAM sponsored or WHAM Affiliated shows.
l. A member must compete in a qualifying class that supports a year end award category in at least 50% (or greater) of the WHAM Affiliated/Approved shows. If a qualifying class is not offered at 50% of the WHAM shows, there will not be a year end award for that category.
   Note: Weanlings are only required to compete in one show throughout the show season in a "weanling" designated class.

2. Year End Award - Point System

a. Points are awarded for show ratings as follows:
   - "A" Class Shows – Single Point
   - "C" Class Shows – ½ Point
   - "Championship" or "Stake" Classes = double points

b. Points are not awarded for "futurity" classes
c. Points earned in any show after October 15th, will be counted towards totals in the following year.
d. To be credited for WHAM Affiliated /Approved shows, the show managers must submit show results to the points chairperson within 30 days after the show via mail or electronic submission
e. To be credited for "C" show points, exhibitors must provide the points chairperson with a show bill verifying classes entered and placing signed by a show official or a printout from the NWHA or TWHBEA website no later that 30 days after the show.
f. If any points are received after the Oct 15th deadline, but are still within the 30 day window of the show, points will be applied towards the following years awards program
g. A maximum of 25% of the total year end points may be earned at "C" shows.
h. Points counted in any class are equal to the number of entries up through 6th place. The maximum number of points allotted will not exceed "7" in rail classes and "14" in championship classes. Points will be awarded in reverse order of placing with a bonus point awarded for first place
Example:
In a class with 6 entries, the points will be as follows:
- 1st Place = 7 pts (6 pts + 1 bonus pt)
- 2nd Place = 5 pts
- 3rd Place = 4 pts
- 4th Place = 3 pts
- 5th Place = 2 pts
- 6th Place = 1 pt

In a class with 4 entries, the points will be as follows:
- 1st Place = 5 pts (4 pts + 1 bonus pt)
- 2nd Place = 3 pts
- 3rd Place = 2 pts
- 4th Place = 1 pts

In a class with 2 entries, the points will be as follows:
- 1st Place = 3 pts (2 pts + 1 bonus pt)
- 2nd Place = 1 pts

VI: WHAM JUDGED TRAIL RIDE DIVISION

YEAR END AWARD ELIGIBILITY

1. For a judged trail ride to be eligible, it must meet the following criteria:
   a. Located in Michigan
   b. WHAM Sponsored or WHAM Affiliated
   c. Support any WHAM Corporate Sponsors (as required)
2 Exhibitor must:
   a. Be a WHAM member in good standing. Points will not accumulate until the date your dues are paid.
   b. Submit the following to the points chairperson no later than *November 1* of the current year
      i. Judged trail ride flier signed by the trail ride chairperson
      ii. Signed copy of the judged trail ride score sheet (or score card)
      iii. MUST have declared division written on the score sheet (or score card)
   c. Compete in a minimum of 51% of the approved judged trail rides.
      i. Example: If there are 2 judged trail rides, must compete in at least 1.
      ii. Example: If there are 3 judged trail rides, must compete in at least 2.
      iii. Example: If there are 4 judged trail rides, must compete in at least 3.
      iv. Example: If there are 5 judged trail rides, must compete in at least 3.

YEAR END AWARD POINT SYSTEM

1. Points will count as an average score of the score cards submitted to the points chairperson.
2. Points will only count for each specific horse/rider combination for all divisions.

YEAR END AWARD DIVISION

1. JUNIOR HORSE: Any horse that is (5) five years or younger on January 01 of the current year.
2. YOUTH: Any youth exhibitor who has not reached their 18th birthday on January 01 of the current year.
3. ADULT: Any exhibitor who is at least 18 years of age on January 01 of the current year.

YEAR END TITLE ELIGIBILITY:

CHAMPION

- Meets all of the eligibility requirements and
- Highest average score of submitted judged trail ride score sheets

RESERVE CHAMPION:

- Meets all of the eligibility requirements and
- Second highest average score of the submitted judged trail ride score sheets

If any WHAM member, at any time, is in need of further clarification of these rules and regulations, they are to contact their Rules and Regulations Committee member for further advisement. Any changes or updates will be put forth to the committee for final resolution.