

WHOA 2014 Pleasure Division Rule Update

<http://www.walkinghorseowners.com/2014/02/21/whoa-2014-pleasure-division-rule-changes/>

Murfreesboro, TN – Born out of commitment to the interests of the Tennessee Walking Horse, it's owners, and the walking horse industry, the Walking Horse Owners' Association (WHOA) continues to work towards bettering the image of the Tennessee Walking Horse. An improved image will result in favorable interest in our horses among the general public. This in turn will expand the market for Tennessee Walking Horses and increase pride of ownership.

To that end, the WHOA Board of Directors has approved the following Pleasure Division rule changes to go into effect immediately:

WHOA 2014 PLEASURE DIVISION RULE CHANGES – REVISED

February 28, 2014 Pleasure Division rule changes to go into effect immediately:

1. Toe length for all horses competing at WHOA shows and events will be limited to 5 inches.
2. Only clear hoof polish will be allowed at WHOA shows and events.
3. Tungsten shoes will be prohibited on the show grounds during WHOA shows and events.
4. Hoof bands will be prohibited on the show grounds during WHOA shows and events.
5. Stallions shall be barred from any class the conditions of which specify that a youth exhibitor is to ride. Youth cannot exhibit stallions in any division with the exception of weanlings.

6. ALL DAY PLEASURE CLASSES

The All Day Pleasure division is designed to encourage participation from exhibitors who may be new to showing horses or the exhibitor who wants to show their typical "All Day" pleasure horse. All Day Pleasure classes are open to youth and amateur exhibitors only.

Regarding youth of professionals, WHOA must be in receipt of a notarized letter showing exclusive ownership of horse by youth/youth's immediate family at least 3 months prior to show date. Effective date will be date of receipt in WHOA office. For year 2014, receipt 30 days prior to show date will be enforced. Individuals that share the same residence with a trainer, or a trainer's immediate family, are not allowed to exhibit in this division.

7. Communication Device rule as follows: Beginning in 2015 communication devices are allowed only for first year amateur riders and exhibitors in "11 and under" classes. Communication devices are prohibited for all riders in Equitation, Showmanship and Versatility events during the 2014 show season.

Each of these rule changes was proposed and approved based on the belief that presenting our horses in this manner will make the general public more aware of the soundness of the Tennessee Walking Horse, thus improving its image and marketability.