



Elite Amateur Owned and Trained Program *Standard Operating Procedure*

Purpose: To enhance the Amateur Owned and Trained (AOT) award opportunities within the National Walking Horse Association (NWA).

Scope: This procedure applies to eligible Amateur Owned and Trained exhibitor and NWA member. (See Rulebook Sections 4.1.8, 6.3, 7.3 for AOT Eligibility).

Responsibilities:

Title	Description
NWA Office	Receives Elite AOT Program Nomination forms and works with appointed individual responsible for maintaining the points throughout the year. The appointed individual may be the NWA Office Manager or appointed by the Board of Directors.
Nominee	Individual submitting their nomination to the NWA Office in order to recognize their eligibility to accumulate points in this program.

Procedures:

1. Eligibility

- a. The Nominee must meet the Amateur Owned and Trained criteria listed in the NWA Rule Book Sections 4.1.8, 6.3, and 7.3.
- b. Nomination Form must be completed for the horse, rider, owner, and declared division (see schedule and fee details below).
- c. Forms may be mailed or e-mailed (see form for details).
- d. Nomination Fee may be paid via the NWA Store or check.
- e. Proof of ownership must be provided in the form of registration papers for registered horses or Coggins for unregistered horses.

2. Nomination Fee Schedule

- a. Submitted by May 1st: \$100
- b. Submitted after May 1st but before September 1st: \$200
- c. Submitted after September 1st but before December 15th: \$350 *No nominations will be accepted after December 15th*
- d. Horse, rider, and division must be declared when the nomination form is submitted. Points will count from December 16th to December 15th which is in line with the Year-End High Point SOP.
- e. Nomination fee will be used to payout a year-end jackpot, awards, and to be applied to the NWA Elite AOT Program.

3. Point Accumulation

a. Competition:

- Only NWA affiliated events count for points. Only classes designated as Amateur Owned and Trained on the show bill will count for points in the Elite AOT Program. Points are accumulated as follows:
 - The National (triple points)
 - Regional Show (double points)
 - NWA Affiliated Event (single point)

PLACING	AFFILIATED/SANCTION	REGIONAL	NATIONAL
First Place	10 points	20 points	30 points
Second Place	9 points	18 points	27 points
Third Place	8 points	16 points	24 points
Fourth Place	7 points	14 points	21 points
Fifth Place	6 points	12 points	18 points
Sixth Place	5 points	10 points	15 points
Seventh Place	4 points	8 points	12 points
Eighth Place	3 points	6 points	9 points
Ninth Place	2 points	4 points	6 points
Tenth Place	1 point	2 points	3 points

- Nominees that attend the NWA National Championship Show that competes in an AOT preliminary class for their designated division, an AOT Championship class for their designated division, and the AOT Best In Show shall receive an additional 30 points in their tally for the current show season, regardless of placing. Nominee must participate in all three to acquire the additional 30 points.

b. **Community Outreach:**

- In addition to accumulating points by showing, nominees can also gain points through committee involvement or volunteering at an NWA affiliated event.
 - **Committee Contribution: 5 points** – Nominee must serve on an NWA committee and contribute to that committee. The committee chair must sign off on submitted involvement prior to year-end point submissions. It is the responsibility of the nominee to request committee chair approval and submit supporting documentation to the NWA Office.
 - **All Around Involvement: 10 points** – Volunteering at an NWA affiliated event. Two (2) points are accumulated for one (1) hour of volunteer time. Volunteer duties can be assigned by show management as needed. Duties include, but are not limited to, center ring set-up, working the gate, handing out ribbons, pre/post show set-up, and other duties as needed by the show. Nominees can earn a maximum of 10 points at each affiliated show they volunteer at.

4. **Division Designation**

- a. Nominees must choose ONE division to declare their designation in this program and are open to both 2 gait and 3 gait classes:
- All Day Pleasure
 - Country Pleasure
 - Trail Pleasure
 - Lite Shod
 - Park Lite Shod
 - Plantation Pleasure
 - Spotted Saddle Horse
 - Racking Horse

NWHA Amateur Owned and Trained Nomination Form

Only one horse and rider combination per form. Both owner and rider must be NWHA members.

Nominee Horse Name (as listed on registration papers or Coggins)

Nominee Rider Name

Owner Name (as listed on registration or Coggins)

Division Declaration (*Choose ONE*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Day Pleasure | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Lite Shod |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country Pleasure | <input type="checkbox"/> Plantation Pleasure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Pleasure | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Saddle Horse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lite Shod | <input type="checkbox"/> Racking Horse |

Amateur Owned and Trained Certification Statement:

I certify that I am following the guidelines of Amateur Owned and Trained in section 4.1.8, 6.3 and 7.3 as stated in the NWHA rulebook. I understand that if upon investigation my entry does not meet the requirements of Amateur Owned and Trained my entry dues will not be refunded and I will be disqualified from this program for the entire show season.

Printed Name _____ Date: _____

Signature _____