

## **RULES GOVERNING WPAPHA HORSE SHOW POINT SYSTEM**

### **Article I. – Membership**

**Section 1.** – Membership in this association shall be divided into the following classes:

- Professional Members - \$50.00
- Associate Members -
  1. Showing Amateur & Junior Members \$40.00
  2. Non-showing Amateur & Junior Members \$30.00
  3. Family Memberships \$80.00
- Affiliate Members - \$30.00

### **Section 2. – Payment of Membership Dues & Uncollected Revenues**

The membership year shall be from December 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year to November 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Membership fees are listed above. Individuals who have outstanding accounts with the association will be sent a reminder letter giving them thirty (30) days to settle their accounts. If, after that time, the responsible party has not paid his/her indebtedness, he/she will be considered –not in good standing” with the association. All points accumulated by these individuals and their horses/ponies will not count toward year-end High Score Awards.

### **Article II. – Horse Show Points System & Year-End Awards**

The following rules govern the year-end High Score Awards and only these rules will apply. The point year will run from December 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be no points given for shows from October 16<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

1. Owners, lessees and equitation riders must be current members of the WPAPHA at the time points are won, for points to count toward year-end High Score Awards. Member applications and nominations will count from the date that the Treasurer or Points Secretary receives all dues paid by the member. In the case of a leased horse or pony, a letter from the owner or a copy of the lease must be submitted to the membership secretary before any points are awarded. In this case only, the lessee (not the owner) must be a current member of the WPAPHA. Regardless of the rider’s status, owners/lessees of nominated horses or ponies must be members of the WPAPHA, except for owners of horses in these divisions: Walk-Trot, Short- Stirrup, Beginner Rider, Low Children’s Rider and WPAPHA Adult Rider.

2. Points for Hunter and Jumper divisions only remain with the horse or pony when bought or sold providing the new owner is a current member of the WPAPHA.

3. If a horse/rider combination nominates into a non-compatible division of a lower/higher fence height mid-way through a —point year,” then all points will be forfeited in the prior division.

4. At all USEF shows with a rating of A, B, or C, fence heights for the USEF recognized divisions are governed by USEF rules. At ALL shows, fence heights for classes/divisions —unrated” by USEF, but recognized by the WPAPHA, are governed by the rules of the WPAPHA in order to qualify for annual WPAPHA High Score Awards. The only exception to the required minimum heights listed below may occur when, in the judgment of show management, setting fences as required herein is made unduly hazardous by the effect of weather on the condition of footing. In that event, show management, after careful consideration, may reduce the required heights up to three (3) inches without effecting the awarding of points.

**USEF Fence Height Minimums for Divisions due to poor weather conditions at Rated Shows:**

- a. Green Hunter – 2’9” to 3’
- b. Green Hunter – 1<sup>st</sup> Year – 3’3”, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year – 3’6”
- c. Amateur Owner Hunter – 3’ to 3’3”
- d. Regular Working Hunter – 3’9”
- e. Adult Equitation – 2’9” to 3’
- f. Junior Working Hunter - 3’to 3’3”
- g. Pony Working Hunter – 2’, 2’3”, 2’9” respectively
- h. Children’s Jumper & Adult Jumper – 3’3” with spreads not to exceed fence height
- i. Short Stirrup Hunter – 18” – 2’ (not cross rails)

5. **Please note** that minor differences in fence heights resulting from differences in USEF zone rules are to be disregarded for the purpose of awarding points. Points will be awarded on the basis of section titles; for example if a section is entitled Children’s Hunter, points will be recorded as appropriate regardless of the zone in which the show is located.

6. Points will count for High Score Award divisions **EXCEPT FOR Junior/ Amateur Owner Jumper, Open Jumper, and Grand Champion Jumper**, which are based on monies won. Points won towards all year-end award divisions at WPAPHA recognized shows are earned at that show’s rating level (Local, C, B, or A).

Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper, Preliminary, Open/Modified Jumper and Grand Champion Jumper High Score Awards **shall be calculated on money won through tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) place.**

Champion – 20 Reserve - 12

1<sup>st</sup> Place – 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 6

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 4 4<sup>th</sup> Place - 2

5<sup>th</sup> Place – 1 6<sup>th</sup> Place – 1/2

For Unrated shows, **½ points** are awarded.

For USEF "Local" rated shows, **single** points are awarded.

For USEF "C" rated shows, **double** points are awarded.

For USEF "B" rated shows, **triple** points are awarded.

For USEF "A" rated shows, **quadruple** points are awarded.

For USEF "AA" rated shows, **quintuple** points are awarded.

Hunter and Jumper Classics, Stakes, and Prix classes will count as a regular class towards their respective division's year-end awards.

7. At WPAPHA recognized shows, Champion and Reserve Champion must be offered in all High Score Award divisions, except in Equitation, Horsemanship, Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper, and Open/Modified Jumper. No High Score Trophies will be retired. The WPAPHA will retain all trophies and replace, when full, in order to retain the history of that trophy.

8. Divisions for Year-End High Score Awards:

**Hunter Divisions**

Grand Champion Hunter  
Hunter Breeding  
Green Working Hunter  
High Performance Working Hunter  
Performance Working Hunter  
Green Hunter - 1<sup>st</sup> yr. & 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
Very Green Hunter - 1<sup>st</sup> yr. & 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.  
Amateur Owner Hunter  
Adult Amateur Hunter  
Junior Working Hunter  
Pony Working Hunter – Small, Medium, & Large  
Green Pony Hunter  
Children's Working Hunter  
Children's Hunter Pony  
Short-Stirrup Hunter  
OTTB

**Horsemanship Divisions**

Adult Horsemanship  
Jr. Horsemanship 14-17  
Jr. Horsemanship under 14  
Children's Horsemanship  
Pony Horsemanship  
Children's Pony Horsemanship  
Short-Stirrup Horsemanship  
**Rider Divisions**  
WPAPHA Adult Rider  
Low Intermediate Rider  
Low Children's Rider  
Beginner Rider  
Walk – Trot

**Jumper Divisions**

Grand Champion Jumper  
Open/Modified Jumper Level 5-6  
Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper  
Child/Adult Jumper  
Low Children's/Low Adult Jumper

9. Divisions are considered —Rated" when recognized by the USEF under Zone 2 requirements. Divisions that have —Unrated" status are recognized divisions by the WPAPHA only. All divisions qualify for WPAPHA Year-end awards.

10. Divisions are either —horse" nominated or —rider" nominated. A horse/rider combination may not cross nominate into any division where fence heights are

higher or lower and qualify for year-end High Score Awards in both divisions, unless specifically stated. You can SHOW in any division unless the horse show prize list states restrictions, however points will only count in your nominated division.

11. Rider nominated divisions—Points go with rider regardless of the horse nominated. Riders may ride a substitute horse without having to nominate that horse, however it is helpful if you inform us in advance of the name of the horse you are riding. Riders with more than one horse showing in a —Rider” Division at a show will receive points **ONLY** for the highest scoring mount at that show.

12. Horsemanship/Equitation: Junior Horsemanship 14 and Under: Open to junior riders. Fence height - 3'-3'6". Children nominated for any other division with jumps **under 3'** may get points **ONLY** in the Flat Sections of this equitation division. Junior Horsemanship 15-17: Open to junior riders. Fence height 3'6". Junior hunter riders eligible for this division include riders nominated for any **rated** divisions with fence heights at 3' or higher, which includes Junior Hunter, Children's Hunter, Large Pony Hunters and Junior Jumpers. Children nominated for any other division with jumps **under 3'** may get points **ONLY** in the Flat Sections of this equitation division. NOTE: Points earned in horsemanship classes other than the Age Specific equitation classes will be attributed to their own particular divisions, i.e. Children's Horsemanship, Pony Horsemanship, Short Stirrup Horsemanship, Low Children's Rider, Low Intermediate Rider & Beginner Rider.

13. The WPAPHA reserves the right to review and amend all Year End Points calculations up to and beyond the Award Banquet should circumstances warrant. This will be decided upon by the Board on a case by case basis.

14. The **George H. Chubb Perpetual Memorial Trophy** is awarded to the 3'6" Junior Horsemanship rider who competes in USEF Medal, ASPCA Maclay and/or USET Talent Search classes that most exemplifies the horsemanship and sportsmanship qualities promoted by the WPAPHA as voted for by the member professionals. Such qualities include consideration of their horse and others, safety, turnout, and general appearance both inside and outside the ring. The winner of this award is not announced until the award presentation at the annual banquet.

15. Trainer of the Year award is presented to the trainer of the 14-17 Jr. Horsemanship Champion who competes in the Medal classes and over fences at 3'6".

16. Please be advised that the names of divisions vary from horse show to horse show. Be certain when entering divisions at shows that you find the division at your nominated JUMP HEIGHT and not enter based on name alone.

Also, jump height alone does not necessarily qualify a division for points. If you are unsure which division will count for points for your nominated division, please contact the Points Secretary for clarification prior to entering.

17. These Rules are to govern the **nomination** of year end award points and have no bearing on what you **enter and compete** in at a show unless specified below. Any division or class restrictions will be spelled out in the prize list for each show and may vary from competition to competition.

18. The WPaPHA requires that three entries show and are pinned in any given class for the class results to count for points. All of the classes in the division need to have three pinned entries for the Champion and Reserve to be awarded for points. The exception to this will be the breeding divisions.

19. Shows that offer equitation classes as divisions will be allowed to award Champion and Reserve and these will count towards the year end points in the given division. An equitation division consists of at least two over fences and one flat class to count for Champion and Reserve points.

20. All WPaPHA divisions will require 3 point accruing members to award any Year End Champion and Reserve prizes OR member must be point accruing at three WPaPHA sanctioned horse shows. Year End Ribbons will always be given.

21. The WPaPHA Horse Show will count for double point.

22. Points in the Very Green, Green and OTTB Hunter Divisions are given to the Horse REGARDLESS of who the rider is as long as the owner of the horse is a current member of the WpaPHA.

23. The WPaPHA WILL sanction MORE THAN ONE schooling show on the same weekend as long as the shows are a minimum of 30 miles apart from another.

### **Hunter Divisions**

**Grand Champion Hunter** – Awarded to the horse or pony accumulating the most points in the Rated Hunter Divisions for the point year.

**Hunter Breeding** – Yearling, 2 yr. Old, and 3 yr. Old – Open to thoroughbreds and non-thoroughbreds, horses only (colts, geldings, and/or fillies), which are one, two or three years of age. Competitors in these classes are to be judged on conformation, way of moving, substance, and suitability to become Hunters. All entries are to be shown at the walk and trot in a suitable bridle. This division is a combined division for all of the above age groups and will be calculated and awarded year end together.

**Very Green Hunter - 1st yr. & 2nd yr.** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2’3” – 2’6”) Open to horses and ponies in their first or second year of showing over fences. Horses and ponies nominated in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division where the fence height exceeds 2’6”. Very Green Hunters are eligible for year-end High Score Awards for two (2) consecutive competition years only.

**Green Hunter - 1st yr. & 2nd yr.** – Rated Division. (Fences 3’-3’3”) Open to horses that have never shown over fences higher than 3’ at USEF recognized shows. Horses in this section may not cross enter into any section with fences exceeding 3’3”. Green Hunters are eligible for year-end High Score Awards for two (2) consecutive competition years only.

**Green Working Hunter – 1st yr., 2nd yr. & Conformation–** Rated Division. Open to a horse of any age that is in his first or second year of showing in any classes that require horses to jump 3’6” or higher at regular member shows of USEF. This includes national or international competition. When shown in a Green section, a horse in his first year of showing must show as a *First Year Green* horse and a horse in his second year of showing must be shown as a *Second Year Green* horse. First Year Green horses to jump 3’6” and Second Year Green horses to jump 3’9”. Horses are not required to gallop in under saddle classes. Second Year Green horses may also nominate into the High Performance Hunter division. If a horse competes in more than one division at any given show, the division with the better overall score will be the one calculated for year end points.

**High Performance Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences 4’ – 4’6”) A horse of any age that is not restricted by previous show experience. Horses may be asked to gallop one way of the ring in under saddle classes. Horses in this division may also be nominated in the Second Year Green, Junior Hunter and Amateur Owner divisions.

**Performance Hunters** – Rated Division. (Fences 3’3” – 3’6”) If a horse competes in both at any given show, the 3’6” division will be used to calculate the year end points.

**Amateur-Owner Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences 3’3” - 3’6”) Horse is to be ridden by an Amateur-Owner, or an amateur member of the owner’s family who is no longer eligible to compete as a Junior Exhibitor. Leased horses are not eligible and multiple ownership is not permitted, unless all owners are members of the same family. An amateur who rides for a person outside the family may not ride in a class restricted to Amateur-Owners in the same show. Amateur-Owner exhibitors may ride for other exhibitors in under saddle classes of Green & Regular Working Hunter sections, and for other Amateur-Owners who have more than one entry in the under saddle class. If an under saddle class is divided by age and a rider has two or more horses entered, all riders

must be amateurs but need not be eligible by age. Whether pinned separately or together, the points for the 3'3" section and the 3'6" section will be combined for year end points calculation.

**Adult Amateur Working Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences not to exceed 3', spreads not to exceed fence height.) Horses to be shown by riders who are no longer eligible to compete as Junior Exhibitors and are in possession of current USEF Amateur Certification. Ponies may be shown by adults; suitability to count. Riders may not compete in any other classes at the same competition where fences exceed 3'3", except Adult Amateur Jumper. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.

**Junior Working Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences 3'3" - 3'6") Open to riders who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. Horses shown in this section may cross-enter into another section, if otherwise eligible. Riders may not cross-nominate into the Children's Hunter division. No horse may be shown in this section unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or Certified Card of a valid measurement form issued by USEF. Entries must be handled by a junior exhibitor in all phases of a Junior Class. Exhibitors may not show more than two horses in any class. Whether pinned separately or together, the points for the 3'3" section and the 3'6" section will be combined for year end points calculation.

**Small Junior Working Hunter** - Open to horses under 16 hands. In –AA" and –A" rated competitions, classes may also be divided by age of rider into *Small Junior 15 and under* and *Small Junior 16-17*.

**Large Junior Working Hunter** - Open to horses 16 hands and over. In –AA" and –A" rated competitions, classes may also be divided by age of rider into *Large Junior 15 and under* and *Large Junior 16-17*.

**Pony Working Hunter** – Rated Division. Sections are limited to ponies 14.2 hands and under and riders who have not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. No rider may show more than three ponies in any one-height section. Suitability of pony for a rider shall be determined by the height and weight of the rider in relation to the size of the pony as well as the compatibility of the rider and pony. Riders may cross enter into the Junior Working Hunter division.

**Small Pony Hunters** - Cannot exceed 12.2 hands, must be ridden by a junior 12 years of age or younger and will jump 2'3".

**Medium Pony Hunters** - Ponies over 12.2 to 13.2 hands, must be ridden by a junior 14 years of age or younger and will jump 2'6".

**Large Pony Hunters** - Ponies over 13.2 but not more than 14.2, must be ridden by a junior 18 years of age or under and will jump 3'.

**Green Pony Hunter** – Rated Division. Open to ponies of any age not exceeding 14.2 hands, which have not been shown over fences at regulation height or higher at a Regular Member Show of USEF. Once a pony has broken its green status in one section, it shall not regain its status by moving into another pony height section. Remaining specifications are the same as the Pony Hunter Section.

**Small Pony Hunters** - Cannot exceed 12.2 hands, must be ridden by a junior 18 years of age or younger and will jump 2'3".

**Medium Pony Hunters** - Ponies over 12.2 to 13.2 hands, must be ridden by a junior 18 years of age or younger and will jump 2'6".

**Large Pony Hunters** - Ponies over 13.2 but not more than 14.2, must be ridden by a junior 18 years of age or under and will jump 2'9".

**Children's Working Hunter** – Rated Division. (Fences 3', spreads not to exceed fence height) Horses to be shown by Junior Exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. Riders may cross enter only into age group Equitation, Medal, Children's/Adult Jumper and Pony Jumper Classes. Riders are not eligible to compete in classes where fences exceed 3'3". Riders may not cross-nominate into the Junior Working Hunter or the Low Children's Rider divisions.

**Children's Hunter Pony** – Rated Division. Sections are limited to ponies 14.2 hands and under not showing in the rated Pony Working Hunter division, and ridden by a Junior Exhibitor not showing over fences exceeding 3' at that show. Ponies to be shown by Junior Exhibitors who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. Large ponies to jump 2'6". Small and medium ponies to jump 2'. All spreads are not to exceed fence heights. Riders in this division are eligible for Children's Pony Horsemanship. Ponies in this division may be nominated to the Short-Stirrup, Beginner Rider, and Walk/Trot divisions with a different rider.

**Short-Stirrup Hunter** – Unrated Division. (Fences 18"- 2') Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Riders in this division may not cross enter into any other division except Beginner Rider and Short-Stirrup Equitation. Riders nominating for year-end High Score Awards in this division may also nominate in Short-Stirrup Horsemanship and Beginner Rider only.

**OTTB** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2'6" – 3') Open to horses that qualify as Off The Track Thoroughbreds. Proof at the horse show is necessary. The year end award will combine both 2'6" and 3' heights. A horse will not be allowed to accrue points in both heights at one show. If the horse jumps both fence heights at one show, then the 3' height will be the only result accrued for points towards the year end award.

## **RIDER DIVISIONS**

**WPAPHA Adult Rider** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2’6”) Open to Adult riders. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. Cross nomination of the rider, on this or any other horse, into Adult Amateur Working Hunter and Amateur-Owner Hunter divisions is prohibited. Adults nominated for this division may nominate for Adult Horsemanship, but only the Flat Equitation classes will count. Riders with more than one horse showing in this division at a show will receive points ONLY for the highest scoring mount at that show. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.

**Low Children’s Rider** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2’6”) Open to Junior riders on horses or ponies. Riders in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division, except for flat equitation classes in age specific horsemanship classes. Low Children’s Equitation classes also count towards this award. Riders with more than one horse showing in this division at a show will receive points ONLY for the highest scoring mount at that show. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.

**Low Intermediate Rider** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2’3”) Open to child and adult amateur riders. Ponies may be shown by Adults, suitability to count. Cross nomination of the rider, on this or any other horse, into other divisions is prohibited. Adults nominated for this division may nominate for Adult Horsemanship, but only the Flat Equitation classes will count. Child riders in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division, except for Flat Equitation classes in age specific horsemanship classes. Riders with more than one horse showing in this division at a show will receive points ONLY for the highest scoring mount at that show. Horses may be shown by a different rider in any other division or class in which they are eligible at the same competition.

**Beginner Rider** – Unrated Division. (Fences 2’) Open to riders of any age with limited show experience. Beginner Rider Equitation classes also count towards this award. Cross nomination into Short-Stirrup Hunter and Short-Stirrup Horsemanship is permitted for riders under the age of 12.

**Walk-Trot Rider**– Unrated Division. Open to riders 12 years of age and under, on horses or ponies, that have never competed in classes with fences larger than cross rails. Walk-Trot Equitation classes also count towards this award. Riders in this division are not eligible for year-end High Score Awards in any other division.

## **HORSEMANSHIP DIVISIONS**

**Adult Horsemanship** – Rated Division. Open to riders who are no longer eligible to compete as Junior Exhibitors, in possession of current USEF Amateur Certification. Only one rider per horse or pony. Two or more tests of the top four riders may be required. **On the Flat** –Horses to be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. (Tests 1-9) **Over Fences** – Horses to be shown over a course of no less than eight obstacles at 3’.

**Children’s Horsemanship** – Rated Division. The following classes will count towards year-end High Score Awards: Children’s Equitation, Fox Smith Medal, State Line Tack National Children’s Medal.

**Junior Horsemanship 15 to 17** – Rated Division. (Fences 3’6”) For children who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday in the competition year who are competing in the Junior Hunter division. (Tests 1-19)

**Junior Horsemanship 14 and Under** - Rated Division. (Fences 3’-3’6”) For children who have not reached their 14th birthday in the competition year who are competing in the Junior Hunter division. (Tests 1-19)

**Pony Horsemanship** – Rated Division. The following classes will count towards year-end awards: USEF Pony Medal, Pony Equitation, WIEC for Ponies.

**Children’s Hunter Pony Equitation** – Rated Division. Open to ponies 14.2 hands and under ridden by a Junior exhibitor. Same restrictions as the Children’s Hunter Pony Division.

**Short-Stirrup Horsemanship** – Unrated Division. (Fences not to exceed 2’) Open to riders 12 years of age and under. Riders nominating for year-end High Score Awards in this division may also nominate in Short-Stirrup Hunter and Beginner Rider only.

## **Jumper Divisions**

**Open/Modified Jumper** – Rated Division. Fence heights 1.20m (3’11”) to 1.50m (4’11”). To be calculated on monies won in the Open Jumper and/or Modified Jumper sections/classes.

**Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper** – Rated Division. To be calculated on monies won in the Junior or Amateur-Owner sections/classes. Low Junior/Amateur Owner sections will have courses set at 1.15m (3’9”) to 1.30m (4’3”); High Junior/Amateur Owner sections will have courses set at 1.35m (4’5”) to 1.45m (4’9”). If a Medium is offered, ALL sections will count in this division.

**Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper** – Rated Division. Fence heights to be set at 3'6". Riders may not compete in any other class at the same competition where fences exceed 1.15m (3'9") except the USEF Talent Search Class. Horses may show at 1.40m (4'7") or below with another rider. Cash winnings do not influence this classification.

**Low Children's / Low Adult Jumper** - Unrated Division. (Fences 3'-3'3") Open to Junior and Amateur riders on horses or ponies. Horses and ponies nominated in this division are not eligible for year-end awards in any other jumper divisions.

**Specification for all USEF recognized divisions/classes:**

Specification for any class or division recognized by the USEF shall be governed by the USEF rules per the current USEF Rule Book.

**Article III.- Board and Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** - the board of the Association shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All Board must be members in good standing with the W.Pa.P.H.A. the term of the office of all Board shall be one (1) YEAR. All Board members may succeed themselves.

Chairman- The Chairman shall be the executive officer of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for appointing all committees, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees., He/she shall be responsible to perform such duties and obligations deemed necessary by the Association. The Chairman has the authority to sign all contracts and written obligations of the Association.

Vice-Chairman- The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman and take over all duties of the Chairman in his/her absence.

Secretary- The Secretary shall give notice of the meetings, keep minutes of all meetings, conduct the correspondence of the Association and shall be the keeper of its documents and records.

Treasurer- The Treasurer shall handle all money due to Association. He/she shall have the care and custody of, and is responsible for, the funds of the Associations, which he/she shall deposit in the name of the Association in such financial institutions as may be confirmed by the Chairman. The Treasurer shall submit a financial report annually and t such other times as the Chairman may direct.

**Section 2.-** The management, directions and control of all policies, business and affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following;

- a. All Past Chairman of the Association
- b. The Current Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer
- c. All professional members of the Association