

CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

Rules Proposals

PROPOSAL 1

Summary of the Proposal:

This proposal is to change the following as a single rule change. This proposal will reduce the minimum number of dogs for an official meet to 10 starters. It will also require a finish in the top 50% of a meet to be eligible to receive RCh or NRCh points.

Rationale:

As many clubs are having trouble getting enough dogs to run an event, this proposal will allow an official meet with 10 starters. This will help clubs put on events when there is a lack of entries without having to pull all their elderly dogs out to make the numbers. Also, by requiring a finish in the top 50% of a meet to be eligible to receive RCh or NRCh points, this should eliminate concerns regarding the perception that a 10-dog meet might cheapen points or titles.

Text of the sections of the document(s) to be added or changed:

IV. Program Participation Requirements

A. *Qualifying Race Meet.* A new Member Club which has not previously sponsored a race meet is required to put on a qualifying race meet. Request for a date for a qualifying race meet must be made in writing to the Regional Coordinator at least thirty (30) days prior to the date the event is scheduled. A qualifying race meet shall have a minimum of fifteen (~~10-15~~) adult Whippets starting in the first program; shall have four (4) programs which are completed; and shall not have any valid protest of the qualifying race meet upheld. The Member Club must demonstrate that it is capable of operating a race meet under the Association's rules, and must forward results of the qualifying race meet to the National Race Director and the Registrar-Recordkeeper. Upon compliance with these requirements, the National Race Director will notify the new Member Club of approval of the qualifying race meet.

E. *Minimum Number of Starters for an Official Meet.* The minimum number of starters for a race meet to be considered official is as follows:

- ~~2-9~~ 14 Starters SR points only
- **10+** 15+ Starters SR, RCh and NRCh points

F. *Required Recordkeeping.* The Member Club's Race Secretary shall send a copy of meet results to the National Race Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Registrar-Recordkeeper. The race results shall include the following: (1) Number of adults and puppies starting; (2) The American/Canadian Kennel Club registered name of each Whippet and the surname of its owner; (3) The NAWRA registration number of each starter; (4) Total points earned by each Whippet, including first time entered, disqualifications, dismissals and scratches; (5) Placement or position of each adult and puppy in each race, including disqualifications, scratches and off course; and (6) Registered name of Whippets earning championship points. A check for per-capita of \$1.00 per adult entry, along with the \$2.00 registration fee for any first-time entered

adult Whippet, shall accompany the copy of the meet results sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. Per-capita may be paid in the currency of the country hosting the meet. For whippet meets with 2-914 entries, only Sprint Racer (SR) points, not championship (RCh) or National (NRCh) points, are awarded. The results are not entered into the grading guide and do not influence the grade or ranking of the whippet, but a copy of the order of finish and race-by-race results including any disqualifications and FTE's (which DO get recorded) must be submitted to the Whippet Registrar/Recorder with AKC/CKC registration certificates. A copy of the results must also be sent to the National Secretary/Treasurer (with the \$1.00 per adult per-capita fee and the \$2.00 registration fee for FTE adults).

XIII. The Championships

A. *The Race Championship.* To earn the North American Whippet Racing Association Championship Certificate, a Whippet must earn 15 Championship Points. Championship Points may be earned by adult Whippets that do not have a North American Whippet Racing Association Championship Certificate. Once a Whippet has earned its Championship Certificate, it is no longer eligible for Championship Points but may continue to compete and to earn National Championship Points for placement in the annual national standings. Championship Points shall be determined by the number of Whippets starting at each race meet according to the following schedule:

10 to 14 Adult Starters
1 point to high score non-champion

15 to 19 Adult Starters
2 points to high score non-champion

20 to 29 Adult Starters
3 points to high score non-champion
1 point to second high score non-champion

30 to 39 Adult Starters
4 points to high score non-champion
2 points to second high score non-champion

40 to 49 Adult Starters
5 points to high score non-champion
3 points to second high score non-champion
1 point to third high score non-champion

50 to 59 Adult Starters
6 points to high score non-champion
4 points to second high score non-champion
2 points to third high score non-champion

60 or more Adult Starters
7 points to high score non-champion
5 points to second high score non-champion

3 points to third high score non-champion
1 point to fourth high score non-champion

To be eligible for RCh points, a dog must place in the top 50% of the dogs that complete the event. In the event of a tie at that 50% level, the tied dogs will be considered to be in the upper 50% of the results.

The award of Championship Points after each race meet will be made and confirmed in writing by the Registrar-Recordkeeper.

B. *The Supreme Race Championship.* A Whippet may attain the title of Supreme Race Champion by meeting the following requirements: A dog must earn 50 Champion (“National”) Points; a bitch must earn 30 Championship (“National”) Points. Extensions of the title, *Supreme Race Championship*, will be awarded to any Whippet as follows: For each 50 Champion (“National”) Points (dog) or 30 Champion (“National”) Points (bitch) earned, beyond those required for the title SRCh, the Whippet will be awarded a further numerical designation, i.e., SRCh II, SRCh III, SRCh IV, etc. These awards will be retroactive.

Supreme Championship Points shall be determined by the number of Whippets starting at each race meet according to the following schedule:

10 to 14 Adult Starters
1 point to high score in meet

15 to 19 Adult Starters
2 points to high score in meet

20 to 29 Adult Starters
3 points to high score in meet
1 point to second place in meet

30 to 39 Adult Starters
4 points to high score in meet
2 points to second place in meet

40 to 49 Adult Starters
5 points to high score in meet
3 points to second place in meet
1 point to third place in meet

50 to 59 Adult Starters
6 points to high score in meet
4 points to second place in meet
2 points to third place in meet

60 or more Adult Starters
7 points to high score in meet
5 points to second place in meet

3 points to third place in meet
1 point to fourth place in meet

*Submitted by:
Diane Johnson*

PROPOSAL 2

Summary of the Proposal:

This proposal is to delete the entire Appendix to North American Whippet Racing Association Rules, Drug Testing Program.

Rationale:

This Appendix has been a part of the Racing Rules since the inception of NAWRA. The Program was utilized just once in the late 1980's. Since that time, no one has made use of this program. It has become obsolete.

Text of the sections of the document(s) to be deleted:

~~**APPENDIX TO NORTH AMERICAN WHIPPET RACING ASSOCIATION RULES**~~

~~**Drug Testing Program**~~

~~— In order to protect the integrity of Whippet racing, the North American Whippet Racing Association establishes the following drug testing program:~~

~~1. Program Administration. The National Race Secretary may select, at his/her discretion, a NAWRA race meet at which drug testing shall be performed. No announcement of the race meet selected for drug testing shall be made prior to the scheduled race date.~~

~~— The National Race Secretary shall appoint a Judicial Panel which shall attend the race meet and oversee administration of the drug tests. The Judicial Panel shall consist of:~~

~~a. One official of the North American Whippet Racing Association, i.e., National Race Secretary, Registrar-Recordkeeper, or Secretary-Treasurer.~~

~~b. The Regional Race Secretary or, in the absence of the Regional Race Secretary, a responsible, experienced person designated to the Judicial Panel by the Regional Race Secretary.~~

~~c. The local Race Secretary or a responsible, experienced person designated to the Judicial Panel by the local Race Secretary.~~

~~_____ The National Race Secretary shall retain the services of a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinarian medicine in the state in which the race meet is being conducted to take the urine specimens. A minimum of 6 Whippets shall be selected by the Judicial Panel to give urine specimens. At least 4 of the specimens shall be taken from Whippets that are contenders for Top Ten placement and the remaining samples shall be taken as the Judicial Panel sees fit.~~

~~_____ In addition to overseeing the administration of the tests, the Judicial Panel shall have the responsibility of reviewing the laboratory results and, if the results are positive, of notifying the owner of the Whippet so testing positive of the results, scheduling a hearing date to take evidence concerning circumstances surrounding the positive test, rendering a decision in the matter and, if appropriate, imposing appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with this Program. Any hearing shall be scheduled within 20 days after the National Race Secretary advises the owner or authorized representative of the results of the specimen analysis. At the request of the owner, the hearing may be set at a later date, at the Judicial Panel's discretion.~~

~~_____ The North American Whippet Racing Association shall be financially responsible for costs of administering the drug testing program. The local host club shall pay a per-capita fee of \$.25 per Whippet entered to the North American Whippet Racing Association to defray the expense of administering the drug testing program.~~

~~_____ 2. Consent. The owner or authorized representative entering a Whippet in a race sponsored under the Rules of Racing of the North American Whippet Racing Association consents to drug testing pursuant to this drug testing program. The race entry form shall explicitly state that such consent is being given; however, it is the entry of the Whippet, and not the statement on the entry form, which authorizes the drug test.~~

~~_____ Any owner or authorized representative refusing to allow a drug test, or any person interfering with the administration of a drug test, shall be barred from all races sponsored under the Rules of Racing of the North American Whippet Racing Association for a period of 12 months from the date of such refusal. The National Race Secretary or, if so instructed by the National Race Secretary, the Secretary-Treasurer, shall immediately advise all regional and local Race Secretaries, by telephone and in writing, of the name of the owner or authorized representative so barred, and of the names of the Whippets owned by such owner or authorized representative.~~

~~_____ 3. Drug Test. Testing shall be limited to saliva specimens and urine specimens only. Specimens shall be taken only after a Whippet has raced. The specimens shall be taken by a veterinarian duly licensed to practice veterinarian medicine in the state in which the race meet is being conducted. The specimens shall be taken in the presence of the owner or authorized representative designated by the owner. The samples taken shall be signed by the veterinarian and owner or authorized agent.~~

~~_____ The North American Whippet Racing Association official on the Judicial Panel shall be responsible for shipment or delivery of the urine or saliva specimens to a drug analysis laboratory designated by the National Race Secretary. The National Race Secretary must~~

~~select a drug analysis laboratory recognized for its experience and proficiency in testing samples of Greyhounds racing at state-licensed race tracks.~~

~~4. Prohibited Drugs. The laboratory analysis of saliva or urine indicating the presence of any of the following drugs shall be evidence that the Whippet contained such drug in its system during the running of the race:~~

~~a. Any restricted or dangerous drug whose use or possession is prohibited by law;~~

~~b. Stimulants or derivatives of the amphetamine, methamphetamine, and opiate families;~~

~~c. Drugs in the steroid family unless it can be proven by medical documents that such drug was (1) administered by a licensed veterinarian, and (2) to treat a specific, medically verifiable injury;~~

~~Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, dimethylsulfoxide, hereafter referred to as DMSO, may be administered by external topical application.~~

~~Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, procaine shall be a permitted medication provided, however, that the level of procaine found in the urine specimen taken after a race shall not exceed one microgram per milliliter of urine.~~

~~5. Hearing and Sanctions. At the hearing conducted by the Judicial Panel, the laboratory analysis of saliva or urine indicating the presence of any of the prohibited drugs shall be evidence that the Whippet contained such drug in its system during the running of the race.~~

~~The Whippet owner may submit such evidence to the Judicial Panel as the owner deems appropriate, including veterinarian evidence or records from a veterinarian treating the Whippet whose analysis is in question, providing such evidence or records are verified in writing as true and accurate by the treating veterinarian.~~

~~Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Judicial Panel shall make one of the following findings:~~

~~a. That no prohibited drug was present in the Whippet's system during the running of the race; or~~

~~b. That a prohibited drug was present in the Whippet's system during the running of the race; but that its presence was due to medical treatment prescribed by a licensed veterinarian; or~~

~~c. That a prohibited drug was present in the Whippet's system during the running of the race; but that its presence has been reasonably and logically explained to the satisfaction of the Judicial Panel; or~~

~~_____ d. That a prohibited drug was present in the Whippet's system during the running of the race; and its presence was improper.~~

~~_____ Upon conclusion of the hearing, and after making its findings, the Judicial Panel may impose any of the following sanctions:~~

~~_____ a. Publicly reprove the owner and/or authorized representative for conduct detrimental to the sport of Whippet racing;~~

~~_____ b. Suspend the owner and/or authorized representative from racing for a period appropriate to the offense, but not to exceed one (1) year;~~

~~_____ c. Permanently bar the owner and/or authorized representative from any further participation in the North American Whippet Racing Association race program;~~

~~_____ d. Forfeiture of Championship Points earned at the meet in which a prohibited drug was present;~~

~~_____ e. Return of prizes or trophies;~~

~~_____ f. Impose any other sanction deemed appropriate by the Judicial Panel.~~

~~_____ Decisions of the Judicial Panel shall be final.~~

*Submitted by
Pascale Jones & Sue Burt*

PROPOSAL 3

Summary of the Proposal:

Side Seeding. This proposal is to alter the rule regarding post positions being drawn randomly to allow for dogs with significant side preferences to be placed on their preferred side.

Rationale:

Dogs with side preferences exist. Some are so determined to get to their preferred side they will push their way over, increasing congestion in the middle of the track and increasing the odds of incidental contact. While such contact is not by definition fouling, it nevertheless may pose a hazard to other dogs in the race, and can affect race results. Creating a rule to disqualify these dogs would be counterproductive in these days of declining entries, when it is possible to eliminate or greatly reduce the problem by placing these dogs on their preferred side at the beginning of the race.

There is a perception that the outside boxes offer a slight advantage to their occupants. If this proposal passes we will volunteer to maintain statistics on race results for each of the six starting boxes, divided by before and after this rule change. We will need copies of the score sheets for the upcoming year as well as any available for past years, in order to compare and

publish results. Of course sending me your score sheets is not mandatory but the findings will be more valid with more data.

In other words, send us copies of your meets for the past two years (meets with no side seeding) and we'll do the stats on win percentage from each post position. Then we will publish the same stats for the meets for 2017 (meets with side seeding) so that everyone can compare the results.

Text of the sections of the document(s) to be added or deleted:

X. Operation of the Grading Guide

B. Determining Post Position

1. In the first program, Whippets shall be seeded in the order of national ranking. All boxes must be filled in accordance with the Set-up Chart. First Time Entered Whippets will be dispersed through the Grade D entrants as the Race Secretary deems appropriate. Post positions in all programs shall be determined by random draw **with the following exception: The owner/handler of a whippet of 14 months of age or older that he/she believes has demonstrated a consistent side preference may request to have his/her dog designated as a Right or Left runner. This request will be granted if two people (the Referees), neither of whom is the owner or breeder of the dog, will attest to having observed the dog in question demonstrate the stated side preference consistently at practice and/or race meets. To qualify as a Referee each person will have a minimum of five years of straight racing experience and have acted as a Race Secretary either currently or historically. The dog will then be designated either R or L on his/her race plate. This information will also be provided to the Registrar/Recorder to be included in the Grading Guide or on a separate list on the NAWRA website.**

When drawing post positions, a dog with a designated Left preference will be placed in box #1. A dog with a designated Right preference will be placed in box #6. If multiple dogs with the same side preferences draw into the same race then they shall be drawn randomly in the boxes on their preferred side. For example, three dogs with a Right preference shall be drawn randomly into boxes 4, 5, and 6. Similarly three dogs with a Left preference would be drawn randomly into boxes 1, 2 and 3. If all the dogs in the race have the same side preference it will be a simple random draw. After the side preference dogs are assigned their box positions the rest of the dogs shall be drawn randomly into the remaining boxes. Races with no side preference dogs shall be drawn entirely randomly.

A side preference designation shall remain in effect for the duration of the dog's race career. If the owner wishes to have the side preference designation removed, he/she must request that the dog be observed at a race meet by the Race Committee. This will be accomplished by removing the dog's side preference designation for one meet only. The Race Committee will observe the dog with the intention of determining if it is appropriate to remove the side preference designation. If the Race Committee agrees that the side preference no longer exists they will report their findings to the owner/handler and remove the designation. They will also inform the Registrar/Recorder of the altered status of the dog.

If there are 5 dogs in a race, box #3 shall remain empty. If there are 4 dogs in a race, boxes #2 and #5 shall remain empty. If there are 3 dogs in a race, boxes #2, #4 and #6 shall remain empty. If Whippets owned by the same owner, or which are kenneled together, are scheduled to be in the same race because of their averages, they shall not be placed in adjacent starting boxes unless there is no alternative. There will be two high point races in the first program if there are 48 or more starters. If two high point races are required, dogs must be seeded alternately, by rating, between the two high point races.

This rule change proposal shall automatically lapse on December 31, 2017.

If it is agreed that it has had a net positive effect it will have to be proposed again in 2018, as is or with amendments.

Submitted by:

Gale Lyttle, Darien Adley and Adele Lafleur

PROPOSAL 4

Summary of the Proposal:

This proposal will define race placement when a muzzle crosses the finish line.

Rationale:

When NAWRA started, there weren't cameras capable of capturing close finishes. With the advent of cameras, it's important to define what constitutes a win in photo finishes. In greyhound and horse racing, the nose/muzzle is the determining body part and this proposal recommends that be defined for NAWRA.

Text of the sections of the document(s) to be added:

V. Officials

H. *Video Cameras at Finish Line.* The use of a video camera and playback equipment at the finish line is authorized in NAWRA meets. The video camera must be of sufficient speed to be able to actually capture the individual dogs as they cross the finish line. The playback equipment must be able to view individual frames in a stop motion format. The use of video equipment shall be in a supplemental mode and will not replace the placing judges. If used, the following procedure must be used on each race.

1 The placing judges will call the race as usual. If there is a disagreement among the placing committee, they and only they may call a photo finish. When this happens, the race will be posted as a photo finish. The resolution of this race shall take place prior to the running of the next race.

2 All placing judges for that race will immediately proceed to the viewing area along with the video and video operator. When reviewing the video of the race in question, the video shall be reviewed so as to see the order of finish for all of the dogs in the race, and order of placement shall be assigned as viewed on the video for all dogs in that race. **Order of placement will be determined by which dog's muzzle crosses the finish line first, second, third, etc. No other body part shall be used to determine placement.**

3 Only the placing judges of that race and the video operator shall review the finish. After the placing judges review the video, they shall announce their results. These results shall become official and posted on the score board.

*Submitted by
Leanne Harrington*

PROPOSAL 5

Summary of the Proposal:

This proposal is to define the procedure to be used for any dog that runs in the wrong race.

Rationale:

Occasionally, a dog will run in the wrong race. There is nothing in the rules about how to treat this which could lead to inconsistency and confusion. The dog that runs too early received an unfair advantage by running in a lower race; therefore, that dog should receive zero points and last place for that race and the other placements and points adjusted accordingly. The dog whose place was taken should be given the option to run in the erring dog's place and earn race points according to its placement in that race.

Example: Dog #3 runs in the race before it was drawn. Order of race finish was 2, 3, 1, 4. Points and placements would be: #2 5 points, #1 3 points, #4 2 points, #3 0 points. The dog originally drawn as #3 may run in the following race and will earn whatever points its placement dictates.

Text of the sections of the document(s) to be added:

X. Operation of the Grading Guide

D. *Point Scoring*

PROGRAMS 1, 3, 4				PROGRAM 2			
High Point		All Other Races		High Point		All Other Races	
1st	8 pts	1st	5 pts	1st	5 pts	1st	5 pts

2nd	6 pts	2nd	3 pts	2nd	3 pts	2nd	3 pts
3rd	5 pts	3rd	2 pts	3rd	2½ pts	3rd	2 pts
4th	4 pts			4th	2 pts		
5th	3 pts			5th	1½ pts		
6th	2 pts			6th	1 pt		

1 **Dog that runs in the wrong race.** If a dog runs in a lower race than it was drawn in, that dog shall receive 0 points and last place for that race, and the remaining placements and points in that race will be adjusted accordingly. The dog whose place was taken has the option to run in the place of the erring dog and would accumulate any race points earned in that race.

*Submitted by
Leanne Harrington*

CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION NORTH AMERICAN WHIPPET RACING ASSOCIATION

It has been proposed to dissolve the North American Whippet Racing Association following the terms in the Constitution.

Rationale:

Pascale Jones, National Race Director of NAWRA, and Gregg Gammie , National Race Director of WRA, have led discussions between both clubs to propose a merger of these two organizations. Officers of WRA and NAWRA agree that it is time to merge these two organizations. There are many reasons that we feel it is time to go forward this proposal. Here are a few of them:

1. NAWRA is struggling as an organization and is financially in trouble
2. A merger would allow us to race our dogs on both coasts and have the points count towards their titles.
3. We would have one consolidated database for grading, points etc.
4. We would be able to share Nationals like it's done in NOTRA.

We realize there are some hot button issues that have prevented this from happening in the past, but feel we have come up with solutions to those issues:

1. First program race set up: a proposal has been submitted to WRA to allow individual clubs to decide how to set up the first program.
2. Measuring exemptions: a proposal has been submitted to allow the Measuring Exemption to continue in the merged organization.
3. Migrating points: a proposal is being drafted to allow migration of RCh, NRCh, and SR to carry over.
4. All Points earned towards a title will carry over to the same level of the equivalent WRA title. (CR, CRX, WRCh, WRChX)

By submitting the above proposals to WRA, this would more easily facilitate the transition to the single organization which will be WRA. To facilitate this, we can dissolve NAWRA as per the Constitution. This dissolution will be effective January 1, 2017.

Section VI Dissolution

The Association shall be dissolved and its affairs wound up by the vote or written consent of a seventy-five percent or more of its voting Members, and not otherwise.

Section VII Dedication of Assets and Distribution on Dissolution

(c) On the dissolution or winding up of this Association, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this Association shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for educational or recreational purposes relating to the Whippet breed, which as established its tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

*Submitted by
NAWRA Officers*