

*North American*

*Whippet Racing Association*



## **RACE RULES**

**VERSION 2009**

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# ***RACE RULES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WHIPPET RACING ASSOCIATION***

## **I. Purpose**

The North American Whippet Racing Association is organized for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the Whippet in its historic role as a well trained racer competing against other Whippets in organized straight racing events over uniform distance, held on a flat, natural surface; to improve the Whippet breed by encouraging and promoting Whippet racing in the United States and Canada; to issue rules, maintain records, and award Championship certificates to outstanding racing Whippets; and to promote friendship and understanding between Whippet owners and Whippet racing clubs.

## **II. Eligibility**

A. To be eligible to participate in the North American Whippet Racing Association Race Program, a Whippet must be individually registered to race as an adult, or litter registered to race as a puppy, by the American Kennel Club or the Canadian Kennel Club, and a copy of such registration must be filed with the Association's Registrar-Recordkeeper. Registration can be accomplished in two ways. One is to send a copy of the individual Whippet's registration papers (AKC or CKC) to the Registrar-Recordkeeper. A second way for the dog to be registered would be to give the race secretary a copy of the dog's registration papers on the day of the meet. A one-time fee of \$2.00 shall accompany each new registration and shall be paid at the time the Whippet enters its first race meet. The Whippet and Whippet owner must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club and/or Canadian Kennel Club, and not be barred by any National Kennel Club or Purebred Whippet Racing Association.

B. A Whippet not registered with the American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club must be registered in its country of birth and carry registration papers from said country. Further, it must meet the following additional requirements:

1 Possess and present to the National Race Director a "passport" issued by the Official Pedigree Whippet Racing Association from its country of origin stating that the Whippet is duly accredited and in good standing.

2 Possess and present to the National Race Director a certified pedigree showing five (5) generations, issued by the country of origin's National Kennel Club.

C. The Whippet must conform to the breed size standard.

D. To further the purposes set forth in Paragraph I. above, and to assure that the Whippets participating in this program are purebred, and that the pedigrees registered or offered for registration are correct, the National Race Director, at his or her discretion, may direct appropriate DNA testing be performed on any Whippet registered to race, or applying for such registration. Upon petition signed by four local race secretaries for such testing of a specific dog, the National Race Director shall direct such testing.

1 In the event the test(s) confirms the correctness of the pedigree, the National Race Director shall so advise the owner and breeder and all parties concerned. In the event the test(s) indicates the pedigree is incorrect, the dog and all offspring shall be permanently banned from participating in the race program.

2 In the event the owner of said dog refuses to allow testing, the owner shall be permanently banned from participating in the race program.

When the National Race Director believes an owner or breeder has willfully caused an incorrect pedigree to be offered for registration, or willfully conceals registration of an incorrect pedigree, he or she shall advise the owner or breeder, or both, in writing, of the charge. A panel of three persons from the Representative Members will be appointed to obtain all facts deemed pertinent by any party to the matter, and determine whether such person, and the dogs bred by that person, will be permitted to participate in the program. The procedure to select the panel is as follows:

At the time the person(s) charged is notified of the charge, the person(s) shall be sent a list of ten persons on the Representative Members and the person(s) charged may delete four of the names. The National Race Director shall select the three members of the panel from the remaining six names and set the date, time, and place for the hearing. After the hearing, the panel shall report its findings in writing to the National Race Director. If the panel finds misconduct, the National Race Director shall determine the sanction to be imposed.

E. All First Time Entered puppies or adults must be qualified to race by a Regional Race Director, Race Secretary or Race Practice Coordinator who has been so designated by the Race Secretary.

### **III. Program Duties and Responsibilities**

A. The National Race Director will establish the policy and, subject to approval of the Association's Representative Members, the rules of conduct of the Association's Race Program. The Club Members shall implement and enforce the Association's rules and policy when sponsoring a race meet.

B. The National Race Director shall select Regional Race Coordinators for each region. Regional Race Coordinators shall be responsible for scheduling race meets within their respective regions, and shall resolve race date conflicts within their region. The Regional Coordinators shall promptly notify the Registrar-Recordkeeper of each race scheduled within their region. Each club's race secretary shall have their dates submitted to their Regional Race Coordinator by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The National Race Director shall schedule a NAWRA National Race Meet annually. Any club wishing to host the following year's Nationals shall have their request submitted to the National Race Director on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>. The National Race Director shall announce the venue for the National Race Meet on or before November 15<sup>th</sup>. Any club requesting to host the Nationals shall have precedence for that date over any other club's priority dates. This will not affect the priority dates of clubs except for that one year.

C. The Rules Committee shall be determined as outlined in the NAWRA Bylaws, Section 6.02. Members of the Rules Committee shall forward proposed rule changes to the NAWRA Secretary-Treasurer by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare written ballots for the proposed rule changes and mail one ballot to each Representative Member, who shall vote promptly and return the marked ballot by mail to the Secretary-Treasurer. Amendments to the racing rules shall be by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the ballots cast.

D. The National Race Director, upon receiving a protest of a race meet, shall appoint a Protest Committee to hear, review and render a decision upon the merits of each protest filed against each race meet.

E. The Registrar-Recordkeeper shall issue registration numbers and maintain a file of each Whippet registered with the Association. A fee of \$2.00 shall be charged for initial registration of a Whippet, and a fee of \$1.00 shall be charged for a transfer of ownership. The Registrar-Recordkeeper shall maintain the official Racing Calendar, maintain and publish race results, prepare a Grading Guide for each meet for use by local Club Member race secretaries, and maintain a record of Whippets earning championship points and championships under the Association's rules.

F. Owner/Handler Responsibilities. All persons entering, participating in, or assisting at an approved Race Meet shall comply with the following Rules of Conduct:

1 All Whippets shall be securely leashed or crated unless racing. To avoid injury, accident or distraction of the racers, no dog will be allowed near the race track at any time, unless called to the paddock by the paddock official. No Whippet shall be tied and left unattended at any time. The Owner/Handler of an escaped Whippet shall be subject to a \$5.00 fine or dismissal of the Whippet, at the local Race Secretary's discretion.

- 2 The Owner/Handler shall examine the scoreboard to verify that the Whippet has been correctly entered (including trophy eligibility), determine its race and blanket number, arrange for its catcher, and have it in the paddock promptly when its race is called. Whippets not in the paddock at the finish of the second call may be considered scratched.
- 3 When the paddock official directs, all Whippets shall walk down the track to the starting box with muzzles and jackets on. No dog may be carried to the starting box.
- 4 After the Whippets are loaded in the starting box, the handler shall stay **behind** the starting box and off the track. No owner/handler is permitted to go to the front of the starting box or touch the lure or tease the Whippets. The Box Operator (or his designee) will tease the racers just prior to the commencement of the race.
- 5 All persons at the finish line shall stand off the track until the lure and all racers have stopped.
- 6 No bitch in season is permitted on the premises where the race meet is held.
- 7 No person may discuss or challenge the decision of any official except by direct complaint to the Race Secretary.
- 8 Owner/Handlers shall pick up after their Whippet, keep the grounds clean, and act at all times in a sportsmanlike manner.
- 9 Yelling or shouting in the vicinity of the race track while the Whippets are racing is strictly forbidden. Owner/Handlers shall be subject to a fine, not to exceed \$10.00, or dismissal of the Whippet, at the local Race Secretary's discretion.

#### **IV. Program Participation Requirements**

A Member Club putting on a race meet under the Association's sponsorship must meet the following 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 (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.

B. *Co-Sponsored Qualifying Race Meet.* As an alternate to Paragraph A above, a new Member Club which has not previously sponsored an official race meet may meet the qualifying requirement by co-sponsoring an approved race meet with another Member Club with the Member Club's Race Secretary and at least two other qualified officials in attendance.

C. *Approved Race Meet.* Member Clubs shall request race meet dates from the Regional Race Coordinator at least sixty (60) days prior to the date the event is scheduled. The request must specify the date, location and distance of the event. In the event a race meet is scheduled less than sixty (60) days prior to the event, it shall be the responsibility of the local Race Secretary to notify all Member Clubs of the race meet at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. The Regional Race Coordinator will forward each Member Club a current race calendar quarterly. If the requested date is approved by the Regional Race Coordinator, the Member Club shall mail a notice of the date, time and location of the race meet, together with an official entry form approved by the Association (included as a part of these Rules) to each local Whippet owner who may wish to participate. This race flyer shall specify that adult Whippets shall race 4 programs at 200 yards or 150 yards, and puppies shall race 3 programs at 150 yards. In the event of cancellation of a race meet, the local Race Secretary shall notify each entrant by letter or telephone at the earliest possible time. The race flyer shall also state whether the meet will be run in one day or on two consecutive days. Distance of the track may be changed on the day of the meet if the scheduled track cannot be set up safely due to problems of the field such as flooding, new obstacles recently installed, etc.

D. *Shortened Meet Due to Hazardous Conditions or Emergency.* An official meet shall consist of four (4) complete programs. However, three (3) programs would be acceptable but only in the event of severe weather or other racing conditions that would make further racing hazardous to the Whippets and/or their owners or in the event of an unexpected emergency at the racing venue. The reduction to only three (3) programs must be with the approval of the Race Secretary and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those participating at that meet. In addition, this would require approval by the NAWRA Officers on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will two (2) programs ever be considered an official 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:

2-14 Starters	SR points only
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 2-14 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).

To facilitate prompt updating of the Grading Guide, the Race Secretary of the Member Club sponsoring the race meet shall, within one business day of the race meet, send an email with the race results to the Registrar-Recordkeeper to include items number (1), (3) and (4) above.

## **V. Officials**

Each Member Club and local Race Secretary shall have well-trained officials assigned in advance to the following:

A. *Local Race Secretary.* The Race Secretary is solely responsible for the conduct of the race meet. Prior to commencement of the race meet, the Race Secretary shall appoint qualified persons to perform the necessary duties of the meet, and shall appoint a Race Committee of three persons to assist him in dealing with challenges. The members of the Race Committee shall be publicly announced prior to the commencement of racing.

B. *Inspection Committee.* The Race Secretary shall appoint three qualified people as Inspection Committee prior to commencement of the race meet. The Inspection Committee shall:

1 Measure each Whippet entered with measuring wickets to confirm that the Whippet is within the height limit set forth in the American Kennel Club and American Whippet Club Breed Standard. *“Ideal height for dogs, 19 to 22 inches; for bitches 18 to 21 inches, measured at the highest point of the withers. More than one-half inch above or below the stated limits will disqualify.”* When the wicket is 22½ inches for a dog (21½ for bitches) and the wicket touches the highest point of the withers, and the wicket comes off the ground, the Whippet measures out. The Inspection Committee shall use

four wickets at  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $18\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $21\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, and not less than 8 inches nor more than 11 inches in width. Measuring shall be done on a flat level surface. The Whippet shall be measured when the owner has posed it in a normal relaxed stance. Figure 1 shows the proper stance of the Whippet for measuring. The wicket will be placed over the center of the shoulder blades from the rear with wicket legs parallel to the Whippet's front legs. Each Whippet owner is entitled to two measuring procedures. An owner shall be allowed not more than two minutes to position their Whippet for measurement. No one shall be permitted to threaten or intimidate the Whippet being measured in order to get it to crouch. At the owner's request, the second measurement by the Inspection Committee may take place outside the presence of other Whippets. Any Whippet whose shoulder bones lift the wicket off the ground on the second measure shall be disqualified. Disqualification shall be determined by two of the three persons of the Inspection Committee.



Figure 1

The National Race Director may grant an exempt status from measuring to any Whippet age 2 years or more which has participated in 30 race meets. Whippets meeting the necessary qualifications are noted in the Grading Guide. Also exempt from measurement are dogs who raced and measured the previous day at back-to-back NAWRA meets held at the same venue.

2 Inspect each Whippet to determine that it is healthy and able to race and, in the case of bitches, to determine that it is not in season. A Whippet showing visible evidence of injury or illness (including, but not limited to, bloody stools), or a bitch showing visible evidence of being in season, shall not be permitted to race. No Whippet which has been administered narcotics or stimulants shall be permitted to run.

C. *Scorekeeper.* The Race Secretary shall appoint a Scorekeeper who will record the placements communicated by the Head Place Judge in the records of the race meet and on the scoreboard. The Scorekeeper shall also announce the Whippets for each race and shall direct them to the starting box when they are properly blanketed and muzzled, after the starting box operator has signaled his readiness. Where there are sufficient people available, one person may be appointed Scorekeeper and another person may be appointed Paddock Judge. All Whippets shall exit the paddock area

onto the track as directed, and shall proceed as a group to the starting box. The Scorekeeper/Paddock Judge shall not permit a Whippet to race unless it wears a muzzle that is acceptable and in good condition.

D. *Box Operator.* Prior to the Whippets leaving for the box, the Box Operator shall close the box and place the lure in a spot marked by paint on the grass on the course eight feet in front of the center of the starting box. Slack in the lure shall be placed directly behind the lure so that the Whippets do not see the line when the lure starts. Whippets shall be loaded into the starting box in numerical order when all contestants have reached the rear of the starting box. The Box Operator shall open the rear gate and the owner or handler shall promptly place the Whippet into the starting box. After all Whippets have been loaded into the starting box, the Box Operator shall tease all Whippets with the lure and verify that all racers are still facing forward and are properly muzzled, then replace the lure in the marked spot. The Whippets shall be teased with the lure at the spot where the lure is to start. Teasing shall not be done in front of each individual box. If the Box Operator observes that a muzzle is broken or a race jacket is pulled off, he must hold up the race until the problem is corrected. A dog that is turned around in the box gets only one chance to be taken out of the box and reloaded. If a delay of more than a few seconds is necessary, all dogs shall be removed from the starting box by their handlers. After teasing the dogs, the Box Operator shall promptly signal the Lure Operator to start the lure. The Box Operator shall open the starting box at the very instant the lure starts to move down the track. When teasing the dogs, the Box Operator shall not delay the start of a race more than a few seconds because an adequately trained Whippet has turned around in the starting box.

Where there are sufficient people available, two Box Operators may be appointed to operate the starting box.

E. *Lure Operator.* The lure equipment shall not be tested, nor the lure moved, until measuring and inspection have been completed. The lure operator shall examine the lure machine to assure its proper operation after the lure has been taken to the starting box. The lure operator shall endeavor to keep the lure approximately 25 to 30 feet ahead of the lead Whippet. The lure operator shall endeavor to operate the lure as smoothly as possible down the course, and shall continue the lure past the finish line at full speed. If possible, the lure should not be stopped until the last Whippet has crossed the finish line.

F. *Foul Judges.* The Race Secretary shall assure that there are three (3) qualified foul judges observing each race. The Race Secretary may appoint a Head Foul Judge to assure that there are three (3) qualified foul judges observing each race. The foul judges shall stand along the side of the track as follows: for 200 yard race meets, at approximately 50 yards, 100 yards, and 190 yards from the starting box (the latter is, therefore, 10 yards forward of the finish line); and for 150 yard meets at approximately 35 yards, 70 yards and 140 yards from the starting box. At small meets where staffing official positions is difficult, the Race Secretary may designate the Box

Operator as a third foul judge who would be substituting for the judge at the 50 yard position. The Box Operator option should be considered a last resort option and used only on a race by race basis. Foul judges may, at their own discretion, use binoculars. Prior to discussing the foul with other foul judges or the Race Secretary, each foul judge shall write the foul on the foul judge report form. Then each foul judge shall go directly to the Race Secretary or Head Foul Judge (if one has been appointed) and show the written report. If two or more foul judges have written up the same foul, then the Race Secretary shall issue a notice of disqualification to the owner/handler of the Whippet stating the foul committed and the race/program that it occurred.

G. *Place Judges.* The Race Secretary shall appoint a Head Place Judge, who will assure that there are the necessary qualified place judges for each race. Whippet owners may act as judges but shall not judge when their own dogs are competing. There shall be six (6) place judges for adult Grade A and High Point Races and at least four (4) judges for all other races. There shall always be a matching number of judges on each side of the finish line. Each place judge shall write placements *by number* on the finish line report form immediately after each race and the Head Place Judge shall record the results. The decision of a majority of place judges shall determine placement; however, in the event there is no majority, the dogs involved shall be tied. Judges shall not discuss their decisions with owners or spectators. When the head Place Judge communicates the placements to the Scorekeeper, this decision shall be final and shall not be reversed.

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 amongst the placing committee, they and only them 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.

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.

## **VI. Disqualifications**

A. Any Whippet who fouls another racer by unnecessary, intentional bumping, fighting, riding or interference (intentional interference) shall be disqualified from all placements in the race where the foul was committed, and shall be disqualified from further participation in the race meet. Racing points earned prior to the foul shall be allowed.

B. Any puppy or adult Whippet disqualified twice for intentional interference in a calendar year will be barred from racing for the remainder of the calendar year after the second disqualification. Should an adult Whippet with two disqualifications in one year return to racing after the ban has expired, and be disqualified for intentional interference a third time, said Whippet shall be permanently barred from all future racing. A Whippet which has been disqualified for a foul may have one (1) foul rescinded by racing cleanly for one (1) calendar year from the date of the foul. Whippets on suspension or permanently barred due to disqualification, will be so noted in the grading guide. The grading guide will also note the date suspensions expire where applicable.

## **VII. Dismissals**

At the discretion of the Race Committee, Whippets may be dismissed from the race meet where their owner makes frivolous claims of foul; or where their owner walks a Whippet on the track area while a race is in progress and causes interference with the race; or where an owner or handler approaches the front of the starting box or touches the lure after the Whippets are loaded (unless specifically directed to do so by the box operator); or where the owner or handler does anything to attempt to take unfair advantage of other Whippets; or where the owner or handler loses control of his Whippet and it enters the track while a race is in progress; or where the owner engages in gross misconduct (including, but not limited to fighting, swearing, or public intoxication); or other misconduct detrimental to the North American Whippet Racing Association, the host club, or the sport of Whippet racing. The Race Secretary or the scorekeeper, at their discretion, may dismiss a Whippet whose muzzle is not in good condition, is a hazard to other racers, or comes off in two races. A Whippet that does not start in one program is automatically scratched from all subsequent programs. A Whippet that runs off course or does not finish twice in the same race meet shall be dismissed from further racing at that meet.

## **VIII. Rerunning of a Race**

A race shall be rerun if any Whippet catches or passes the lure at any point from the starting box to the finish line. A race shall be rerun if the starting box fails to open properly, giving any starter an unfair advantage. A race shall be rerun if there is outside interference which affects placement of the racers. At the race committee's discretion, a race may be rerun on extremely rare occasions where there is extreme interference involving several Whippets in a race and which affects the placement of the racers.

There shall be a rest period of at least 10 minutes prior to the rerunning of the race. There shall be a rest period of at least 15 minutes prior to the second rerunning of the race. A race shall not be rerun, nor shall a Whippet be placed in a substitute race, if a Whippet is left out of a program for any reason.

#### **IX. Protest Procedures**

A person racing a Whippet at a race meet held under these rules has the right to lodge a protest by writing to the National Race Director if such person was unable to resolve the complaint with the local Race Secretary. A \$25.00 check, payable to the National Race Director, shall accompany the complaint within ten (10) days of the race meet. This deposit shall be refunded if the protest is upheld. The protest shall be adjudicated before championship points can be awarded.

#### **X. Operation of the Grading Guide**

The objective of the grading system is to match adult Whippets against each other by a point system based on racing ability. The racing average shall be based on a computer-weighted average of the points earned in its last three (3) races. The weighted average (WAVE) is calculated using the following. The basic formula is  $[(\text{Meet } 1) + 0.7 (\text{Meet } 2) + 0.5(\text{Meet } 3)]/2.2$ , where Meet 1 is the most recent meet and Meet 3 is the oldest. Only completed meets are used for calculating the WAVE; scratches shall not be counted. If only 2 meets were run or one was a scratch, then the formula is  $[(\text{Meet } 1) + 0.7(\text{Meet } 2)]/1.7$ . If only one meet was completed or the dog ran in only one meet, then the WAVE is the score earned in that one meet. Racers shall not be divided by sex or any other factor. The order of racing shall be: Puppies first, then from the order of national ranking according to the set-up charts below. Adult racers are usually fourteen months of age or older, but a puppy of eight months of age may be entered as an adult. At age 14 months, the Whippet must run as an adult. Once a puppy has raced as an adult, it cannot race again as a puppy.

A. *Grading Principles.* All adult Whippets shall have a grade classification of A, B, C, or D, in the first program of a meet using graded races. Grades are determined by a computer-weighted average of the points earned in the last three (3) meets. If a Whippet has completed less than 3 meets, it shall be graded on its weighted average for the meets in which it did compete. If the Whippet is an experienced racer in another like sanction, i.e., WRA or CWA, and is first time entered in NAWRA, the Whippet will be seeded as the same grade it ranks in that like sanction. In preparing for the draw, the Race Secretary shall arrange the Whippets in numerical sequence by weighted averages and rank. In drawing the Whippets, the Race Secretary shall first seed the Whippets according to Paragraph X.B., below. A Whippet which has never raced as an adult shall start in Grade D. The point-grade guideline is:

<b><u>Point Average, 3 Races</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>
15.0 +	A
11.0 to 14.9	B
7.0 to 10.9	C
0.0 to 6.9 and First Time Entered	D

The grading guide issued by the Association indicates the grade and rating of all experienced racers based upon these criteria.

#### 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. 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. 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.

C. Rotation by Points. After the first program, Whippets are grouped and rotated by cumulative points earned to determine each Whippet's race number. When redrawing the scoreboard, each Whippet will be removed from the board in sequence from the highest race and highest points to the lowest race and least points. Where two or more Whippets have received equal total points, they will be removed from the board in the sequence of their finish, the closest placement being removed first. If a dog finishes in last place in the high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the semi-feature race, the winner of the semi-feature will move up to the high point race and the last place finisher will move down to the semi-feature race. This applies to both adult and puppy races. The High Point Race shall have 6 starters and the boxes in the remaining races shall have as many boxes filled as possible. A Race Set-up Chart is included in these rules to assist the scorekeeper in redrawing the scoreboard correctly.

## 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		

In determining the final placement standing, Whippets shall be drawn from the scoreboard in descending numerical sequence based upon total points earned in the meet. There shall be no ties in determining final placement. If there is a tie in total points, the racer which ran in the more difficult race in the final program will be awarded the higher placement. If there is a tie in total points within a race, ranking within that race shall be by order of finish. Scratched Whippets shall be placed by points earned but beneath Whippets with the same number of points who completed all 4 programs.

E. Puppy Races. Puppy races shall be run at 150 yards distance and 3 programs per meet.

1 Age. To participate in the puppy race program, a Whippet shall be not less than 8 months old. A Whippet who is 14 months or older must run as an adult. No Whippet shall be permitted to race as both an adult and a puppy in the same race meet. A puppy that has raced as an adult in an official race meet is thereafter prohibited from racing as a puppy.

2 Post position. Where possible, puppies shall be grouped by age. Where possible, puppies kenneled together or owned by the same owner should be placed in separate races or, if they must race in the same race, they shall be separated. Post positions in the first program will be determined by random draw with a maximum of 4 puppies in each race. Post positions in subsequent races shall be determined by cumulative points. The number of puppy races and dogs per race shall be determined by the Race Set-up Chart.

### 3 Rotation by points.

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

F. **Trophies and Awards.** Each Member Club offering racing under the Association's program may select its own trophies and awards. Emphasis should be on rewarding performance and awards for high score/high score BOS in grade, and top ten should be considered, as well as other special categories. There shall be no ties in determining final placement. If there is a tie in total points, the racer which ran in the more difficult race in the final program will be awarded the higher placement. If there is a tie in total points within a race, ranking within that race shall be by order of finish. A racer that does not finish all programs shall be placed at the bottom of those racers with equal point totals. This provision will not affect awarding or splitting of Championship Points or National Points. A Whippet 6 years or older shall be considered a veteran racer.

## XI. Race Track and Equipment

A. **Race Track.** The race track shall be a straight, flat surface of 200 yards or 150 yards, plus an additional 40 yards past the finish line, if possible, but in no event less than 25 yards. The surface of the racetrack may be of any texture or substance, providing that the surface will not cause injury to the Whippet's pads and feet, or impede its natural running stride. Natural surfaces, such as turf, sod or soft dirt, are preferred. The race track shall not be less than 20 feet in width at the starting box and not less than 30 feet in width at the finish line, if possible, but in no event less than 25 feet in width. These are minimum widths and wider tracks are preferred when possible, to allow the Whippets more freedom of stride and to reduce bodily contact. Where possible, rope and stake rails should be used to prevent spectators from entering onto the racetrack. If, for unavoidable reasons, the location of a scheduled race meet must be changed, the race meet may proceed at the new location provided the Whippet owners present are willing to race under conditions then existing at the new location and provided there are a minimum of 20 adult Whippets starting.

B. **Paddock and Scoreboard Area.** The paddock should be set in a centrally located area a short distance from the race track for convenience of the handlers. The paddock boundaries should be marked by bunting, ribbon or rope, and should have

sufficient room for blanketing of Whippets. A section of the paddock should be set aside for the use of the scorekeeper and for the scoreboard. The scoreboard and identifying plates should be large enough so that owners and handlers may easily identify their post positions and heat. The identifying plates shall display the registered name, or a significantly identifiable part of the registered name, of the Whippet; its ranking as set forth in the most current grading guide; and cumulative points earned. A loudspeaker should be available for the scorekeeper to use in announcing each race. A program and scoresheets should be available.

C. *Race Blankets.* The club sponsoring the race meet must have race blankets available for use. Colors must be pure. Numbers should be large and placed where they will be visible when viewed from the side. Blankets with faded colors shall not be allowed. The blankets and ties should allow the Whippet to run freely without interference. The blanket should cover the Whippet from the shoulder blade to just past the ribs. Ties may be of any type but use of velcro tabs is encouraged. Only the following colors and numbers shall be used:

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| #1 Red Blanket, white number   | #4 Green Blanket, white number  |
| #2 Blue Blanket, white number  | #5 Black Blanket, white number  |
| #3 White Blanket, black number | #6 Yellow Blanket, black number |

D. *Muzzles.* All Whippets must wear muzzles while racing. Muzzles should be a box type which allows full freedom for the Whippet to open its mouth while racing, but which prevents it from biting. Muzzles may be made of leather or plastic. Light wire muzzles, such as those imported from England and covered with a heavy rubber or plastic coating, are acceptable, as are the Lupo-type greyhound muzzles. Muzzles with sharp corners, wires or projections, or which display an obvious potential for injury, are prohibited. Muzzles shall be worn from the time the Whippet leaves the paddock for the starting box until the race is completed. When a Whippet that uses a wire muzzles has proven itself to be aggressive on the finish line by conduct such as seizing the lure through its muzzle and refusing to release it, it will be required to use a Lupo-type greyhound muzzle.

E. *Lure and Lure Machine.* The lure machine shall be battery driven and capable of pulling a lure at a consistently smooth and steady pace 25 to 30 feet ahead of the Whippets. Back-up batteries and lure machine must be available. The lure shall contain or be accompanied by a predator call or squawker such as sold by the National Greyhound Association. The lure shall be made of real or synthetic fur and shall be large enough to be sighted at all times, and travel a straight path. White rags or plastic bags may be a part of the lure to improve its visibility or weight, but the lure should contain some real fur, preferably rabbit skin. The lure shall be replaced if it becomes dusty, muddy, or takes on the same color as the race track. Any slack in the lure line shall be placed directly behind the lure so that the Whippets do not see the line move when the lure starts.

F. *Starting Box.* The starting box shall have 6 individual starting slots. The front gate shall cover all the starting slots and shall lift up and over the starting box when opening. The front gate shall be made of metal tubing and the lower 10" shall be made of 1" hollow metal tubing with not more than 1" spacing between the bars. The loading gates shall slide up to admit the Whippet and shall allow for a 2" space at the bottom so that it cannot crush the tail. The loading gates shall be numbered, 1 through 6, from the left. The floor of the starting box shall be covered with a nonskid material to prevent the Whippet from slipping when springing from the starting box. Starting boxes should be made of lightweight material and should be sturdy but portable.

## **XII. Discipline**

A. Upon proper notice to the National Race Director, the Association shall honor disciplinary rulings imposed by Member Clubs, by national Whippet or sighthound organizations, and by the American Kennel Club.

B. When the National Race Director believes a person has engaged in intentional misconduct detrimental to the Association or a Member Club, he or she shall advise such person, in writing, of the charge, and that a panel of three persons from the Representative Members will be appointed to obtain all facts deemed pertinent by any party to the matter, and to decide whether such person will be permitted to participate in the program. The procedure to select the panel is as follows: At the time the person charged is notified of the charge, the person shall be sent a list of 10 Representative Members and the person charged may delete 4 of the names. The National Race Director shall select the 3 members of the panel from the remaining 6 names and set the date, time and place of the hearing. After the hearing, the panel shall report its findings, in writing, to the National Race Director. If the panel finds misconduct, the National Race Director shall determine the sanction to be imposed.

## **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 which do not have a North American Whippet Racing Association Championship Certificate. Award of Racing Merit points earned prior to March 19, 1988, by unfinished Whippets shall be counted as Championship Points towards the 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:

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

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:

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

C. *Certificate of Show & Racing Excellence (SRE)*. Whippets that have completed their American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club conformation championships shall be eligible to earn a Certificate of Show & Racing Excellence (SRE). These Whippets run in the regular race program and are awarded SRE points based upon order of finish and number of Show Champion starters.

To be eligible to compete for an SRE, the Whippet must have (a) completed its AKC or CKC show championship and; (b) met all requirements to participate in the Association's Race Program. Whippets holding an RCh title are not eligible for SRE points, but add to the number of Show Champion starters at a meet.

To earn the SRE, the eligible Whippet must earn 12 SRE points. The awarding of points shall be per the following chart:

<b>AKC or CKC Show Ch Starters</b>	<b>High Score</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Score</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Score</b>
2-3	1.0	0.5	0.0
4-6	2.0	1.0	0.0
7-10	3.0	1.5	0.5
11-15	4.0	2.0	1.0
16-21	5.0	3.0	1.5
22 & Over	6.0	4.0	2.0

Owners are solely responsible for record keeping of SRE points. When an SRE title is completed, the owner must submit to the Registrar-Recordkeeper the following:

1. Copy of AKC/CKC Champion Certificate.
2. Dates and Locations of NAWRA meets entered where SRE points were earned.
3. Names of Show Champion starters at each meet.

*D. Sprint Racer (SR) and Sprint Racer of Merit (SRM).* The title of Sprint Racer (SR) is awarded when a whippet earns 50 SR points; the titles of Sprint Racer of Merit (SRM) and multiples (SRM2, SRM3, etc.) are awarded with each ADDITIONAL 100 SR points. These titles are listed as a suffix to the registered name of the hound, but only one such title may be used at any one time. The SRM replaces the SR, the SRM2 replaces the SRM; the championship title (RCh) replaces all Sprint Racer titles and the recording of SR points is discontinued when the hound earns the NAWRA championship title (RCh).

Hounds must compete in all scheduled programs in order to earn SR points. An SR point is earned for each dog defeated in the final order of finish up to a maximum of 10 SR points per meet.

SR points will be recorded by the Registrar-Recorder and presented on the NAWRA web site. SR points earned during the 2001 season will be tabulated and "grandfathered" in, but no records prior to January 2001 will be considered. Completed SR and SRM awards will be listed on the NAWRA web site. Certificates documenting the completion of these titles may be purchased from NAWRA.

## **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 which 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.

**RACE SET-UP CHART**

1. Positions shall be selected by random draw in all programs. Racers shall be grouped according to the Grading Guide in the first program.
2. After the first program, this Race Set-up Chart shall be followed.
3. For 3-dog races, blankets #1, #3 and #5 shall be used. For 4-dog races, blankets #1, #3, #4 and #6 shall be used. For 5-dog races, blankets #1, #2, #4, #5 and #6 shall be used.

**4-24 Puppies  
(High Point is Race 1)**

#	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	4					
5	3	2				
6	3	3				
7	4	3				
8	4	4				
9	3	3	3			
10	4	3	3			
11	4	3	4			
12	4	4	4			
13	4	3	3	3		
14	4	3	3	4		
15	4	4	3	4		
16	4	4	4	4		
17	4	3	3	3	4	
18	4	4	3	3	4	
19	4	4	4	3	4	
20	4	4	4	4	4	
21	4	4	3	3	3	4
22	4	4	4	3	3	4
23	4	4	4	4	3	4
24	4	4	4	4	4	4

**Less than 15 Adults. All Programs  
(High Point is Race 1)**

2	2		
3	3		
4	4		
5	5		
6	6		
7	4	3	
8	5	3	
9	6	3	
10	6	4	
11	6	5	
12	6	6	
13	6	3	4
14	6	4	4

**15 to 70 Adults, All Programs  
(High Point is Race 1; Race 12 is lowest)**

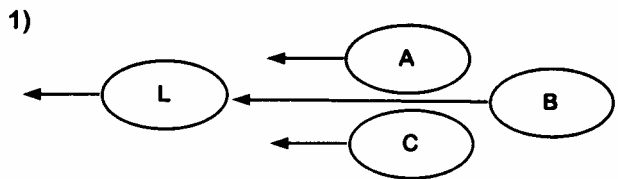
#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	6	4	5									
16	6	5	5									
17	6	5	6									
18	6	6	6									
19	6	4	4	5								
20	6	5	4	5								
21	6	5	5	5								
22	6	5	5	6								
23	6	6	5	6								
24	6	6	6	6								
25	6	5	5	4	5							
26	6	5	5	5	5							
27	6	5	5	5	6							
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31	6	5	5	5	5	5						
32	6	5	5	5	5	6						
33	6	6	5	5	5	6						
34	6	6	6	5	5	6						
35	6	6	6	6	5	6						
36	6	6	6	6	6	6						
37	6	5	5	5	5	5	6					
38	6	6	5	5	5	5	6					
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41	6	6	6	6	6	5	6					
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46	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6				
47	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6				
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49	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6			
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55	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6		
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57	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	6		
58	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6		
59	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6		
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64	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	
65	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	
66	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
67	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6
68	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	6
69	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	6
70	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6

# LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT

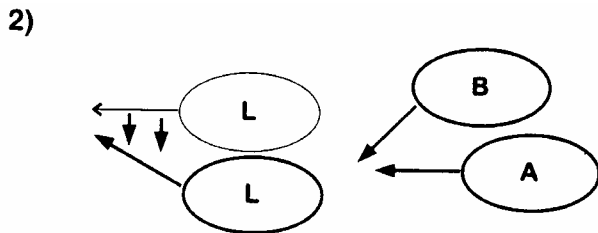
by Bill Turpin, Jr.

"To bump or not to bump. That is the question." . . . . . and one that must be met and solved in a flair and conscientious manner if Whippet racing in North America is to continue its present healthy growth.

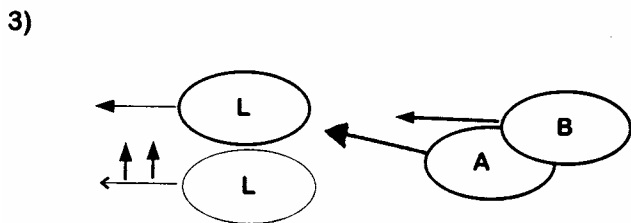
To disqualify a dog which illegally interferes with another during the running of a race is not an example of "winning at any cost" or poor sportsmanship, It must be a necessity if the standard of Whippet racing is to improve. However, it is not this point which is difficult to accept, but rather the definition and ultimate judgment of interference itself. If greater understanding and acceptance of this latter point can be promoted, then considerable grief and hurt feelings most certainly will be avoided in the future. The Official Rules and Regulations for National Whippet Racing state, "Any Whippet who fouls other racers based on unnecessary bumping, fighting, riding, or interfering will be disqualified from all placements in the race where the foul was committed." Here is the crux of the matter then, for while some people choose to ignore all interference short of a knock-down-drag-out brawl, others consider any form of contact one dog makes with another to be a foul. Between these two extremes lies the answer to the problem at hand. To judge whether a dog fouls is to judge whether the dog is "running the lure" or simply "running the other dog." So long as a dog chases the lure only it cannot foul another dog. some of the more common cases of **legal bumping** are:



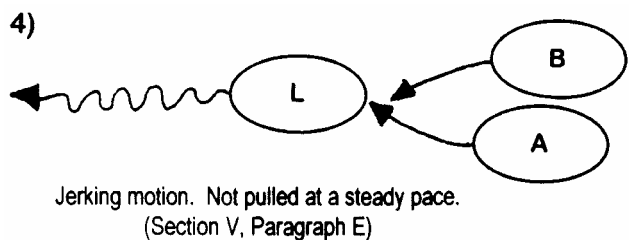
Dog B runs between dogs A and C in chasing the lure and, in doing so, bumps dogs A and C. However, dog B does not turn his head but simply takes the shortest route to the lure. ***This is legal bumping.***



The lure bounces, as indicated in the diagram, and dog B, who was in the act of passing dog A at the time the lure moved, cuts in front of A, possibly hitting him in the process but still attempts to run the shortest path to the lure. ***This is legal bumping.***

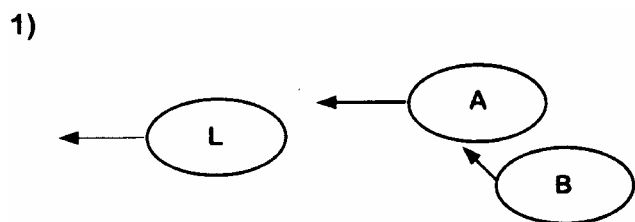


Dog B tries to go over dog A. This is a rare incident but it may be a legitimate attempt to catch the lure. It may be caused by a sudden shift in the direction of the lure followed by dog A cutting in front of dog B who is in mid-stride. In judging a case such as this, one should consider the collision to be "innocent" if dog B continues after the lure and ignores dog A after the collision. ***This is legal bumping.***

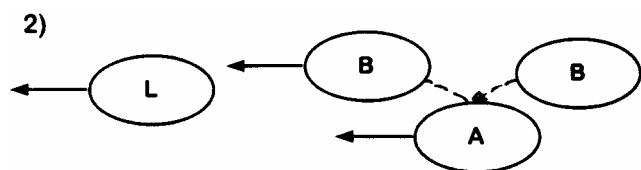


Lure is jerked, stepped and started too close to the front dog. Front dog checks, the rest of the dogs are close, moving in all directions. Heads turn and contact is made. **This is legal bumping.**

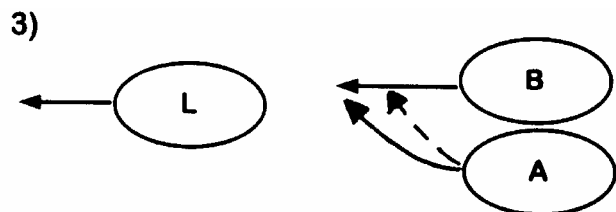
What about illegal interference? Some of the most common cases are:



Dog B “rides dog A, that is, dog B makes no attempt to pass dog A but, instead, tries to force him off the track or away from the lure thus impeding dog A’s speed and direction. **This is a disqualifying foul.**



Dog B swerves from his path to the lure, hits dog A once or several times, then continues after the lure. This is usually obvious since the dog committing the foul will “turn his head” or look before running at and hitting the other dog. **This is a disqualifying foul.**



Dog B attempts to pass dog A. Dog A cuts in front of dog B, hitting him once or repeatedly, to prevent B from reaching the lure first. Again, a head turn is usually obvious in such a situation. **This is a disqualifying foul.**

While these are the most common instances of “bumping,” there is one further case which requires comment here. This is the case where a dog “turns its head” but doesn’t actually interfere with the progress of the another dog. While the intent to foul may be there, the dog should not be disqualified unless it actually interferes.

Racing secretaries should, whenever possible, acquaint new Whippet owners with the aforementioned facts on interference and help them develop training programs for their novice race dogs, thereby preventing such dogs from becoming possible “bumpers.”

Finally, if one is judging fouls and any doubt arises as to whether a foul was committed, such a foul should not be called. Similarly, if the judge is certain a foul was committed, he should report it to the racing secretary without hesitation.

