

**22 clubs eligible to vote, 18 votes received,
12 VOTES = 2/3.**

Proposal R-1

PASS 15 FOR 2 AGAINST

Section 1.0; subsection 1.2 Whippets Eligible to Participate in the WRA's Racing Program; items 1, and 5, with restructuring item 1 into 2 sections, and making the subsections numbered items.

Original wording:

? Whippet must be registered by the American Kennel Club or The Canadian Kennel Club. A Whippet with a foreign registration (and a certified COO pedigree of three generations) shall be issued a temporary WRA registry, and be allowed to race for a period of six (6) months, subject to receiving AKC registration. This temporary registry may be extended for a period of three (3) months. No further extensions will be permitted. Any points toward a WRCh, or WRChX under the temporary registry shall be awarded to the dog upon receipt of its AKC registration. In the event that the dog is not AKC registered within the maximum nine (9) month time frame, any WRCh/WRChX points garnered by said dog shall then be awarded to the 2nd place dog (and on down the line of winners) in the meet(s) in which the points were awarded.

? Any disqualification covered in the AKC Whippet Standard of the Breed, or any AKC disqualification, applies to any Whippet racing in a WRA meet.

? Prior to the first WRA Practice or official WRA Meet in which a Whippet will participate, a copy of the AKC or CKC registration and \$2.00 registration fee should be sent to the Registrar/Recorder. However, the copy of the Whippet's registration may be sent with the race results by the Club Secretary. A litter registration number will be accepted on Whippet racers 8 to 14 months of age for entries in the puppy class only, but at the adult level, 14 months, an individual registration number is required.

? The person entering a Whippet for racing, must be the owner of the Whippet, or be the authorized agent for said Whippet, or be in possession of the AKC papers transferring the ownership to the name of the person entering the Whippet for racing.

? Whippets carrying Indefinite Listing Papers (ILP) are NOT eligible to run in the WRA Program.

? Spayed/Neutered Whippets are eligible to run in all WRA events.

? Whippets with the following AKC or WRA disqualifications may be raced only when they have been spayed or neutered.

? Blue or China Colored Eyes.

? Undershot Jaw.

- ? Overshot Jaw [One-Quarter (1/4) inch or more.]
- ? Deafness.

A veterinarian's certificate, signed and dated, must be presented to the inspection committee each time the Whippet is inspected for a race meet. Any Whippet which is found to have raced at any WRA race meet under false neutering papers will automatically have all titles and points toward all titles revoked. Any WRCh or WRChX points will be assigned to the next Whippet in line for the points. The number of WRCh and WRChX points for the race meet will be unaffected by a Whippets revocation.

Proposed wording:

1. Whippet must be registered by the American Kennel Club, **the United Kennel Club**, or the Canadian Kennel Club.
2. A Whippet with a foreign registration (and a certified COO pedigree of three generations) shall be issued a temporary WRA registry, and be allowed to race for a period of six (6) months, subject to receiving AKC, **UKC or CKC** registration. This temporary registry may be extended for a period of three (3) months. No further extensions will be permitted. Any points toward a WRCh, or WRChX under the temporary registry shall be awarded to the dog upon receipt of its AKC, **UKC or CKC** registration. In the event that the dog is not AKC, **UKC or CKC** registered within the maximum nine (9) month time frame, any WRCh/WRChX points garnered by said dog shall then be awarded to the 2nd place dog (and on down the line of winners) in the meet(s) in which the points were awarded.
3. Any disqualification covered in the AKC Whippet Standard of the Breed, or any AKC disqualification, applies to any Whippet racing in a WRA meet.
4. Prior to the first WRA Practice or official WRA Meet in which a Whippet will participate, a copy of the **AKC, CKC, or UKC** registration and \$2.00 registration fee should be sent to the Registrar/Recorder. However, the copy of the Whippet's registration may be sent with the race results by the Club Secretary. A litter registration number will be accepted on Whippet racers 8 to 14 months of age for entries in the puppy class only, but at the adult level, 14 months, an individual registration number is required.
5. The person entering a Whippet for racing, must be the owner of the Whippet, or be the authorized agent for said Whippet, or be in possession of the AKC papers transferring the ownership to the name of the person entering the Whippet for racing.
6. Whippets carrying Indefinite Listing Papers (ILP), **from the AKC, a Limited Privilege Listing (PL) from the UKC, or a Performance Event Number (PEN) from the CKC** are NOT eligible to run in the WRA Program.
7. Spayed/Neutered Whippets are eligible to run in all WRA events.

8. Whippets with the following AKC or WRA disqualifications may be raced only when they have been spayed or neutered.

- ? Blue or China Colored Eyes.
- ? Undershot Jaw.
- ? Overshot Jaw [One-Quarter (1/4) inch or more.]
- ? Deafness.

A veterinarian's certificate, signed and dated, must be presented to the inspection committee each time the Whippet is inspected for a race meet. Any Whippet which is found to have raced at any WRA race meet under false neutering papers will automatically have all titles and points toward all titles revoked. Any WRCh or WRChX points will be assigned to the next Whippet in line for the points. The number of WRCh and WRChX points for the race meet will be unaffected by a Whippets revocation.

Rationale: As the AKC continues to make political decisions contrary to the interests of many owners, the United Kennel Club is becoming seen as a viable registration alternative for the purebred dog. This is of particular interest to the owners of performance dogs, as the UKC stresses the importance of the performance aspect of the breeds. (More information is available on the UKC website: <http://www.ukcdogs.com>)

Adding the UKC to the list of acceptable registries would offer the owners of performance whippets an alternative registry option.

Secretary's note: This is a LONG proposal, but the ONLY changes are in items 1, 2, 4 and 6.

[From the UKC website, the definition of their ILP equivalent program.](#)

"For purebred dogs of unknown pedigree and for mixed bred dogs. Dogs may enter obedience, agility, weight pull or dog sports programs. Purebred dogs of the Gun Dog Group may also enter Hunting Retriever events. Dogs must be spayed or neutered."

[From the CKC website, the definition of their ILP equivalent program.](#)

"A PEN number allows an unregistrable dog of a CKC recognized breed to participate in competitive events that are appropriate for the breed. To apply for a PEN, you must complete a CKC Performance Event Number Application and submit the form along with the following requirements:"

Proposal R-2

PASS 18 FOR 0 AGAINST

Section 2.0 Requirements; subsection 2.1 Requirements for WRA Racing; item 2.

Original wording:

Any group or club interested in participating in the WRA sponsored Racing and the Whippet Race Champion (WRCh) programs must demonstrate to the National Race Director the ability to fulfill the requirements of the program as listed in The Official Rules and Regulations, by:

1. Conducting a qualifying WRA Race Meet.
2. Have sponsored National Point Racing under the rules set forth by the AWC prior to 4/10/96, and within two years of the request.
3. Have been granted a waiver of the requirement for a qualifying meet by the NRD using the below listed criteria.

Proposed wording:

Delete item 2, and move item #3 up to item #2.

1. Conducting a qualifying WRA Race Meet.
2. Have been granted a waiver of the requirement for a qualifying meet by the NRD using the below listed criteria.

Rationale: Housekeeping. This is an obsolete statement, and could only have been effective during the first two years of WRA racing.

Proposal R-3

**FAIL 9 FOR 7 AGAINST
2 ABSTAIN**

Section 2.0 Requirements; subsection 2.1 Requirements for WRA Racing; add new item 3.

Proposed wording:

3. Every club wishing to hold WRA meets, shall have liability insurance in their name before being approved to hold meets, and shall furnish proof of such, annually, to the WRA. Proof of such insurance will be required before a meet can be approved and put on the schedule.

Rationale: Most, if not all, of the parent associations which allow clubs to hold events in the US require those sponsoring clubs to have insurance. This will bring WRA in line with what other parent/sponsoring associations require.

Proposal R-4

FAIL 3 FOR 15 AGAINST

Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties; subsection 3.2 Inspection Committee; subsection 3.2.2 Measuring; subsection 3.2.2.1 Purpose; add new subsection for Regional Passports.

3.2.2 Measuring

Original wording:

3.2.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of Measuring is to determine through the use of the wicket whether the Whippet is within the height limits as described in the Whippet Standard of the Breed, "19 to 22 inches for dogs"; "18 to 21 inches for bitches" as measured across the shoulders at the highest point. More than One Half inch above or below the above stated measurements will disqualify.

Proposed wording:

3.2.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of Measuring is to determine through the use of the wicket whether the Whippet is within the height limits as described in the Whippet Standard of the Breed, "19 to 22 inches for dogs"; "18 to 21 inches for bitches" as measured across the shoulders at the highest point. More than One Half inch above or below the above stated measurements will disqualify.

(1) Regional Passports

Regions are permitted to have a Regional Passport, valid only within the Region. A Region will determine the details internally, passports may differ from region to region.

Rationale: This is a vote to allow a Region to vote to allow that Region to have local, Regional passport. Details to be determined by the Region at a later vote.

Proposal R-5

PASS 18 FOR 0 AGAINST

Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties, subsection 3.2.2 Measuring; subsection 3.2.2.2 Site

Original wording:

3.2.2.2. Site

The measuring site will be picked by the local Race Secretary. This site will be located away from "traffic" and other disturbances. Only the Whippet being measured and handler will be allowed in this area. During the measuring procedure, there will be NO activity on the track, no testing of boxes, no lure machines going, or loudspeakers speaking! We must do everything possible to maintain "quiet," so to avoid distractions that could "trigger" the racing personality, thus making the "natural, relaxed stance" harder to obtain. The place of inspection will be a level, hard, even surface, into which the legs of the wicket will not sink, that is not smooth so it will give good traction to the whippets when standing on it. There will be an inspection board, generally made to these requirements: 1/2inch to 1inch plywood 24 inches wide, 44 inches to 45 inches long, and will be flat over its entire surface. The board may be unpainted, but if painted, only nonskid paint will be allowed. The Race Secretary, or an appointee, will check-in each entrant on the program that, after the measurement and inspection, is acceptable, and will be responsible to time each measuring attempt. The wickets for measuring each entrant will be approved by the NRD. Approved wickets are available through the WRA.

Proposed wording:

The measuring site will be picked by the local Race Secretary. This site will be located away from "traffic" and other disturbances. Only the Whippet being measured and handler will be allowed in this area. During the measuring procedure, there will be NO activity on the track, no testing of boxes, no lure machines going, or loudspeakers speaking! We must do everything possible to maintain "quiet," so to avoid distractions that could "trigger" the racing personality, thus making the "natural, relaxed stance" harder to obtain. The place of inspection will be a level, hard, even surface, into which the legs of the wicket will not sink, that is not smooth so it will give good traction to the whippets when standing on it.

If such a surface is not available, There will be an inspection board, generally made to these requirements: 1/2inch to 1inch plywood 24 inches wide, 44 inches to 45 inches long, and will be flat over its entire surface. The board may be unpainted, but if painted, only nonskid paint will be allowed. The Race Secretary, or an appointee, will check-in each entrant on the program that, after the measurement and inspection, is acceptable, and will be responsible to time each measuring attempt. The wickets for measuring each entrant will be approved by the NRD. Approved wickets are available through the WRA.

Rationale: The way it's currently written, in order to follow the rules to the letter, you would have to have a measuring board, no matter what was available at the race site. Clubs that have concrete pads, sidewalks or floors, available to them for the purpose of measuring, should not HAVE to use a measuring board.

Proposal R-6

PASS 15 FOR 3 AGAINST

Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties; subsection 3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judges.

Add new subsection 3.4.2.2 and renumber existing 3.4.2.3 to 3.4.2.4

Proposed wording:

3.4.2.2

Video cameras may be used to settle cases of disagreement or confusion over the order of the finish. If the judges do not agree on what they see in the recording the methods enumerated in these rules will be used to settle the dispute based on what each sees in the recording.

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 judges, they (and No one else) 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.
 - (a) All placing judges for that race will immediately proceed to the viewing area along with the video and video operator.
 - (b) Only the placing judges of the disputed or tied 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 scoreboard.

An owner may protest the FINISH of a race and must do so before the running of the next race. The judges will view the tape and rule on the finish. The owner will be allowed to view the video of the protested race with the judges but may not participate in, or attempt to influence, any discussion of what is viewed.

Cameras: The camera shall be a digital video camera capable of recording moving images in a digital format and playing them back in slow or stop motion with no loss of clarity. The playback equipment must be able to view individual frames in a stop motion format.

Mounting and Positioning: The camera will be on a firm base at least 7 feet (84 inches) above the ground and on the side of the track which gets the best light to see the dogs, the idea is that no dog is hidden behind any other dog, with higher mounting preferable. A camera on each side of the track is preferable to one mounted on one side of the track, to catch dogs not seen by the other camera. Ideally the camera would be mounted over the center of the track with enough height to see the full track width. The camera shall be placed on the finish line and pointed across the track with a clear view of the full width of the finish line and track. The camera will not follow the dogs down the track. It will allow the dogs to run through its field of view. The camera will have an unimpeded view of the finish.

Use: The camera shall be set to the fastest shutter speed, called Action Mode on some cameras, to achieve the greatest clarity.

The camera will record the Heat and race numbers, preferably before the race. The recording of the heat and dogs may be visual or audio. The camera should be started before the race starts and shall run until after all dogs that finish cross the finish line.

Retention: The recordings will be retained until at least two (2) hours after the last race is run.

Rationale: To be able to backup the judges and solve ties and disputes between them and provide for the opportunity for more accurate results. To allow the use of cameras to help the line judges at the national where they are currently not allowed.

Secretary's note: This is meant to be an OPTION, and in no way should be construed as a mandatory piece of equipment that clubs have to have.

Proposal R-7

PASS 13 FOR 5 AGAINST

Section 6.0 Race Track and Equipment; subsection 6.1 Race Track.

Original Wording:

All WRA meets should be run over a straight, flat, level surface of 200 yards for adult races. All puppy races are 150 yards. An extra 30 to 50 yards should be allowed from the finish line to where the lure stops, the over-run. The width of the track should be not less than 20 feet in width, preferable 20 feet wide at the box area, increasing to 30 feet at the finish line and after. The track can be of any texture, such as turf, dirt, synthetic footing, etc., providing it does not injure the pads and feet, or hinder the natural stride of a Whippet during the running of a race. A wide, smooth track allows freedom of stride, resulting in less bumping and body contact by the racers taking part. The track, when at all possible, should have both inside and outside rails to keep spectators and Whippet owners off the track at all times during the running of a race.

Proposed wording:

All WRA meets should be run over a straight, flat, level surface.

- (a) All puppy races **will be** 150 yards.
- (b) **For the calendar years 2007 and 2008 only, adult Whippets may race 4 programs at 150 yards if the scheduled race meet is announced as such in the race flyer. All rules and points applicable to races at 200 yards will be applicable to races at 150 yards. If the races are scheduled at 150 yards in the original flyer, the distance may not be changed. The National Race Meet may not be run at 150 yards, but should be run at 200 yards. Following this 2 year evaluation period, WRA will automatically include in the Rules Change Proposals for calendar year 2009 a follow-up ballot question. In it WRA member clubs will be asked to vote on whether to make the 150 yard distance a permanent option for calendar year 2009 and beyond.**

An extra 30 to 50 yards should be allowed from the finish line to where the lure stops, the over-run. The width of the track should be not less than 20 feet in width, preferable 20 feet wide at the box area, increasing to 30 feet at the finish line and after.

The track can be of any texture, such as turf, dirt, synthetic footing, etc., providing it does not injure the pads and feet, or hinder the natural stride of a Whippet during the running of a race. A wide, smooth track allows freedom of stride, resulting in less bumping and body contact by the racers taking part.

The track, when at all possible, should have both inside and outside rails to keep spectators and Whippet owners off the track at all times during the running of a race.

Summary: To add the *option* of a 150 yard race distance to the WRA running rules. (Note: This proposal, if passed, would not require any club to offer 150 yard meets. It would simply offer them the choice.)

Rationale: Offering a shorter *alternative* to the 200 yard configuration would increase the availability of suitable fields and, potentially, improve the safety of some already in use by increasing the available runout area.

Additionally, a race distance of 150 yards would add variety and interest to WRA competition, potentially increasing the number of possible meet winners. There is ample historic and modern precedent for a distance of 150 yards. That distance was frequently run in the pre-NAWRA, pre-ARM era in the US and is still used in Great Britain. It is currently being used on a trial basis in NAWRA races.

Finally, this proposed change is simply for a two year trial and evaluation period. It will not carry over past 2008 unless approved, independent of this proposal, by WRA member clubs for calendar year 2009 and beyond.

Secretary's note: If this proposal passes, but at the end of the two year period is not voted in as a permanent change, then the wording will revert to

(b) All Adult races will be 200 yards in length.

Proposal R-8

PASS 18 FOR 0 AGAINST

Section 6.0 Race Track and Equipment; subsection 6.7 Lure Equipment; subsection 6.7.2 The Lure; paragraph 1.

6.7.2 The Lure

Original wording:

The lure will be of the squawker style, "Jack-A-Lure," type sold by the National Greyhound Association, P.O. Box 543, Abilene, Kansas, 67410; telephone (913) 263-4660. It's made of real or synthetic fur and contains a squawker. Replacement reeds and squawkers are available from Pete Rickard Inc. RD#1 Box 292 Cobleskill, NY, 12043 phone (518) 234-2731. This squawker type lure has been proven to create extra keenness and diminish dishonest tendencies. The lure should be large enough and should bounce in a straight line during the race so it can be sighted at all times by the Whippets. Rags, towels or cloth can be used as part of the lure, but it must include some fur. The small amount of fur that is attached helps to bring the Whippets to the lure at the finish of a race.

Proposed wording:

The lure will be of the squawker style, "Jack-A-Lure," type sold by the National Greyhound Association, P.O. Box 543, Abilene, Kansas, 67410; telephone (913) 263-4660. It's made of real or synthetic fur and contains a squawker. ~~Replacement reeds and squawkers are available from Pete Rickard Inc. RD#1 Box 292 Cobleskill, NY, 12043 phone (518) 234-2731.~~ This squawker type lure has been proven to create extra keenness and diminish dishonest tendencies. The lure should be large enough and should bounce in a straight line during the race so it can be sighted at all times by the Whippets. Rags, towels or cloth can be used as part of the lure, but it must include some fur. The small amount of fur that is attached helps to bring the Whippets to the lure at the finish of a race.

Rationale: To remove the reference to a company other than NGA, which sells lures, squawkers and replacement reeds.

Proposal R-9

FAIL 6 FOR 12 AGAINST

Section 7.0 Titles and Awards; subsection 7.3 Whippet Race Champion Award Points

Original wording:

Whippet Race Champion Award Points are earned by the Whippets earning the highest number of racing points in a race meet. The points are awarded according to the schedule of points presented below.

- ? No Whippet which has already earned a Whippet Race Champion, or an Award of Racing Merit, shall earn WRCh Award Points.
- ? If the Whippet(s) with the highest number of race points have their WRCh, or ARM, title the Whippet(s) with the next highest number of racing points, that have not earned their WRCh, or ARM, will receive the Award Points.
- ? All Whippets with the title of WRCh, or ARM, count as entries when awarding WRCh Award Points.

Proposed wording:

Whippet Race Champion Award Points are earned by the Whippets earning the highest number of racing points in a race meet. The points are awarded according to the schedule of points presented below.

- ? No Whippet which has already earned a Whippet Race Champion, or ~~an Award of Racing Merit~~, a **NAWRA Race Championship (RCh) Title**, shall earn WRCh Award Points.
- ? If the Whippet(s) with the highest number of race points have their WRCh, or **ARM RCh** title, the Whippet(s) with the next highest number of racing points, that have not earned their WRCh, or **ARM RCh**, will receive the Award Points.
- ? All Whippets with the title of WRCh, or **ARM RCh**, count as entries when awarding WRCh Award Points.
- ? Whippets with an RCh title would be credited with any National Points earned, toward WRChX title.

Proposal: To eliminate duplicate (redundant) sprint (straight) racing titles at the basic championship level.

Rationale: Dogs that already have a Sprint Racing title in NAWRA but do not hold a championship title in WRA, and vice versa, have already proven their merits and racing abilities. Since this results in duplicate titles, unfinished dogs must then exceed against dogs that are already champions before they can accrue any championship points.

Proposal B-1

**PASS 16 FOR 1 AGAINST
1 ABSTAIN**

Bylaws Article VI Committees; subsection 6.03 rules committee; subsection (b).

Original wording:

The Rules Committee shall accept suggestions for change till a date of its choosing. The ballots for all suggestions for change will be mailed to the Member Representatives by November first (1) of the year the suggestion is made. Unless received after the deadline for change suggestions, in this case the suggestion will be included in the next years changes.

- 1) A 2/3 affirmative vote of all returned ballots will approve any proposed rule change.
- 2) Ballots must be received by the secretary – Treasurer, from the member clubs by the second Monday of December. The Secretary – Treasurer will count the ballots on Tuesday and announce the results, by mail, to the NRD, Board, and Member clubs.

There shall be two ways to return ballots to the Secretary/Treasurer.

- 1) By USPS, mailed so as to be received by the second Monday of December.
- 2) By e-mail, timed before 11:59pm, Secretary's local time, on the second Monday of December.

Proposed wording:

The Rules Committee shall accept suggestions for change until a date of its choosing. The ballots for all suggestions for change will be **sent** to the Member Representatives **in time for arrival by November 3rd** of the year the suggestion is made. Unless received after the deadline for change suggestions, in this case the suggestion will be included in the **changes for the next year**.

Rule proposals may be sent to the club delegates, by the following two methods, but is not limited to only these two methods.

- 1) **By USPS, postmarked on or before November 1st**
- 2) **By e-mail, timed prior to 11:59pm, Secretary's local time, on November 3rd**

Ballots must be received by the secretary – Treasurer, from the member clubs by the second Monday of December. The Secretary – Treasurer will count the ballots on Tuesday and announce the results, by mail, **or by e-mail** to the NRD, Board, and Member clubs.

There shall be two ways to return ballots to the Secretary/Treasurer.

- 1) By USPS, mailed so as to be received by the second Monday of December.
- 2) By e-mail, timed before 11:59pm, Secretary's local time, on the second Monday of December.

A 2/3 affirmative vote of all returned ballots will approve any proposed rule change.
Rationale: Housekeeping, to bring discrimination of information, ie rule proposals and voting in line with current technology, and to leave an opening for future technology.

Proposal B-2

PASS 17 FOR 1 AGAINST

Article VI; subsection 6.04 Protest Committee

Original wording:

A protest Committee consisting of Three (3) or more individuals connected with the NPR or WRA Race program for at least two years. At least one (1) person shall be from the region of the protest. This committee shall be appointed to hear and review and render a decision upon the merits of each protest filed against an official race meet. All protests must be filed within ten (10) week days of the meet in question. Due to the widely dispersed geographical area of the Association, and its nonprofit nature, the lack of compensation of its officers and members, there is no need for a physical protest hearing; rather, all protest committee business will be conducted by mail or other form of communication. The protest committee will complete its work as quickly as possible.

Proposed wording:

A protest Committee consisting of Three (3) or more individuals connected with the ~~NPR or~~ WRA Race program for at least two years.

At least one (1) person shall be from the region of the protest.

This committee shall be appointed to hear and review and render a decision upon the merits of each protest filed against an official race meet.

All protests must be filed within ten (10) week days of the meet in question.

Due to the widely dispersed geographical area of the Association, and its nonprofit nature, the lack of compensation of its officers and members, there is no need for a physical protest hearing; rather, all protest committee business will be conducted by mail or other form of communication.

The protest committee will complete its work as quickly as possible.

If the protest involves any official (for example, Race Secretary at the meet in question, RRC of the Region where the meet took place) the protest procedure will bypass that person and immediately move to the next level.

If the protest involves the NRD, or a dog or dogs owned or handled by the NRD, the protest will be handled by the Secretary/Treasurer if the protest goes beyond the Local Race Secretary and RRC.

Rationale: To remove the reference to the NPR program, and to bring the bylaws in sync with the rules on protest procedures.

Nominations for Regional Directors:

There were no nominations for Regional Director, from any of the regions this year, so.....

The incumbents will be appointed by the NRD for another term in their regions as follows:

East:	Robert Fisher
Southeast:	Julian Cox
Midwest:	Pam LeClair
South:	Bill McMath