

## **PROPOSAL #1**

Proposal for Nationals as a Standalone Weekend

### **Add New item #7 to Section 2.4, Scheduling of Approved Whippet Racing Association Race Meets.**

6. Regardless of regional boundaries, WRA race meets may be held on the same weekend provided the meet locations are separated by a driving distance of 400 miles. (For convenience, a computerized mapping program may be used to determine driving distance.)
7. No Member Club will hold a WRA race meet on the same weekend as the National WRA Meet. In the event that a WRA race meet has been previously scheduled on the same weekend as a proposed National WRA Meet, it will be required that the WRA race meet be rescheduled to accommodate the National WRA Meet. The Member Club that has to reschedule will retain their traditional date going forward.

#### **Reason for Change:**

This is to provide the best possible entry outcome for the National WRA Meet as well as to show sportsmanship in support of the National WRA Meet.

## PROPOSAL #2

Proposal to specify the official Race Meet hours.

### Current Wording:

#### **Policies & Procedures:**

Remove bullets 31 and 32 from the Policies & Procedures.

31. The BOD has determined that no alcohol or other mind-altering substances, legal or illegal, shall be consumed by any attendees during the Race Meet hours. Race Meet hours are considered to be from the advertised start of measuring to the conclusion of the last program. Violations of this rule shall be reported to the Race Secretary who will advise the National Race Director (NRD). The NRD will direct the WRA Secretary to send a written notice to the individual in violation. First violation - The individual will receive a written notice of violation which shall include a copy of this rule. Second violation – The individual will be suspended from attending/participating in any WRA event for 12 months from the start of the suspension. In addition, any dog owned /co-owned or living at the same address as the perpetrator at the time of the violation will be suspended from racing in any WRA event for the duration of the suspension.
32. Owners / Handlers at WRA Events accept and agree to abide by the WRA rules, and generally accepted rules of conduct and good Sportsmanship. Physically or verbally abusive behavior towards race meet officials, workers or other participants will not be tolerated, and the Race Committee may evict any persons exhibiting such behavior from the race meet site. In this event, entry fees shall not be refunded. Further, they shall pick up after their hound, keep the grounds clean, and treat their hounds with respect and in a humane manner.

### Proposed Wording:

#### **2.5 Running an Official Race Meet**

Add new bullet 1 and 2 with the addition of a specified time for Race Meet hours. The rest of the paragraph is renumbered.)

1. Owners / Handlers at WRA Events accept and agree to abide by the WRA rules, and generally accepted rules of conduct and good Sportsmanship. Physically or verbally abusive behavior towards race meet officials, workers, or other participants **or attendees** will not be tolerated, and the Race Committee may evict any persons exhibiting such behavior from the race meet site. In this event, entry fees shall not be refunded. Further, they shall pick up after their hound, keep the grounds clean, and treat their hounds with respect and in a humane manner.
2. No alcohol or other mind-altering substances, legal or illegal, shall be consumed by any attendees during the Race Meet hours. Race Meet hours **shall be construed as starting 30 minutes prior to specified check-in time until after the final program has been completed.** Violations of this rule shall be reported to the Race Secretary who will advise the National Race Director (NRD). The NRD will direct the WRA Secretary to send a written notice to the individual in violation. First violation - The individual will receive a written notice of violation which shall include a copy of this rule. Second violation – The individual will be suspended from attending/participating in any WRA event for 12 months from the start of the suspension.
3. The Group or Club must have a minimum of 15 adult Whippets starting the first race heat.

4. There should be four complete race heats. Three heats would be acceptable only in the event of severe weather or other racing conditions that would make further racing hazardous to the Whippets and/or their owners. The reduction to only three heats must be with the approval of the RRC or his/her representative at the meet, or the Race Secretary for said meet, and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those in participation at that meet. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL 2 PROGRAMS EVER BE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL MEET.**
5. Checking dogs in, refer to section 3.2
6. Setting the board, refer to section 5.3
7. Reporting results, refer to section 2.6

**Reason:**

To better define length of a WRA race meet and those persons that may be subject to the alcohol / mind-altering policy.

## **PROPOSAL #3**

Proposal for Proper Positioning When Measuring

### **Add Sentence at Beginning of Section 3.2.2.4 Proper Positioning**

#### **3.2.2 Measuring**

##### **3.2.2.4 Proper Positioning**

Only the owner of the whippet, or official handler if the owner will not be present at the race meet that day, may position the dog for measuring. If the owner/handler has a physical condition that causes them to be unable to position their whippet, they may designate an official handler for measuring and this rule would apply to that handler. For purposes of this rule, "handler" refers to the owner or official handler positioning the Whippet.

The Whippet being measured should be walked or placed on the measuring board, and the handler should ready the Whippet for the wicket. The Whippet will be posed in a naturally alert position, with the head up, but not stretched upward in an exaggerated position nor will the top of the head be lowered below the level of the top of the shoulder blades; its feet should be well under it, and its forelegs vertical, ie, the front legs must be perpendicular to the board, and parallel to each side of the wicket, as viewed from front and side. The front legs cannot be spread far apart, nor can they be angled or stretched in front of the Whippet's head. The hindquarters may not be pulled back, and hocks must be at a right angle to the board. ABOVE ALL, the handler is not allowed to push, poke, pinch, slap, or in any way attempt to alter or change the height of the Whippet. (Stroking or scratching will be allowed only to relax the Whippet.) If two (2) of the three (3) inspectors on the Inspection Committee agree a handler is attempting to alter the height of the Whippet, the handler will be excused and thereby forfeit one turn.

#### **Reason:**

There have been instances where exhibitors have brought in special measuring handlers to try to measure a dog in. This has led to perceptions of special treatment for certain dogs or owners. Additionally, most dogs that need "special" handling are likely oversized and need techniques that would fall under "attempting to alter the height of the Whippet," such as deeply pressing on/massaging the neck muscles or holding the muzzle and pushing down.

While there may be the occasional whippet whose owner or handler is nervous or inexperienced, that can be overcome with practice, which is part of being a race exhibitor. At most meets, race officials know most owners/handlers, so administration would not be onerous.

***PLEASE NOTE: Proposals #4 and #5 address the same issue but have opposite determinations. Clubs may vote YES on either #3 or #4 but cannot vote YES for both. Clubs can also vote NO on both.***

#### **PROPOSAL #4**

Proposal for handling blanket mix-ups at the finish line

#### **Revise Section 3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judges to add the following:**

Each Judge will write placements by number on the finish line report form immediately after each race and give this information to the Head Line Judge. Care must be taken to see that spectators are not blocking the placement judges' view of the races, and that there is "quiet" with the judges until all placements reports are submitted to the Head Placement Judge. Owners and judges should learn to call races BY BLANKET NUMBERS ONLY, not by color of blanket. The color can be helpful to judges, but should not be relied upon in lieu of the actual number on the blanket. At no time should the numbers or colors of racing blankets be called out loud as this may confuse the other judges.

The finishing positions of all whippets in a race shall be recorded according to the order in which their muzzles (noses) reach the vertical plane of the finish line nearest the starting box.

If two or more Whippets are reported to have been blanketed incorrectly, the race secretary should use discretion to award the correct placement and proper points to the dogs as they placed in the race, provided there is clear evidence via finish line camera or visual judging. Determination as to how the mix-up has occurred may vary depending on the situation. It could possibly be the owner who realizes the error or the line judges, but ultimately it would be the decision of the race secretary/race committee to award the points to the proper racer.

#### **Reason:**

Accidents happen! The goal is to award the correct corresponding number of points to each racer as they are rightly earned, while maintaining honesty and good sportsmanship.

The race secretary would be knowledgeable and honest enough to know how to employ this, and only do so when there is no doubt to which racer finished where according to the work of the line judges/camera. This is something that rarely occurs, but the goal is to reward the racer, and not the blanket, the proper points.

***PLEASE NOTE: Proposals #4 and #5 address the same issue but have opposite determinations. Clubs may vote YES on either #3 or #4 but cannot vote YES for both. Clubs can also vote NO on both.***

## **PROPOSAL #5**

Proposal for handling blanket mix-ups at the finish line

### **Revise Section 3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judges to add the following:**

Each Judge will write placements by number on the finish line report form immediately after each race and give this information to the Head Line Judge. Care must be taken to see that spectators are not blocking the placement judges' view of the races, and that there is "quiet" with the judges until all placements reports are submitted to the Head Placement Judge. Owners and judges should learn to call races BY BLANKET NUMBERS ONLY, not by color of blanket. The color can be helpful to judges, but should not be relied upon in lieu of the actual number on the blanket. At no time should the numbers or colors of racing blankets be called out loud as this may confuse the other judges.

The finishing positions of all whippets in a race shall be recorded according to the order in which their muzzles (noses) reach the vertical plane of the finish line nearest the starting box.

**If two or more Whippets are reported to have been blanketed incorrectly, then the blanket number will determine the placement within the race, not the actual Whippet reported to have been wearing the blanket. No other criteria will determine the finish of a race. Finish line judges will determine the order of finish by blanket order only.**

### **Reason:**

Clarification of the rule that the blanket always determines the placement of the dog. If two or more Whippets are dressed incorrectly during a race, blanketed in the blanket of another incorrectly dressed Whippet, then the blanket still determines the finish. The line judges cannot be expected to know the individual dogs and that they were dressed incorrectly. Beyond the paddock check, there is no method at the finish line to properly know if the dogs are in the correct blankets, and that burden should not be placed on the line judges. Placement by blanket is the most consistent, easy, and fair method. There is less likelihood of abusing the rule in this current format than if we allowed the placement to change based on dog, which would allow an owner to state afterward that two dogs were wearing the incorrect blankets, thus giving them the option to speak up or not depending on the outcome of the race.

## PROPOSAL #6

### Proposal for Box Operators

#### Revise Section 3.7 Box Operator

##### 3.7 Box Operator

If possible, two persons should be assigned to work the starting box, but one will suffice if a second qualified person is not available. The Box Operator may serve as a foul judge also, if qualified. The lure **and string with loop** should be placed **at least ten to fifteen (10-15)** feet down track, directly in front of, and at the center of the starting box **in the circle specially outlined (usually with white spray paint), in clear view for all the Whippets to see.** By watching the movement of the **string** lure, and with practice, the boxes should be opened the very instant the **lure loop in the string** moves. A delay in opening the box after the lure moves can cause Whippets to charge the door and be off balance when the door opens, causing an unfair advantage.

Whippets should be placed (loaded) in the starting box in numerical order, one (1) through six (6) after all entrants reach the boxes. The Box Operator should check all Whippets and racing equipment as the dogs are placed in the starting box, it is the responsibility of the Box Operator to see that all Whippets are muzzled and jackets are on properly before the box is opened. The operator may assist owners in placing Whippets in boxes when necessary. After all Whippets are in the starting box, the Box Operator will tease the Whippets with the lure, and ascertain at that time all racers are facing the front and have their blankets and muzzles ON! The Box Operator will then place the lure in the center of the area, at the front of the box, in the marked circle. Box Operators will not delay the start of a race due to untrained Whippets that persist in turning around in the boxes. If a muzzle is broken, or pulled off by a dog, or if the jacket comes loose, the Box Operator must hold up the race until all problems are corrected! If a delay of more than a few seconds is necessary, all Whippets will be removed from the box by their handlers.

Passage of this rule would include a change to the following:

##### 6.7.2 The Lure

An important reminder, the lure, at the start of each race, should be centered ~~ten to~~ at least fifteen (10-15) feet in front of the starting box in the circle specially outlined (usually with white spray paint), in clear view for all the Whippets to see.

##### Reason:

Both NOTRA and former NAWRA rules state(d) the lure (and string) should be 15 feet away from the boxes to prevent any bunching up of dogs at the start. Ten feet is too close for the faster dogs and leaving it at 10-15 means a faster race may end up with 10 foot placement.

Hand eye coordination of most humans is not fast enough to open the door at movement of the lure and can result in dogs surging into the box door before it opens. Best practice for box operation is to leave a large loop in the string by bringing the lure to the box, bringing it back until the front of the string is at 15 feet, and then bringing the lure back to 15 feet leaving a large s-shaped loop in the string next to the lure. The box operator opens the box as soon as s/he sees the string move, so that the box opens more closely to when the lure moves.

## **PROPOSAL #7**

Proposal to Add Race Committee to Section 3.0 Racing Officials and Duties

### **Add new Section 3.10 Race Committee**

#### **3.10 RACE COMMITTEE**

The Race Committee consists of three (3) knowledgeable individuals including the Race Secretary. Duties are as follows:

1. Render a decision on any question regarding interpretation of the WRA Rules and Regulations.
2. Render a decision on any complaint or protest lodged by any owner or handler of a racer.
3. Supply a written decision when requested by the person lodging the protest or complaint.
4. Rule on barring, scratching, dismissing or disqualifying a racer based on the reports of the concerned officials.
5. Rule on as to whether a race shall be re-run.

Passage of this rule would include a change to the following sections:

#### **2.2 Requirements for a Qualifying Whippet Racing Association Race Meet.**

3. There should be four complete race programs....The reduction to only three programs must be with the approval of the RRC or his/her representative at the qualifying meet, or the ~~Race Secretary~~ Race Committee for said meet and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those in participation at that meet.

#### **2.5 Running an Official Race Meet**

2. There should be four complete race heats....The reduction to only three heats must be with the approval of the RRC or his/her representative at the meet, or the ~~Race Secretary~~ Race Committee for said meet and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those in participation at that meet.

#### **3.1 Local Race Secretary**

The Race Secretary is ~~solely~~ responsible for the conduct of the race meet.

#### **4.4 Rerunning of a Race**

Only the ~~Race Secretary~~ Race Committee may decide to rerun a race.

#### **Reason:**

This is consistent with NOTRA (and former NAWRA) procedures and provides an official group to make race meet decisions. Race secretaries are very busy and to place all responsibility on them is burdensome and can lead to complaints of bias. Typically, a decision made by three experienced individuals will be better and better-received than by only one person.

## **PROPOSAL #8**

Proposal to Add Sportsmanship Section

### **Section 4.0 Disqualifications, ~~and Dismissals~~, Misconduct, and Sportsmanship**

#### **Add Section**

#### **4.7 Sportsmanship**

All attendees at WRA events agree to abide by the WRA Rules, and conduct themselves according to principles of good sportsmanship: fair play, honesty, courtesy, vigorous competition, and winning and losing with grace. All participants and attendees must deal fairly with all others and not embarrass the sport, the WRA, the host clubs, nor themselves while taking part in the sport.

Physically or verbally abusive behavior towards race meet officials, workers, or other participants or attendees will not be tolerated, and the Race Committee may evict any persons exhibiting such behavior from the race meet site. For purposes of this rule, WRA events shall be construed as starting 30 minutes prior to check-in until after the final program has been completed. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include, but is not limited to:

1. Physically or verbally abusive behavior towards race officials, workers, other participants, or attendees
2. Masking an injury or illness of a hound (e.g., lameness) that could be detrimental to the hound or to other racers
3. The use of any drug, stimulant, steroid, or narcotic on a hound participating in the WRA Event in an effort to mask or conceal an injury or lameness, or affect performance, excluding any vet prescribed medications.
4. No alcohol or other mind-altering substances, legal or illegal, shall be consumed by any race official, worker, participant or attendee that may adversely impair judgement during the Race Meet hours.

Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may include:

1. Verbal warning from host club, Race Committee, or WRA official in attendance at the event. The NRD and WRA Secretary shall be notified in writing when a verbal warning has been issued.
2. Excusal from WRA event by the host club, Race Committee, or WRA official in attendance. The NRD and WRA Secretary shall be notified in writing when an individual is dismissed from a WRA event.
3. As determined by the WRA BOD, a written notice of violation and warning will be sent which shall include a copy of this rule.
4. As determined by the WRA BOD, the individual may be suspended from attending or participating in any WRA event for up to 12 months from the start of the suspension.

#### **Reason:**

We are also looking to start a framework for establishing effective sportsmanship rules. As has been reported to the Board of Directors, numerous allegations of un-sportsmanlike conduct over

the past few years are seemingly commonplace and has seemingly increased within the most recent past. Anecdotally, negative reports from spectators and potential future participants have also been received and has caused trepidation or declination to participate in future WRA events. Currently, WRA rules for un-sportsmanlike behavior does not have any significant repercussions and bad conduct has gone unchecked. This rule is proposed to better define sportsmanlike and un-sportsmanlike behavior as well as the potential repercussions for repeat bad actors.

## **PROPOSAL #9**

Proposal to Address Aggressive Behavior After the Finish Line

**Add new paragraph 4.3 and renumber the remaining sections as follows:**

### **4.3 Adult/Puppy Dismissal for Aggressive Behavior**

A dog that displays unprovoked aggression after the lure has stopped (by attacking a dog not in possession of the lure, or chasing after another dog) may be dismissed by the Race Secretary (or Race Committee, see Proposal #7).

Report of aggressive behavior must come from a foul judge, Race Secretary (member of Race Committee, see above?), or a person officially appointed by the Race Secretary to watch for this behavior.

Prior to discussing the foul with ANY OTHER PERSON, the Foul Judge or other person above shall write the foul on a Foul Judge Report Form designating it as a Dismissal. Then that person shall go directly to the Race Secretary or Head Foul Judge (if one has been appointed) and show the written report.

Once a report is received, the Race Secretary (Race Committee) may investigate the situation before deciding whether to issue a dismissal. If a dismissal is warranted, Race Secretary shall issue a written notice of Dismissal to the owner (or handler) of the hound stating the behavior and race/program when it occurred. The written notice must be given prior to re-drawing of the score board for the next program. A copy of the notice given to the owner/handler must be forwarded to the Registrar/Recorder and be held for a minimum of 21 days.

If the Race Secretary/Committee decides not to dismiss, the owner of the Whippet will be told there may be a problem that the owner would wish to address to prevent a future dismissal

Renumber remaining sections:

### **4.4 Owner Conduct and Other Considerations for Possible Dismissals**

### **4.5 Rerunning of a Race**

### **4.6 Cautions**

### **4.7 Protest Procedures**

**Requires a change to**

### **3.3 Foul Judges**

For every race, there should be three thoroughly qualified judges who understand what constitutes intentional fouling by a Whippet or Whippets. Judges should stand in appropriate locations on opposite sides of the track, along the side of the track. The first judge should be approximately 50 yards from the front of the box. However, the first judge may be the box operator if qualified. The third judge should be standing in the general area of the finish line for either puppy or adult races, and the second judge should be approximately halfway between the first and third judge. This should provide the best possible vantage points for certainty when an intentional fouling occurs. The finish line foul judge is also responsible for watching for aggressive behavior after the race that may be grounds for dismissal (see section 4.3).

At least two foul judges must agree that a Whippet or Whippets has committed the same intentional foul. The foul judges will individually report the blanket number of the Whippet or Whippets creating the intentional foul to the Race Secretary prior to discussion of the foul with any other person, including other foul judges.

Only one foul judge is required to report aggressive dog behavior for a dismissal (section 4.3) to be considered. The foul judge (or other appropriate person) will individually report the blanket number of the Whippet or Whippets displaying aggressive behavior to the Race Secretary prior to discussion with any other person, including other foul judges.

**Reason:**

There have been instances where dogs have regularly behaved in an aggressive manner after the finish line and there has been no way to address this; some exhibitors have stopped attending meets where certain dogs known to do this were entered. While this behavior does not meet the definition of a disqualifying foul, it is still detrimental to racing. This provides clubs a way to curb or address this behavior and also incentivizes owners to catch their dogs quickly to prevent issues. It is meant to address behavior away from the lure, not in the scrum.

## **PROPOSAL #10**

Proposal for Qualifying to Race

### **Add Item 3) to the following to Section 5.2 How Whippets Are Graded**

#### **5.2 How Whippets Are Graded**

All adult Whippets must have a point average and starting grade in the first program of any official WRA Race Meet. Whippets that have run before will come into subsequent races with a point average that will dictate the letter grade.

Whippets that are entered for the first time in the Adult Division must be at least 8 months of age and thus are designated as 'FTE' (First Time Entered), and are classed as grade D Whippets in that first race meet, with the following exceptions:

1. Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), or the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA), or the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA), or the Canadian Amateur Racing Association (CARA) will retain that grade when FTE in a WRA race meet. Any Whippet having a racing grade from the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA) should be placed one grade below their CWA grade. After dogs are placed within the grade in the first Heat by the grade from the other organization, then they are placed within that grade by the underlying WAVE or Average from the other organization as if the number is the average from the WRA. If that number is not available the dog will be placed at the bottom of the dogs in its grade.
2. Any Whippet that the Race Secretary has personal knowledge of, either from having seen it race as a puppy, or in training races, may be started, with the approval of the owner, at any grade other than grade A. Decision must be based upon personal knowledge; information acquired from others may not be used.

From that point on, the Whippet will earn his/her average, and therefore, grade qualification.

If a Whippet has never entered any racing event from the organizations listed in 1) above or completed a racing meet as conducted by AOK9 or IWRO without a DQ, it must make a successful qualifying run prior to entering a meet as a puppy or an adult. The requirements for a qualifying run are as follows.

- Complete a clean race with no interference or sign of a foul. Must run clean and focused when passing and being passed by the other dogs.
- The race must be from a closed box and with all dogs muzzled.
- The run must be a minimum of 150 yards.
- The race must be a minimum of 3 dogs.
- The qualifying dog must be started between two other dogs (box numbers are not mandated).
- Minimum age for a Whippet to have a formal Qualifying Run should be 6 months.
- The race must be observed by at least 2 qualified individuals approved by the active Race Secretary or a Regional Representative (examples include: current or former race secretary, experienced foul judges, Regional Representatives, etc. Owners are not allowed to certify their own dog).

The individuals certifying must document the qualifying run using the Proof of Qualifying Run form. This form must be given to the owner or handler as proof of the qualifying run. The owner or handler of the Whippet must present the Proof of Qualifying Run form to the Race Secretary upon the Whippet's first official entry.

**Reason:**

Though most know what entails qualifying a Whippet to race, this gives specific requirements, along with a formal document, to ensure all Whippets are qualified to race.

Whippet Racing Association  
Certification of Qualifying Run

CALL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTERED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the above named Whippet ran the entire track cleanly with two other dogs as required for a qualifying run per Section 5.3.

Printed Name of Qualifying Person (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Qualifying Person (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Qualifying Person (2)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Qualifying Person (2)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Qualifying Run  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location of Qualifying Run  
\_\_\_\_\_

Whippet Racing Association  
Certification of Qualifying Run

CALL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTERED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the above named Whippet ran the entire track cleanly with two other dogs as required for a qualifying run per Section 5.3.

Printed Name of Qualifying Person (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Qualifying Person (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Qualifying Person (2)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Qualifying Person (2)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Qualifying Run  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location of Qualifying Run  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **PROPOSAL #11**

Proposal to Clarify 5.3 Selection of Post Positions and 5.3.2 Rotation by Points

### **Revise Section 5.3, Selection of Post Positions and Section 5.3.2 Rotation by Points**

#### **5.3 Selection of Post Positions**

##### **5.3.1 First Program**

**OPTION #1 Graded (no change)**

**OPTION #2 Filled (no change)**

The actual selection of post positions in the first complete race program is then accomplished by randomly drawing the names of the individual Whippet racers for each race. The first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2 and so on down through all races in the first complete program. If an owner has two or three entries that carry close averages, they will probably be running in the same race, but that's just the way it is. In the D races, First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets of same ownership should be separated, if possible.

##### **5.3.2 Rotation by Points Remaining Programs**

After the first complete program Whippets are regrouped by race points earned in the preceding programs. This procedure of grouping by similar points continues until the end of the meet. Each Whippet's points are taken from the board or race sheets in sequence from the highest points earned, down to the lowest. Whippets having the same number of points are removed in sequence from the highest race [for purposes of this paragraph, the "highest" race is the last one run in each grade and the lowest is the first race run in each grade] to the lowest and within any given race by the order of finish. For the final program rotation (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> Program), if a dog finishes in last place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Program high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the 3<sup>rd</sup> Program semi-feature race, then 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. The racers are then grouped into their race according to the set up chart. **Whippets are then randomly drawn within each race as stated in 5.3 above, meaning the first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2 and so on down through all races in the complete program.** ~~Box positions are randomly drawn within each race.~~

#### **Reason:**

Clarification of how the board is to be drawn as stated in the section 5.3 but not fully reiterated in section 5.3.2, thus causing some confusion.

## PROPOSAL #12

Proposal to clarify deadlines for registering a Whippet for Division II

### Changes to Section 7.5.5

#### Current Wording

To participate in DII, a whippet must be approved by the DII Registrar. A copy of the whippet's AKC, CKC or UKC registration along with the call name, owner(s), and 3-generation pedigree must be sent to the WRA DII Registrar at [DivisionII.Whippets@gmail.com](mailto:DivisionII.Whippets@gmail.com). If DII eligibility is questionable for whatever reason, the NRD will appoint a 3-person committee to make the final judgment. An approved DII whippet will be identified as such in the WRA database, and the designation will follow the whippet's registered name.

#### Proposed Wording

To participate in DII, a whippet must be approved by the DII Registrar. **Requesting approval for DII is the responsibility of the owner/handler. To request approval, a** copy of the whippet's AKC, CKC or UKC registration along with the call name, owner(s), and 3-generation pedigree must be sent to the WRA DII Registrar at [DivisionII.Whippets@gmail.com](mailto:DivisionII.Whippets@gmail.com) **at least 48 hours before a meet, if approval is desired prior to a specific meet. If approved and the request was sent at least 48 hours prior to roll call/inspection as listed in the meet premium, the whippet will be considered an eligible DII adult starter for a meet even if the DII Registrar is, for whatever reason, unable to immediately send an official approval notification or immediately update the WRA database.** If DII eligibility is questionable for whatever reason, the NRD will appoint a 3-person committee to make the final judgment. An approved DII whippet will be identified as such in the WRA database, and the designation will follow the whippet's registered name.

#### Reason:

To establish a well-defined and fair deadline for all competitors that is independent of location or any other variables.

## **PROPOSAL #13**

Proposal Division II Points

### **Revise Section 7.5.5 as follows:**

WRA DII racing points are awarded at the end of a race meet based upon final placement, completion of all programs offered, and the number of approved, eligible DII adult starters at the meet. **No points will be awarded if a DII whippet has not defeated at least one other whippet in at least one race during that day's racing.** There are no ties and points are not split. Titles are then awarded upon accumulation of those points.

### **Reason:**

To promote competition and remove a potential shortcut to DII racing points.

## **PROPOSAL #14**

Proposal to Add a Sportsmanship Committee

### **WRA ByLaws – Add New Sportsmanship Committee**

#### **ByLaws:**

#### **Article VI Committees**

#### **Add Section**

##### Section 6.05 Sportsmanship

A Sportsmanship Committee consisting of the National Race Director and Board of Directors.

This committee shall be convened to hear, review, and render a decision as to the type and severity of any sanction or suspension based upon the merits of a sportsmanship misconduct notification from a WRA event as described in Rule 4. Notice to the NRD and BOD must be filed within fourteen (14) days of the WRA event.

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 sportsmanship hearing; rather all sportsmanship committee business will be conducted by mail, email or other form of communication.

The Sportsmanship Committee will complete its work as quickly as possible, ideally within 14 days after notification has been filed.

If the misconduct involves the NRD or any Board member, that person will be excused from the Sportsmanship Committee.

#### **Reason:**

To establish the procedure and members to evaluate sportsmanship sanctions or suspensions.

***PLEASE NOTE: If Proposals #15 and #16 pass, neither can be implemented until the WRA software is programmed to handle these changes.***

## **PROPOSAL #15**

Proposal to enable Clubs to hold meets for CR/X and/or Division II points only.

### **2.5 Running an Official Race Meet**

- 1. Any Host Club has the option to hold a meet for the sole purpose of awarding CR/X and/or DII points.**

Renumber the rest of Section 2.5.

All the rest of the sections on the CR/X and Division II remain the same.

#### **Reason for Change:**

NOTE: This proposal DOES NOT affect the conduct of the Qualifying WRA Race meet! This proposal can pass, even if the proposal to reduce overall minimum entries does not pass. Even if the required entries for awarding WRCh/X points are not met, a Club still has the OPTION to hold meets for the purpose of awarding CR/X and/or DII points.

Two circumstances are beginning to affect WRA meet entries, especially in the West:

1. The cost of traveling and booking hotels to attend meets, especially when distances to meets can range from 1,200 to 1,700 miles.
2. Increasing numbers of whippet owners are branching out to other activities, such as flyball, dock diving, barn hunts, and AKC CAT or Fast CAT events, to name a few.

**PLEASE NOTE: If Proposals #15 and #16 pass, neither can be implemented until the WRA software is programmed to handle these changes.**

## **PROPOSAL #16**

WRA Rule Change Proposal: Reduce minimum entry requirements:

**A: From 15 to 12, for the purpose of awarding WRCh and WRChX points.**

**B: From 15 to 2, for the purpose of awarding CR/CRX points and DII points.**

### **2.2 Requirements for a Qualifying Whippet Racing Association Race Meet:**

1. The group or Club requesting a qualifying WRA Meet must send the request to the NRD at least 60 days in advance of requested date, in writing, although initial contact may be by telephone. The Group or Club requesting an approved WRA Meet must hold at least one (1) successful Qualifying Meet.
2. The Group or Club must have a minimum of ~~fifteen (15)~~ **twelve (12)** adult Whippets starting in the first race program.

### **2.5 Running an Official Race Meet:**

1. The Group or Club must have **the following minimums:** ~~a minimum of 15 adult Whippets starting the first race heat.~~

**1.1 Twelve (12) adult Whippets for awarding WRCh and WRChX points.**

**1.2 Two (2) adult Whippets for awarding CR/X or DII points.**

**1.2.1 Conduct of an Official Meet for CR/X or DII points only is strictly at the option of the Host Club.**

### **7.3 Whippet Race Champion Award Points Schedule**

#### 70 Adult Whippets or More (based on starters not entries)

- 8 WRCh points – High Point Winner
- 6 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner
- 4 WRCh points – Third High Point Winner
- 2 WRCh points – Fourth High Point Winner

#### 60 to 69 Adult Starters

- 7 WRCh points – High Point Winner

- 5 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner
- 3 WRCh points – Third High Point Winner
- 1 WRCh points – Fourth High Point Winner

#### 50 to 59 Adult Starters

- 6 WRCh points – High Point Winner
- 4 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner
- 2 WRCh points – Third High Point Winner

#### 40 to 49 Adult Starters

- 5 WRCh points – High Point Winner
- 3 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner
- 1 WRCh points – Third High Point Winner

#### 30 to 39 Adult Starters

- 4 WRCh points – High Point Winner
- 2 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner

#### 20 to 29 Adult Starters

- 3 WRCh points – High Point Winner
- 1 WRCh points – Second High Point Winner

#### ~~15-12~~ to 19 Adult Starters

- 2 WRCh points – High Point Winner

### **7.4 Whippet Race Champion Excellent (National) Points**

#### 70 Adult Whippets or More (based on starters not entries)

- 8 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 6 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner
- 4 WRChX points – Third High Point Winner
- 2 WRChX points – Fourth High Point Winner

#### 60 to 69 Adult Starters

- 7 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 5 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner
- 3 WRChX points – Third High Point Winner
- 1 WRChX points – Fourth High Point Winner

#### 50 to 59 Adult Starters

- 6 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 4 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner
- 2 WRChX points – Third High Point Winner

#### 40 to 49 Adult Starters

- 5 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 3 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner
- 1 WRChX points – Third High Point Winner

30 to 39 Adult Starters

- 4 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 2 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner

20 to 29 Adult Starters

- 3 WRChX points – High Point Winner
- 1 WRChX points – Second High Point Winner

~~15-12~~ to 19 Adult Starters

- 2 WRChX points – High Point Winner

### 7.5.5 Division II

No change to section except for the following schedule.

WRA DII racing points are awarded according to the following schedule of DII dogs entered:

5 to 8 Division II Starters

- 3 DII points – Top DII
- 1 DII point – Second DII

9 to 11 Division Starters

- 4 DII points – Top DII
- 2 DII points – Second DII

12 to 19 Division Starters

- 5 DII points – Top DII
- 3 DII points – Second DII
- 1 DII point – Third DII

**Reason:**

Two circumstances are beginning to affect WRA meet entries, especially in the West.

1. The cost of traveling and booking hotels to attend meets, especially when distances to meets can range from 1,200 to 1,700 miles.
2. Increasing numbers of whippet owners are branching out to other activities, such as flyball, dock diving, barn hunts, and AKC CAT or Fast CAT events, to name a few.

Several sections of the Rule Book must be modified to reflect the changes. Please note that for WRA-only meets, due to the cost of renting venues, there is no requirement to hold small-entry, non-WRCh/X meets. Please also note that there are THREE changes to the DII schedule of points.

## **PROPOSAL #17**

Proposal for Permanent Weekend for Nationals

### **Add the following to Section 2.7 National Meet**

#### **2.7 National Meet**

Once a year WRA will celebrate a National WRA Meet. Member Club(s) are encouraged to volunteer to host this Meet and submit their request to the NRD by the same time rule proposals are due. When more than one host club location has been received, Club Members will be allowed to vote to determine the National Meet location. However, when taking bids for the WRA National Race meet the NRD will give preference to a rotation between the 3 major regions, East (Eastern and Southeastern), Midwest (Midwest and Southern) and West (Western and Northwest), rather than having a member vote. \*National bids will be accepted up to 2 years in advance. If no club requests to host the National Meet, then the NRD may solicit a host club.

**A permanent weekend will be selected for the National with one alternate weekend. A hosting club will not lose their regular dates.**

#### **Reason:**

This will allow clubs and competitors time to plan from year to year.