

***POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Of the Whippet Racing Association
An Unincorporated Association***

1. Update the Appendix. (1998)
2. Authorize the Board of Directors to commission an artist to design a logo for the WRA. (1998)
3. Authorize the NRD to enter into Negotiations with other straight racing organizations for the purpose of combining those organizations. The results of the negotiations will be voted on by the members to accept or reject the results of the negotiations. (1998)
4. That the parent club have a "starting box reimbursement" program. That any new (has not held a WRA, or other racing venue such as CWA or NAWRA meet) club which acquires starting boxes prior to or within thirty-six months of their first race meet, the meet which made them a WRA member, and continues to hold WRA meets would be reimbursed \$100 for each of their first three WRA meets. (2000, updated 2004) **Added to Rule Book Section 6.8 (01/01/2022)**
5. That the parent club set aside \$200 from each years income, to be used to directly benefit Whippets. This doesn't necessarily have to be to an organized charity, but can also be used to help individual whippet owners who are faced with unexpected expenses. The WRA will not accept applications for these monies, but will consider situations brought to its attention. A 2/3 vote of the WRA board is necessary to make any grant. In any year that it is not given, the money will accumulate for this purpose. (updated 2005)
6. That anyone who feels he/she has a claim against WRA for monies spent have to submit receipts to the Treasurer by January 15, of each year for the previous year, or forfeit all claims to said reimbursement. (2000)
7. That 75% of the current bank balance be put into an interest bearing account. It would still be available if needed but would be earning interest. (2000) (updated 2006)
8. That the parent club increase its annual "trophy donation" for the WRA National from \$100 to \$200. This would put some of the per-capita money back with the clubs. (2000) (Updated in 2013. See #21.)
9. That the Board explore the feasibility of Incorporation and/or Tax Exempt Status. If the findings are favorable the WRA will file for either or both Incorporation and Tax Exempt Status, and will change the wording of the Constitution and Bylaws at that time. (2001)
10. That the parent club initiate a program of "Top Ten" awards. This would consist of presenting plaques to all of the dogs finishing in the top 10 for each year, beginning with 2001. (2001)

11. That the parent club make the top 10 awards program retroactive to the beginning of WRA, and present plaques to each of the top 10 dogs for 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. (2001)
12. That all "official" mailings to all clubs (rule books, ballots etc) be sent "return receipt requested". Rationale is to KNOW that all clubs are receiving all official documents. (2002)
13. At the "fun match" held each year in conjunction with the WRA National Race Meet, along with the Best in Match, the judge will have a number of select awards to be given at his/her discretion. The number of awards will be one for each 25 entries, not to exceed five (5). The parent club will sponsor these select awards and provide the rosettes to be given. (2004)
14. Each year the Parent Club will present a "Breeder of the #1 dog" award. This will go to the person(s) who bred the #1 dog for the previous year. It will be presented in conjunction with the "Top Ten" plaques. (2004) **Added to Rule Book Section 7.5.4 (01/01/2022)**
15. The Parent Club will institute a series of awards for multiples of the WRChX Title. The WRChX will continue to receive a Title Certificate, but any multiple will receive an award ie: Laser engraved crystal block or some variation thereon. (2004) **Added to Rule Book Section 7.5.4 (01/01/2022)**
16. Definition of "Blind". According to Mary Beth O'Neill, head of performance events and judges education, as of 06/28/05. A dog that is blind in one eye, and has normal sight in the other eye is "not blind by definition". A dog with one eye surgically removed would be considered to have been "surgically altered" and if it came into the show ring would be excused. However, from a performance standpoint, if it had normal vision in the remaining eye, it would NOT be considered to be blind. Therefore the Whippet Racing Association Board has decided to allow entry of such a dog at the discretion of individual clubs and the dog's owner. (June 28, 2005). (Updated in 2015. See #22)
17. Perpetual Trophies:

As of 2005 there are now seven (7) perpetual trophies for dogs winning various and assorted positions at the WRA national race meet. Keeping up with these trophies and the fragility of one of them prompted the board to make some decisions concerning these trophies.

(a) Any new perpetual trophy must be approved by a majority vote of the board of directors, in order to be offered at the national race meet. (September 16, 2005)

(b) The "Tutty Sue Memorial Trophy" for the meet winner will no longer be a traveling trophy. This trophy cost the WRA considerable time and money and when enclosed in a packing crate weighs 70 +/- pounds, and costs about \$75 to ship. Therefore the winner will, beginning with the 2005 national, get a plaque recognizing the win. (September 16, 2005)

- (c) For the other perpetual trophies, which will continue to be "traveling trophies", again beginning in 2005, the winner will have to sign a form, acknowledging winning the trophy, taking receipt of the trophy, and taking responsibility for getting it to the next year's trophy chair. This will be a two part form, both parts of which will be kept by the WRA Secretary, with one copy being mailed to the trophy recipient six (6) weeks prior to the next national, giving them the name and address of that year's trophy chair. (September 16, 2005)
18. Unless otherwise specified by the Rules Committee, the due date for Rule Change Proposals is September 1st of each year. Any rule change proposal received after 11:59pm (Secretary's local time) on September 1st, will be held for the following year. (September 16, 2005)
 19. Offers to host the WRA National Race Meet and Fun Match must be in before September 1st at 11:59pm (NRD's local time) each year, for multiple requests to be voted on by the membership. If no request to hold the National is received by the closing date the first offer received after 9-1 will be granted, if, in the NRD's judgment the club is capable of hosting the National. Second offers received after the closing date will not be entertained. (September 16, 2005) **Added to Rule book Section 2.7 (01/01/2022)**
 20. If a Rule Change Proposal has been submitted multiple times and has been voted down by the member clubs three times within a five year period, that rule change submission cannot be presented again to the rules committee/member clubs for period of three years, after the last failure. This would include any proposal with the same basic premise, no matter the submitter. [Example: filling races has been sent in, reworded several times and has been voted down repeatedly. This policy will table that particular issue for a minimum of three years from the last time it was voted on.] (October 6, 2009)
 21. That the parent club increase its annual "trophy donation" for the WRA National from \$200 to \$300. (July 2013). **Added to Rule book Section 2.7 (01/01/2022)**
 22. Definition of "Blind". According to Mary Beth O'Neill, head of performance events and judges education, as of 06/28/05. A dog that is blind in one eye, and has normal sight in the other eye is "not blind by definition". A dog with one eye surgically removed would be considered to have been "surgically altered" and if it came into the show ring would be excused. However, from a performance standpoint, if it had normal vision in the remaining eye, it would NOT be considered to be blind. Therefore the Whippet Racing Association Board has decided to allow entry of such a dog and the dog's owner.

If a Club wishes to disallow an entry based on the "vision status" of a dog, the Club shall submit documentation of reasoning and evidence to the BOD (NRD, Sec/Treas. & Regional Coordinators) and the owner of the dog. The owner of the dog shall also be allowed to submit documentation to the BOD for consideration within 14 days of the initial notification. The BOD will then review the documentation based on events and facts.

At the discretion of the BOD, said dog may be observed by qualified foul judges and WRA officials (ie: a Regional Representative or other(s) appointed by WRA) at the next meet in which the dog is entered unless the BOD choose to decide based on the body of evidence initially presented by both parties. The owner must notify the board at least 2 weeks prior to the meet so that the BOD has the opportunity to identify the appropriate officials. The BOD will then make a final decision to whether the dog is allowed to compete by a simple majority vote within 10 days of the 'observation' meet. If the Club wishing to disallow a dog based on vision status has its race secretary or representative serving on the BOD, that person will not be allowed to vote in the decision. If the owner or handler of the visually impaired dog serves on the board, that person will not be allowed to vote. The decision will be considered binding for all clubs in WRA unless other clubs bring forth a new body of information. (January 2015)

23. For the year 2015, allow the NRD to negotiate a "joint national" with the North American Whippet Racing Association (NAWRA). Because NAWRA and WRA have similar goals but slightly different means of achieving them, such a venue will require suspending or altering some of the WRA rules for this event only. All attempts will be made to create a rule set for this meet that is a combination of the pre-existing rules of the 2 parent organizations except where when necessary; places where "novel" rules may be employed include (potentially) the awarding of race points for this event (since it has been proposed that dogs be allowed to take National and race points awarded in this event back to their original parent organization, and by definition, that will be an original way of distributing points). The rule set for the meet will be published one month prior to the meet. If this event is considered successful, this proposal will be re-introduced to become a permanent option for nationals in the future but otherwise will expire after the year 2015. (January 2015)
24. WRA Officers and Board of Directors are authorized to reorganize/modify the Rule Book in a logical arrangement that will not change the meaning of the rules. (January 2016).
25. The Officers and Board of the WRA take the necessary steps to enable a merger with NAWRA. These steps will not include changes to the Constitution, By-Laws or Racing Rules without an election. (January 2017)
26. On merger of the NAWRA and WRA the name of the two merged organizations will be the Whippet Racing Association (WRA). (January 2017)
27. If changes to the Constitution, By-Laws or Racing Rules are required that cannot be addressed within the normal Rule Change proposal process, Special Elections at different times are authorized.

There will be at least 30 days from the publication of the change to the date of the election. Voting will occur as outlined in Section 3.03 of the Bylaws. Passage will require affirmation by 2/3 of the Responding Member Clubs. (January 2017)

28. The per capita fee of \$1.00 for each dog and puppy who started the meet shall be sent to the WRA Treasurer. (January 2018)
29. When taking bids for the WRA National Race meet the NRD will give preference to a rotation between the 3 major regions, East, Midwest and West. (January 2018)
30. WRA considers dogs age 6 and older as Veterans. (January 2018)
31. Owners /Handlers at WRA Events accept and agree to abide by the WRA rules, and generally accepted rules of conduct and Good Sportsmanship. Further, they shall pick up after their hound, keep the grounds clean, and treat their hounds with respect and in a humane manner. 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.

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, any conduct that is deemed detrimental to the WRA, affiliated clubs or the sport of WRA whippet racing can lead to up to a 12 month suspension of all WRA privileges. The individual will be suspended from attending/participating in any WRA event. In addition, any dog handled by, owned/co-owned, or living at the same address, at the time of the violation or at any time during the suspension as the offender, may be suspended from racing in any WRA event for the duration of the suspension. (December 2020)

32. 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 up to 12 months from the start of the suspension. In addition, any dog handled by, owned /co-owned or living at the same address, at the time of the violation or at any time during the suspension, as the offender may be suspended from racing in any WRA event for the duration of the suspension. (December 2020)