

# **Whippet Racing Association**

## **2022 Election of Officers**

The term of office is two years starting on January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023. Candidates must receive 50% plus 1 vote of the ballots received on or by the closing date of **December 13, 2021**.

### **National Race Director (NRD)**

Bruce Irvine

Kathryn Slater

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Darien Adley

# **WHIPPET RACING ASSOCIATION**

## **2022 Rule Change Proposals**

**Ballots are due on December 13, 2021 before 11:59 p.m. Central Time.**

### **PROPOSAL #1**

**WRA Rule Book – Section 5.3.1 First Program**

**OPTION #1**

Current wording:

The first step in selecting post positions in the first complete race program is to determine the total number of entrants in that program, adult, or puppy). Then group the Whippets in the first adult program according to grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the

races in that grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be divided as evenly as possible between the races, with the higher race containing the highest number of dogs. The whippets will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in each grade. For puppies, use random draw. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more Whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete race meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.

Proposed wording (in Red):

The first step in selecting post positions in the first complete race program is to determine the total number of entrants in that program, adult, or puppy). Then group the Whippets in the first adult program according to grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in that grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be divided as evenly as possible between the races, with the higher race containing the highest number of dogs. The whippets will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in each grade **starting with the highest average in the 'last' race within that grade. (Example: If there are 2 races in the 'A' grade, the dog with a 29 point average will go in the last/final race within that grade, not the first race).** For puppies, use random draw. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more Whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete race meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.

**Reason:** It has happened that the higher average dog within a grade was placed in the \*first\* race of that grade. For consistency, the highest ranked dog should be in the last race within that grade, when more than one race is needed, much like rotation is done throughout the entire race meet (dogs with higher points go to higher races). To add when a large meet (Nationals, etc.) if there are 24 A dogs the dog with the highest average has always been seeded as #1 and placed in the final first program hi point of the 4 hi points run.

## **PROPOSAL #2**

### **WRA Rule Book – Section 5.3.2 Rotation by Points**

Current wording:

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. 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, 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. Box positions are randomly drawn within each race. The high point adult race should always have six (6) starters, except for the first heat where all dogs are grouped by grade only. When necessary, the semi-feature on down may have less than six (6) starters. These gaps should begin in the second race, and go consecutively upward, and should not be intermittent throughout the race program. (Please refer to Figure 2 “Quick Setup Chart”).

Proposed wording (in Red):

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. Box positions are randomly drawn within each race. The high point adult race should always have six (6) starters, except for the first heat where all dogs are grouped by grade only. When necessary, the semi-feature on down may have less than six (6) starters. These gaps should begin in the second race, and go consecutively upward, and should not be intermittent throughout the race program. (Please refer to Figure 2 “Quick Setup Chart”).

**Reason:** The intent of the particular rule when voted on years ago was always for the final program only; somewhere in time either the wording was not included or was edited out. It was never intended to be used for any other program (this was voted on the same year for NOTRA & here is the wording in NOTRA rules 4.2.5.1 “....Except in the set-up of the final program, if a dog that finishes.....”)

## **PROPOSAL #3**

### **WRA Rule Book – Section 6.5 Racing Blankets**

Current Wording:

Only the following colors are 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 |

Blankets must have bright, pure colors. The Race Secretary may excuse any Whippet with improper color or number. Numbers should be large, 4 1/2 inches to 5 inches tall, and be placed in proper order - not backward!

Proposed wording (in Red):

Only the following colors are 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

Blankets must have bright, pure colors. **The use of neon, pastel or faded colors is not allowed.** The Race Secretary may excuse any Whippet with improper color or number. Numbers should be large, 4 1/2 inches to 5 inches tall, and be placed in proper order - not backward!

**Reason:** Neon or pastel/faded colors can be quite difficult to see, both by human eye & camera, often dependent on lighting. While judging is supposed to be done by number, the neon or pastel/faded colors can be quite distracting, even to the most experienced judge(s).

**PROPOSAL #4** - This Proposal affects the Rule Book and the Bylaws, thus one vote is for both changes.

## **WRA Rule Book - Section 4.0 Disqualifications and Dismissals**

### **WRA Policies & Procedures 31 & 32**

Current Wording:

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:

**WRA Rule Book - Section 4.0 Disqualifications, Dismissals, and Sportsmanship**

**Add Section 4.7 - Sportsmanship**

All attendees at WRA Events agree to abide by the WRA Rules, and generally accepted rules of conduct and good Sportsmanship. As stated in the Policies & Procedures, 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 30 minutes after the awarding of placements and ribbons if held immediately after final program has been completed (i.e., may exclude awards dinner at National events), otherwise 30 minutes after final program has been completed. Each person shall commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.

Un-sportsmanship 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 (e.g., sickness or lameness) that could be detrimental to the hound or to other racers.
3. The use of any drug, stimulant, or narcotic on a hound participating in the WRA Event in an effort to mask or conceal an injury or lameness, or in an effort to affect performance, excluding any vet prescribed medication. In addition, medications or supplements to alter seasons of a bitch to omit heat cycles so said bitch can continue to compete shall also be strictly prohibited.
4. The use of any drug, alcohol or narcotic by any race official, worker, participant or attendee during the period of the WRA event or combined event (i.e., 30-min prior to check-in and 30-min post awards) that may adversely impair judgement.

Penalties for un-sportsmanlike behavior may include:

1. A Verbal warning from host club, Race Committee, or WRA official in attendance at the event. The NRD shall be notified when a verbal warning is issued.
2. Dismissal from WRA event by the host club, Race Committee, or WRA official in attendance. The NRD shall be notified when an individual is dismissed from a WRA event.
3. First Violation – as determined by the WRA BOD, a written notice of violation will be sent which shall include a copy of this rule.
4. Second Violation – 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. In addition, any dog owned / co-owned or living at the same address as the

individual at the time of the violation may or may not be suspended from racing in any WRA event for the duration of the suspension as determined by the WRA BOD.

## **Bylaws of the WRA - Article VI Committees**

### **Add 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 upon the merits of a sportsmanship dismissal from a WRA event or co-sponsored event as described in Rule 4.7 the type and severity of any sanction or suspension. Notice to the NRD and BOD must be filed within ten (10) week 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 or other form of communication.

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

If the dismissal involves the NRD or any Board member, that person will recuse themselves from the Sportsmanship Committee.

### **Reason:**

As has been reported to the BOD, 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 #5**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 7 - Titles and Awards.**

#### **Add Section 7.5.5 Division II (This is a new section.)**

Division II (DII) was created for the whippet that wasn't bred to be a top race dog but loves to race, and runs well against similarly matched competition. DII is sanctioned by WRA and does not affect the board or the running of races in any way.

Eligibility for DII requires no more than 25% (3) racing champions (WRA or NAWRA) in 3 generations. CWA, CARA, and Field Championships do not count against eligibility. Eligible dogs who accumulate more than 5 WRCh points in WRA will no longer be eligible for Division II points/awards.

As of 6/1/2015, dogs who have been added to the DII approved list are eligible for DII points, and only dogs in the DII database count as entered DII dogs in a race meet. Dogs who earned DII points since 6/1/2015 are already approved and retain their points.

To have your dog approved for DII send your dog's registered name, call name, owner, and three generation pedigree to (WRA will determine an email address once this Proposal is approved). If there are dogs with questionable eligibility, the NRD will appoint a three person committee to make the final judgment.

To request earned points for a dog, the owner must send a copy, photo, or link to the final results to (WRA will determine an email address once this Proposal is approved) within TEN DAYS. The owner will receive a confirmation email that points have been awarded.

Top points are awarded to the highest finishing Division II approved dog with minor points to the second highest finishing Division II dog, to the third highest, etc.

Points are awarded according the following schedule of DII dogs entered:

2 to 4 Division II Starters

2 DII points – Top DII

5 to 9 Division II Starters

3 DII points – Top DII

1 DII point – Second DII

10 to 14 Division II Starters

4 DII points – Top DII

2 DII points – Second DII

15 to 19 Division II Starters

5 DII points – Top DII

3 DII points – Second DII

1 DII point – Third DII

20 to 24 Division II Starters

6 DII points – Top DII

4 DII points – Second DII

2 DII points – Third DII

25 and Over 4 Division II Starters

7 DII points – Top DII

5 DII points – Second DII

3 DII points – Third DII

1 DII point – Fourth DII

DII titles are as follows. After earning their "X", a dog is no longer eligible to earn points, but is still eligible for placements and trophies. Points will drop down to the next DII registered dog.

### **Division II WRA Racing Titles**

DICh            A dog must earn a total of  
15 DII WRA racing points

DIChX           A dog must earn a total of  
30 DII WRA racing points

**Rationale:** The standalone Division II program is a great program for those dogs that love to race but wasn't bred to be a top race dog. This program has been growing for the past six years and we feel it should be included as a WRA sponsored program.

## **PROPOSAL #6**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 3.4.1.2 Use of Camera to Determine Finish**

Current wording

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

Proposed wording (in red)

Retention: The recordings will be retained until **the race meet results have been verified official by the WRA Registrar/Recorder.** ~~at least two (2) hours after the last race is run.~~

#### **Reason:**

Without a specified time limit to retain the recordings is saying that the recordings should be retained for an infinite time. This new wording clarifies the length of time to retain the recordings.

## **PROPOSAL #7**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 7.5.4 Breeder of the #1 Dog Award**

Current wording: The wording below is what is currently in the Policies and Procedures #14.

Proposed wording: Add this paragraph to Section 7.5.4

**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.**

**Reason:** This is currently included in the Policies and Procedures #14. This proposal is just to move this 'program' to the Rule Book to make it easier for Clubs to find the information.

## **PROPOSAL #8**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 2.7 National Meet**

#### Current wording in WRA Rule Book

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.

#### Current wording in Policies & Procedures #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)

#### Current wording in Policies & Procedures #21.

That the parent club increase its annual "trophy donation" for the WRA National from \$200 to \$300. (July 2013).

#### Proposed wording (in Red):

Once a year WRA will celebrate a National WRA Meet. Member Club(s) are encouraged to volunteer to host this Meet. **Offers to host the WRA National Race Meet and Fun Match must be submitted before September 1st at 11:59pm (NRD's local time) each year.** When more than one host club location has been received, Member Clubs 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 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.** If no club requests to host the National Meet, then the NRD may solicit a host club. **The WRA will make a monetary donation to the trophy fund for the National.**

**Reason:** The proposed wording is a combination of Section 2.7 in the Rule Book and Policies and Procedures #19 and #21. This proposal is to clarify the requirements and have all the information in the same location.

## **PROPOSAL #9**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 6.8 Starting Box**

Current wording: The wording below is what is currently in the Policies and Procedures #4.

Proposed wording:

#### **6.8 Starting Box**

The great majority of races are won by Whippets who leave the starting box promptly, and then give their best efforts during the running of the race. More races are won or lost leaving the starting box than at any other point during the race.

It is absolutely necessary to have all starting boxes of virtually the same type (standardization). Various sizes, types of door, strange noisy devices only hinder and confuse racers who are not familiar with all the different box configurations. For WRA meets it would be well to consider a starting box of lightweight materials. The box can have a base of 3/4inch plywood, a top of 1/2 inch plywood. The door should be of metal tubing with the lower 10inches made of 1/2inch rods set vertically on 1inch centers. The upper 2/3 should be of fiberglass, painted so the Whippet cannot see through, forcing the racer to take a good position for starting. The floor of the starting box should be covered with matting of some type to avoid slipping. Rear doors should not fit flush with the bottom; allow one (1) to two (2) inches of space so the Whippets' tails will not be smashed when the rear door is slipped down. The rear doors must also be painted the same colors as the racing blankets - Red, Blue, White, Green, Black, and Yellow - #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6.

Boxes should be of such construction to make dismantling a simple process in the event the box must be transported.

Before building a box, it would be advisable to write the NRD for plans on starting boxes; several plans are on file that have proven to be satisfactory for our WRA program. In the interest of standardization of box plans, local groups or clubs wishing to use boxes which differ greatly from those recommended under Official Rules and Regulations, should request special permission from the NRD regarding box building plans. Written approval by the NRD for box plans prior to construction for WRA is mandatory. Please see Starting Box Plan in the Appendix.

**WRA Starting Box reimbursement program - 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 club, and continues to hold WRA meets would be reimbursed \$100 for each of their first three WRA meets.**

**Reason:** This is currently included in the Policies and Procedures #4. This proposal is just to move this 'program' to the Rule Book to make the information easier to locate.

## **PROPOSAL #10**

### **WRA Rule Book - Section 7.5.4 The Whippet Race Champion Excellent Title (WRChX)**

#### Current wording:

Any male Whippet that accumulates Fifty (50) National Points, and any female Whippet that accumulates Thirty (30) National Points, earns the title of Whippet Race Champion Excellent (WRChX).

Further WRChX titles may be earned with the accumulation of another Fifty (50) National Points for males, Thirty (30) National Points for bitches. A Roman numeral will be added to the WRChX title indicating the number of WRChX titles earned after the first, i.e., WRChX-II.

#### Proposed wording (in Red):

Any male Whippet that accumulates Fifty (50) National Points, and any female Whippet that accumulates Thirty (30) National Points, earns the title of Whippet Race Champion Excellent (WRChX) **and will receive a Title Certificate.**

Further WRChX titles may be earned with the accumulation of another Fifty (50) National Points for males, Thirty (30) National Points for bitches. A Roman numeral will be added to the WRChX title indicating the number of WRChX titles earned after the first, i.e., WRChX-II **and will receive an award ie: Laser engraved crystal block or some variation.**

**Reason:** The proposed wording is currently in the Policies and Procedures #15. This proposal is to include the Award in the Rule Book to make the information easier to locate.