

***Bylaws of the Whippet Racing Association
An Unincorporated Association***

Article I Offices

Section 1.01 Principal Offices

The principal office of the Association for the transaction of its business is located at the address of the Secretary - Treasurer. The National Race Director is authorized to change the principal office at his or her discretion, and shall notify all Member Clubs of any such change in writing.

Article II Members

Section 2.01 Club Membership

- (a) There shall be two classes of Club Membership: Active and Inactive.
 - (1) Active Clubs: Those Member Clubs, which have held at least one race meet within the twenty-four (24) months prior to November 1st (the date that ballots are mailed to the clubs for voting). [see Bylaws section 6.03(b)]
 - (2) Inactive Clubs: Those Member Clubs, which have NOT held at least one race meet within the twenty-four (24) months prior to November 1st (the date that ballots are mailed to the clubs for voting). [see ByLaws section 6.03(b)]
- (b) Clubs which do not conduct WRA race meets for two consecutive calendar years will automatically be dropped from membership and must re qualify as Members before conducting WRA race meets.
- (c) A Member Club shall be a club duly admitted to membership by the Association.
- (d) Only Members Clubs which are active shall have voting rights in the Association, and the rights of each voting Member Club shall be equal.
- (e) The interest of any Member Club of this Association is the personal property of that Member Club, and no Member Club shall have any interest in property held by the Association, regardless of the time or manner in which said property is acquired.

Section 2.02 Qualifications

An application for Membership shall be a Club which has qualified to hold race meets under the Racing Rules of this Association.

Section 2.03 Admission

Qualified Clubs shall be admitted to membership on making application therefore and on approval of the application by the Board of Directors. Application for Club Membership shall contain the statement that the applicant's directing officer and club representative have read the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of this Association, are familiar with and understand them, and that if admitted to membership, agree to be bound thereby.

Section 2.04 Fees, Dues, Assessments, and Application Fees

- (a) No fees shall be charged a Member Club applying for membership in the Association.
- (b) Club Membership in the Association is subject to assessments, which shall be levied and collected in the form of a per capita charge, the amount to be determined annually by the Board of Directors, for each Whippet entered in a race sponsored by the Member Club pursuant to the Rules of the Association.
- (c) The Member Clubs may be assessed annual dues, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, in an amount determined by a majority vote of the Club Representatives.

Section 2.05 Termination, Rights, and Reinstatement of Membership

- (a) The membership of any Member Club of the Association shall automatically be terminated:
 - (1) On its written request for such termination mailed to the Secretary - Treasurer; or
 - (2) By its failure to pay its assessments when they become due within thirty (30) days thereafter; or
 - (3) By its failure to provide results of a Race held pursuant to the Rules of this Association within fourteen (14) days of the date of the Race.
 - (4) By failing to hold a WRA race meet in two (2) consecutive calendar years.
- (b) All rights and interest of a Member Club in the Association shall cease upon termination of membership as herein provided.
- (c) Any Member Club whose membership is terminated may have its membership reinstated on such terms as the Board of Directors deem appropriate by filing a written request therefore.

Section 2.06 Suspension and Expulsion

- (a) The Board of Directors is authorized to suspend or expel from membership a Member Club or a Club Representative for good cause.

- (b) "Good cause" as used in this section means:
 - (1) Any conduct that brings the Association into public disrepute or violates the purposes for which this Association is formed:
 - (2) Any willful failure or refusal to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of this Association.
- (c) Definitions:
 - (1) A "suspension" requires violation of Section 2.06 Subparagraph (b)(1) and/or (b)(2). A suspension will be for no longer than eighteen (18) months from the time of the judgment of the hearing committee. A suspension will include all privileges of membership, including but not limited to voting.
 - (2) The termination of a Member Club shall require the violation of Section 2.06 Subparagraph (b)(1) and/or (b)(2). The membership of the Member Club and Club Representative in the Association shall be terminated as of the judgment date of the hearing committee.
 - (i) Termination shall not relieve the Ex-member from any liability for the payment of assessments, or legal judgments against the Association, accruing prior to the hearing on charges against said Member Club.
 - (ii) A terminated Member Club may reapply for Membership no sooner than Twenty-four (24) months from the date of judgment. All requirements for a new Member Club must be met. All assessments must have been paid before re-application. The Board of Directors may impose additional requirements, relating to the nature of the expulsion, if it sees fit.
- (d) Procedure
 - (1) Proceedings against a Member Club may be initiated by a resolution of a majority of the Board of Directors specifying charges, and served by personal service or by certified mail on the Club Representative or President of the Member Club, and, if by mail, a Return Receipt shall be required. Said Resolution shall specify a hearing date not less than fifteen (15) days, nor more than forty-five (45) days after passage and service of the resolution of the Board of Directors.
 - (2) The Member Club shall be entitled to participate in the hearing. The National Director shall appoint a hearing committee consisting of the Regional Director from the region of the club and two additional members. The hearing shall be open, informal and provide for fair presentation of evidence from both sides. The rules of evidence and rules of judicial procedure need not be observed.
 - (3) The hearing shall be presided over by the Regional Race Director for their club's region who shall:

- (i) Read the charges against the subject member;
 - (ii) Require that the charges be verified by the testimony of the person making them, and such witnesses as the President deems appropriate;
 - (iii) Allow the subject Member Club, by its Club Representative to question each witness or written statement;
 - (iv) Allow the Member Club, by its Club Representative, to make a statement in its own behalf, and call witnesses in its own behalf;
 - (v) Allow the Board of Directors to question witnesses; and
 - (vi) Rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence and on questions of hearing procedure.
- (4) After the hearing is closed, the committee shall vote on whether to impose discipline or dismiss the matter. The vote imposing discipline or dismissing the matter shall be reviewed and approved or rejected by the Board of Directors within 14 days, prior to the vote becoming final. All parties concerned will be notified of the Board of Directors final decision in writing.

Article III Meetings of Active Members

Section 3.01 Meetings

Due to the widely dispersed geographical area of the Association, and its nonprofit nature, the lack of compensation of its officers and members, there shall be no Member meetings, and business of the Association and elections shall be conducted by mail, phone, or other means of communication. However, the National Race Director is authorized to schedule meetings at such time and place as he or she may designate.

Section 3.02 Meetings and Notices

Written notice of the time and place of meeting shall be sent by United States Mail to the Club Representative at least twenty one (21) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3.03 Voting

Voting shall be by mail on ballots, by e-mail by ballots or a web-polling site which is set up to allow voting only by the appropriate members set up by, or overseen by the secretary. Each of the Club Representatives shall respond in the appropriate manner to the ballot. Election of the officers by the Club Representatives shall be by secret ballot.

Section 3.04 Conduct of Meetings

- (a) In the event a meeting of Club Representatives is held, the meeting shall be presided over by the National Race Director, or in the National Race Director's absence, by a chairman chosen by the Club Representatives present. The Secretary of the Association shall act as secretary of all meetings, provided that in the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as Secretary.
- (b) A quorum shall be one half (1/2) the Club Representatives.
- (c) Any actions suggested by the meeting must be mailed to the Member Clubs. Two thirds of the responding Member Clubs must then approve, or disapprove, the items on the ballot by the due date. Clubs will be given at least three (3) weeks to return their ballots.
- (d) Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, insofar as such rules are not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Constitution of this Association, or with the law.

Article IV Club Representatives

Section 4.01 Election or Appointment, and Term of Office

Club Representatives shall be elected or appointed by the Member Clubs. Each Member Club shall advise the Secretary - Treasurer in writing of the name, address, and telephone numbers of its representative. Until the NRD is notified otherwise, each Member Club's Race Secretary of record is that Club's Representative.

Section 4.02 Qualifications

When possible, the Club Representative who is elected or appointed by a Member Club should have at least two (2) years experience in Whippet racing.

Section 4.03 Duties and Compensation

It shall be the duty of the Club Representative:

- (a) To perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of this Association.
- (b) To register their addresses and telephone numbers with the Secretary - Treasurer of this Association.
- (c) Club Representative shall serve without compensation.

- (d) Any three (3) Club Representatives by joint written request presented to the Association Secretary - Treasurer, may require any decision or act of the National Race Director, or Board of Directors, be placed before the Club Representatives for approval or reversal. A two thirds (2/3) majority of Clubs voting are required to reverse a decision of the National Race Director or the Board of Directors.

Section 4.04 Removal

Club Representatives shall serve at the pleasure of the Member Club electing or appointing them, and can be removed by their respective Member Club.

Section 4.05 Vacancies

A vacancy of Club Representative shall be filled by election or appointment of the Member Club whom the Club Representative represents. The Member Club shall provide the Association with notice, as set forth in Section 4.01.

Article V Officers

Section 5.01 Officers and Titles

The Board of Directors of this Association and their titles shall be:

- (a) National Race Director
- (b) Secretary/Treasurer
- (c) Regional Race Director

Section 5.02 Election and Term of Office

The two (2) officers and the Regional Race Directors named in Section 5.01 shall be elected by the members clubs by written ballot. The term of office shall be two (2) years commencing on January 1st following the election. The term of the NRD and Secretary/Treasurer shall start and end on years that end with an even number, i.e. 1996. The terms of the Regional Race Directors shall start and end on years that end with an odd number, i.e. 1997. The following procedure shall be followed.

- (a) Nominations shall be made in writing by the club representatives and approved by the nominee, and mailed to the Secretary between September 1st and October 15th.
- (b) Each candidate for office shall prepare a short campaign statement to be included with the ballot. This statement should include why they want to run for office and what they intend to do while in office.
- (c) The Secretary shall prepare and mail the candidate statements along with the ballots to the club representatives by November 1st.

- (d) Regional Race Directors are elected by the vote of club representatives from their region only.
- (e) The club representatives shall vote promptly and mail the ballots back to the Secretary. The ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than the second Monday in December to be counted. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.
- (f) To be considered elected, each officer must receive fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) vote of the ballots being received on, or before, the closing date. If no candidate receives a majority plus one of the votes for an office, a run-off election between the top two contenders for that office shall be conducted.
- (g) The Secretary shall tally the ballots one day after the closing date, and mail notice of the results of the election to the members within fifteen (15) days of tallying the ballots.
- (h) The Secretary shall preserve the ballots for a sixty (60) day period, from the time the result notices are mailed, during which time they shall be available for inspection by any club representative.

Section 5.03 Compensation

Officers and Board of Directors of this Association shall serve without compensation. This Association will, to the best of its ability, reimburse officers, members of the Board of Directors, or its committees, the direct and reasonable expenses necessary to fulfill the duties required by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of this Association.

Section 5.04 Removal

Any or all officers may be removed from office at any time by the vote of Seventy five percent (75%) of the Club Representatives.

Section 5.05 Vacancies

The following procedures shall be the used in filling vacant positions on the Board of Directors:

- (a) The following order of preference shall be used to fill the vacant unexpired term of the National Race Director:
 - (1) The duly elected Secretary – Treasurer
 - (2) A person selected by the remaining members of the Board of Directors.
 - (3) If no duly elected person remains on the Board of Directors to fill this position, the Club Representatives shall elect a National Race Director to fill the unexpired term of the ex-National Race Director.

- (b) The National Race Director shall have the power to appoint an acting replacement to serve out the remaining term of all other vacant Board of Directors positions.

Section 5.06 Duties of the National Race Director

- (a) The National Race Director shall serve as the President and Chief Executive officer of the Association and shall in general be subject to the control of the Club Representatives.
- (b) The National Race Director shall supervise and control the affairs of the Association.
- (c) The National Race Director shall perform all duties incident to his office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him from time to time by the Club Representatives.
- (d) The National Race Director shall be the final reviewing authority for all protests received, and is responsible for appointing all protest committees with the chairman of the committee being one of the Association's Board of Directors. If a protest directly involves the National Race Director the Secretary/Treasurer will fill the duties of the National Race Director concerning that protest.
- (e) The National Race Director shall see that complete records regarding all Whippets racing in the Whippet Racing Association are properly kept, and that awards are granted in a timely manner.
- (f) The National Race Director shall issue WRA Titles to the owners of those whippets which complete the requirements set forth in the Rules.

Section 5.07 Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

- (a) The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the principal office of the Association, the original Constitution, as amended, and the original Bylaws, as amended.
- (b) The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining and annually publishing any changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Whippet Racing Association.
- (c) The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep in the Minutes Book the minutes of all meetings of the Club Representatives, and those in attendance.

- (d) The Secretary/Treasurer shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws, or as required by law.
- (e) The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of the records of the Association.
- (f) The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the name and address of each Member Club and its respective Club Representative.
- (g) The Secretary/Treasurer shall have charge of and custody of, and be responsible for all funds and assets of the Association, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Association in a bank or depository.
- (h) The Secretary/Treasurer shall receive and give receipt for moneys due and payable to the Association.
- (i) The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute the funds of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors.
- (j) The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Association's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses.
- (k) The Secretary/Treasurer shall render to the National Race Director and Board of Directors an account of any and all transactions as requested.
- (l) The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- (m) The Secretary/Treasurer will keep a book, separate from the meeting minutes, containing all policy decisions of the Board of Directors, the National Race Director, and The Club Representatives.
- (n) The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute racing titles to the owners of those whippets which complete the requirements set forth in the Rules.

Section 5.08 Regional Race Directors: Selection and Duties

- (a) Regional Race Directors (RRD) shall be elected by the Member Clubs from their region. This election shall be conducted on the same timetable as the national officers election. RRD's shall be responsible for scheduling race meets within their respective regions, shall resolve conflicts between racing dates within their region and shall serve as members of the Board of Directors.
- (b) Each of the following geographical regions with Active Member Clubs shall be represented by one (1) RRD. The East Coast, The Southeast, The South, The Midwest, The West, The Northwest, Canada. The map that follows clearly outlines each region. When there is no RRD for Canada, the RRD's with the area contiguous to, or south of, Canada will assume responsibility for any Member Clubs in Canada that are directly north of that RRD's Region .

(1) The states/provinces in each region are as follows:

(i) The East Coast

Connecticut	New York
Delaware	Pennsylvania
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	Virginia
New Hampshire	West Virginia
New Jersey	Parts of Ontario

(ii) The Southeast

Alabama	North Carolina
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Mississippi	

(iii) The South

Arkansas	Oklahoma
Louisiana	Texas

(iv) The Midwest

Illinois	Missouri
Indiana	Nebraska
Iowa	North Dakota
Kansas	Ohio
Kentucky	South Dakota
Michigan	Wisconsin
Minnesota	Parts of Ontario

(v) The West

Arizona	New Mexico
California	Utah
Colorado	Hawaii
Nevada	

(vi) The Northwest

Alaska	Montana
British Columbia	Washington
Idaho	Wyoming
Oregon	



(c) Regions with no RRD, due to a lack of Member Clubs within that Region, shall have the vacancy filled per the WRA By Laws section on vacancies in the Board of Directors when a RRD becomes necessary due to Clubs application for WRA race meets in that Region.

(d) The RRD shall contact the clubs in his/her area to discuss the rules and any problems or changes in the area. The RRD will present current topics and materials regarding racing, and make note of suggestions, changes, etc. to give to the NRD or Rules Committee as necessary.

(e) To receive any complaints that are not settled by the local Race Secretary. These complaints need not be submitted in writing.

(f) Will be present, if possible, at the official qualifying meet given by any new club in their area. If not, the National Race Director will appoint another individual to supervise and assist at the qualifying meet, or first meet held, if the Club is not required to hold a qualifying meet.

(g) The RRD will assist in the general supervision of WRA racing, and will report to and be responsible to the NRD.

(h) The RRD may serve on an Inspection Committee, only after allowing the Host Club reasonable time to solve a situation.

Please note: The National Race Director, the Regional Race Directors, or other appropriate Committees, are not a police force or a group to handle personal differences. However, the NRD is interested in the over-all conduct during race meets of individuals who race Whippets at WRA Meets.

Article VI Committees

Section 6.01 General

The National Race Director shall appoint such committees, and designate its members, or Club Representatives to serve on such committees.

Section 6.02 Duties of the Registrar – Recorder

- (a) The Registrar - Recorder shall register all whippets participating in the Race Program.
- (b) The Registrar - Recorder shall maintain and publish records of each whippet which has raced at a meet held by a Member Club pursuant to the Association's Rules governing Whippet Racing.
- (c) The Registrar - Recorder shall maintain records for all titles, and disqualifications for any cause, for all whippets racing in programs governed by the Associations Rules.
- (d) The Registrar - Recorder shall notify the NRD of all whippets that complete the requirements for any title offered by the Association.
- (e) The Registrar - Recorder shall perform all duties incident to his office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 6.03 Rules Committee

The Rules Committee shall consist of persons appointed by the NRD. A sufficient number of persons will be appointed to the committee to handle the volume of change suggestions in the time allotted by the Bylaws of the WRA. It shall formulate Rules for Whippet Racing, and from time to time amendments thereto, for approval by the Club Representatives. The Rules Committee shall receive all suggestions for change in the Constitution, Bylaws and Race Rules from Members Clubs, through their Representatives, or from individuals (defined as a person who has actively raced a dog within the 24 months prior to the closing date of current year proposals).

- (a) The Rules Committee shall inform all Board Members, Officers, Member Representatives and the Registrar/Recorder of all suggestions for changes with sufficient time for comment upon said changes. The Rules Committee may adjust a change, based on the consensus of the comment, or it may submit a separate change based on the comments received.
- (b) 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 are not limited to only these two methods.

- 1) By post, postmarked on or before November 1st
- 2) By e-mail, timed prior to 11:59 PM, 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 post, mailed so as to be received by the second Monday of December.
- 2) By e-mail, timed before 11:59 PM, 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.

Section 6.04 *Protest Committee*

A protest Committee consisting of Three (3) or more individuals connected with the 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, RRD 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 RRD.

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.

Article VII Execution of Instruments, Deposits, and Funds

Section 7.01 Execution of Instruments

The National Race Director may enter into any contract and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.02 Checks and Notes

Except as otherwise determined by resolution of the Club Representatives or as otherwise required by law, the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for payment of money and other evidence of indebtedness of this Association shall be signed by the Secretary - Treasurer or by the National Race Director.

Section 7.03 Deposits

All funds of the Association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Association in such banks or other depositories as the Secretary - Treasurer may select.

- (a) The Board of Directors may require the transfer of funds if it deems the depository inappropriate.

Article VIII Definitions

Section 8.01 Mail

For purposes of these by-laws the word "mail", will be defined as: "any electronic or hard copy notification, which leaves a record with both the sender and recipient. These will include, but not be limited to e-mail, overnight letters, dedicated WRA e-mail lists, or faxes.

Article IX Bylaws

Section 9.01 Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed, in whole or in part, and new Bylaws adopted by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Club Representatives responding on the date the ballot is due back to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association.

Section 9.02 Certification and Inspection

The original of the Bylaws, as amended, certified by the Secretary - Treasurer of the Association, shall be recorded and kept in a book which shall be kept in the principal office of the Association, and such book shall be open to inspection by the Club Representatives and Members Clubs at all reasonable times during business hours.

- (a) A copy of revised editions of the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules will be sent to the Club Representatives, National Race Director, and all Regional Race Directors.
- (b) Additional Copies of the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules will be sent to the Club Representatives, National Race Director, and Regional Race Director upon request.
- (c) Copies of the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules will be sent to any person requesting them for a fee not to exceed the expense of copying and delivery.