

Please find below the four submitted rule change proposals for 2024. Also, this year we are voting for our National Race Director and Secretary/Treasurer. We have one nomination for each position.

There are four (4) rule change proposals brought forth this year, as detailed on the following pages below.

Each active WRA club will receive 1 vote. Clubs must submit their votes by December 11, 2023.

1. **Please vote either FOR or AGAINST for each of the four rule changes.**
2. **Please vote either FOR or AGAINST for the nomination of both the NRD and Secretary/Treasurer (even though there is only one candidate for each).**

If you have any questions, please contact Darien Adley, our WRA Secretary/Treasurer.

## **PROPOSAL #1**

### **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.

3. 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 or 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 (including the dog qualifying).
- 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 7 months.
- The race must be observed by at least 1 qualified individual 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 individual(s) 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. The Race Secretary must keep the Certification Form with the Racing Results.

**Reason for Change:**

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.

## PROPOSAL #2

### PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO DIVISION II

Proposal to enhance available DICh racing points so that higher finishing DII competitors have an improved opportunity to earn a DICh title. This proposal also corrects a qualifying element of DII.

#### 7.5.5 Division II

If an approved DII whippet accumulates more than 5 **or more** championship points towards a WRCh, RCh or ORC title or the international equivalent, DII eligibility for points/titles/awards will cease.

....

WRA DII **Champion** racing points and **National racing points** are awarded at the end of **an official** race meet **in which WRCh/WRChX points are awarded** based upon final placement, completion of all programs offered, and the number of approved, eligible DII adult starters at the meet. Titles are then awarded upon accumulation of those points. 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, **not finished all races, or finished last at the end of the day's racing**. There are no ties and points are not split.

##### 7.5.5.1 DII Champion Racing Points

WRA DII **Champion** racing points are awarded according to the following schedule:

DII <b>Champion</b> Racing Point Distribution				
Eligible DII Adult Starters	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
2 – 4	2 pts			
5 – 9	3 pts	1 pt		
10 – 14	4 pts	2 pts		
15 – 19	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
20 – 24	6 pts	4 pts	2 pts	
25+	7 pts	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt

The number of eligible DII adult starters competing for **Champion** points is determined at the end of a meet. To calculate the eligible DII adult starters, subtract any DII champion whippets (DICh, DIChX) that place above the first DII non-champion whippet. The eligible entry includes the first DII non-champion titled whippet and all DII whippets that place below it (including whippets with DII titles and incomplete meets). Example: Meet entry includes 6 DII approved whippets. The highest scoring or 1<sup>st</sup> place DII whippet has already earned the DICh title. The second highest scoring DII whippet has no DII champion titles as awarded by WRA. The eligible DII adult entry for **Champion** racing points is therefore 5 whippets.

### 7.5.5.2 DII Champion Excellent (National) Racing Points

WRA DII National racing points will be awarded to the highest scoring DII whippet(s) depending on the number of eligible DII adult starters that meet the criteria listed above except that all DII Adult Starters are counted regardless of placement or title. National racing points will be used to determine ranking throughout the year and lifetime rankings within DII.

WRA DII **National** racing points are awarded according to the following schedule:

DII <b>National</b> Racing Point Distribution				
DII Adult Starters	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
2 - 4	2 pts			
5 - 9	3 pts	1 pt		
10 - 14	4 pts	2 pts		
15 - 19	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	
20 - 24	6 pts	4 pts	2 pts	
25+	7 pts	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt

With the introduction of Champion and National racing points, all DII Champion racing points earned prior to January 1, 2024 will also be considered National racing points, since whippets earning these points finished highest among other DII entries prior to this date.

### 7.5.5.3 WRA Division II Titles

- Any approved DII whippet that accumulates 15 WRA DII **Champion** racing points will be awarded the title of Division II Whippet Race Champion (DICh).
- Any approved DII whippet that accumulates 30 WRA DII **National** racing points will be awarded the title of Division II Whippet Race Champion Excellent (DIChX).
- Any approved DII whippet that accumulates 45 WRA DII **National** racing points will be awarded the title of Division II Whippet Race Champion Excellent II (DIChXII).

Further DIChX titles will be awarded with the Roman numeral being increased to reflect the number of titles earned and another Title Certificate awarded for each additional increment of 15 WRA DII **National** racing points.

#### Reason for Change:

To date, competitors may not have an opportunity to earn points towards a DICh title even if the highest scoring whippet(s) has (have) already earned the DICh or Champion title. This proposal creates another tier [similar to WRCh vs WRChX (or National) points] so that DII competitors that perform well have a better opportunity to earn DII Champion points. The requirements for DIChX and above have not changed but have just been given the updated label of National racing points.

## **PROPOSAL #3**

### **PROPOSAL**

**WRA Rule Book – Section 2.4 Scheduling of Approved Whippet Racing Association Race Meets (*added as #7, the last entry in the list*)**

#### **Proposed Wording:**

7. No Member Club will hold a WRA race meet on the same **weekend** as the National WRA Meet (*see 2.7 below for information on the National WRA Meet*). 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. 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.

#### **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 #4

### PROPOSAL – Clarification of existing rule

WRA Rule Book – Section 3.4, Finish Line (Placement) Judges

#### Current Wording:

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.

#### Proposed Wording:

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 by blanket number of the whippet** 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, meaning each whippet had been wearing the assigned blanket of another whippet, then the blanket number will determine the placement within the race, not the actual whippet originally assigned the blanket. No other criteria will be used to determine the finish order of a race. Finish line judges cannot be expected to know if the whippets are correctly blanketed or determine the order of finish by anything other than blanket order.**

#### Reason for Change:

Clarification of the rule that the blanket always determines the placement of the dog. If 2 or more whippets are dressed incorrectly during a race, blanketed in the blanket of another incorrect 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.