

PROPOSAL #1

Cameras for use on Finish Line

3.4 Finish Line (Placement) Judges

The Race Secretary will appoint a head Finish Line Judge, who, in turn, will select the necessary finish line judges for each race. Judges must be thoroughly qualified to honestly place all dogs in each race. Whippet owners may act as judges but must ask to be replaced when their dogs are competing.

There should be a camera present for all races. There should be 2 line judges present for all races. The video results will be reviewed by the line judges immediately following the race and results recorded and labeled "camera". The judges will also record placements, and their results will be used as a backup in case of camera failure. The use of a second camera is also permitted. If a second camera is used, it will be noted as the backup camera at the start of the meet. If the primary camera fails to record, the line judges will utilize the backup camera to record the results of the race. If the backup camera fails to record, then the line judges results will be utilized.

~~There should be six (6) placement judges with a minimum of four (4) for High Point Races (Adult or Puppy), and four (4) placement judges, with a minimum of two (2) for all other races.~~

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.

3.4.1.2 Use of Camera to determine Finish

~~Video cameras may be used to settle cases of disagreement or confusion over the order of the finish. If the judges do not agree on what they see in the recording the methods enumerated in these rules will be used to settle the dispute based on what each sees in the recording. The use of video equipment shall be in a supplemental mode and will not replace the placing judges. If used, the following procedure must be used on each race.~~

~~1) The placing judges will call the race as usual. If there is a disagreement among the placing judges, they (and No one else) may call a photo finish. When this happens, the race will be posted as a photo finish. The resolution of this race shall take place prior to the running of the next race.~~

~~(a) All placing judges for that race will immediately proceed to the viewing area along with the video and video operator.~~

~~(b) Only the placing judges of the disputed or tied race and the video operator shall review the finish. After the placing judges review the video, they shall announce their results. These results shall become official and posted on the scoreboard.~~

An owner may protest the FINISH of a race and must do so before the running of the next race **drawing of the next program**. The judges will view the tape and rule on the finish. The owner will be allowed to view the video of the protested race with the judges but may not participate in, or attempt to influence, any discussion of what is viewed.

Cameras: The camera shall be a digital video camera **or phone/iPad** capable of recording moving images in a digital format and playing them back in slow or stop motion with no loss of clarity. The playback equipment must be able to view individual frames in a stop motion format.

Mounting and Positioning: The camera will be on a firm base at least 5 feet (60 inches) above the ground and on the side of the track which gets the best light to see the dogs, the idea is that no dog is hidden behind any other dog, with higher mounting preferable. A camera on each side of the track is preferable to one mounted on one side of the track, to catch dogs not seen by the other camera. Ideally the camera would be mounted over the center of the track with enough height to see the full track width. The camera shall be placed on the finish line and pointed across the track with a clear view of the full width of the finish line and track. The camera will not follow the dogs down the track. It will allow the dogs to run through its field of view. The camera will have an unimpeded view of the finish.

Use: The camera shall be ~~set to the fastest shutter speed~~ **set in Slow Motion or Super Slow Motion**, to achieve the greatest clarity.

The camera will record the Heat and race numbers, preferably before the race. The recording of the heat and dogs may be visual or audio. The camera should be started before the race starts and shall run until after all dogs that finish cross the finish line.

Retention: The recordings will be retained until the race meet results have been verified officially by the WRA Registrar/Recorder.

Reason for rule change: Modern cameras on phones have been used for finish line cameras for several years. They have been the primary camera for each of the last nationals. The cameras and their slow motion are excellent for use as finish line cameras. A constant struggle at race meets is waiting for judges. In addition to being busy, some owners do not feel

comfortable in their ability to judge a race. Also, small meets often struggle to get line judges. Having the camera as primary also ensures the most accurate race results that are reasonably possible. Participants often drive 10+ hours to race and deserve to have the most accurate results that are reasonable possible.

The other addendum to the rule is that owners may protest results as long as it is prior to the drawing of the next program. The current rule does not make sense as the results of the race are not known by the participants prior to the running of the next race. Allowing protest up until the drawing of the next program allows owners time to see the results. Hopefully, this will not be a big issue if all results are recorded from camera.

PROPOSAL #2

Simplify DQ rules re: Adult and Puppy

4.1 Adult Disqualifications

Any adult-Whippet, **adult or puppy**, disqualified twice (2 times) for "Intentional Interference" in any one (1) year (twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of the first foul) will not be allowed to race again until 12 months from the date of the second foul.

Should an ~~adult~~ Whippet with two (2) disqualifications in one twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of the first foul again race in the following 12 month period, or periods, and be disqualified for "Intentional Interference," said Whippet will be permanently barred from all future WRA Meets.

Should an ~~adult~~ Whippet with two (2) disqualifications in one twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of the first foul again race in the following 12 month period or periods and run clean for six (6) race meets or twenty-four (24) complete heats, one of the two fouls will be removed.

Any adult Whippet racing with one foul or disqualification in any one year (twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of the first foul may continue to race as long as it incurs only one foul per twelve (12) month period beginning with the date of the first foul.

~~4.2 Puppy Disqualifications~~

~~Any puppy racer (8 to 14 months) disqualified for "Intentional Interference" twice, while running as a puppy, will not be allowed to race further within twelve (12) months of the second foul, either as a puppy or an adult.~~

Renumber following sections:

- 4.2 Owner Conduct.
- 4.3 Rerunning of a Race
- 4.4 Cautions
- 4.5 Protest Procedures
- 4.6 Sportsmanship

Reason for rule change: DQ rules apply consistently to adults and puppies (2 fouls within 12 months equals a 12 month bar), so there is no need for two rules.

In addition, by separating the rules, it potentially allows two fouls within 12 months without consequence, if one occurred as a puppy and one as an adult. This doesn't appear to be the intention.

PROPOSAL #3

Qualifying to Race

Add the following new section:

2.6 Qualifying to Race

Dogs or puppies entering their first WRA meet must have run a qualifying race.

Minimum Requirements:

- 150 to 200 yard race from the boxes (200 is preferred)
- One or two other dog of a similar speed (two is preferred with qualifying dog between the 2 experienced dogs)
- No hesitation, quitting, bumping, head turning, or fouling by the qualifying dog.
- The qualifying dog passes, is passed by, and/or runs next to another dog for a significant amount of time. (preferred)
- Witnessed by a Race Secretary or designated official.

A dog that has run a complete program with at least one other dog in CWA, AOK9, CARA, or NOTRA will be considered qualified for WRA, unless the dog was disqualified for fouling in that or a subsequent meet.

Other changes as a result:

Renumber following sections:

2.7 Reporting Results

2.8 National Meet

2.9 Non-Affiliated Events

2.10 Official Entry Blank

Section 1.2 Whippets Eligible to Participate...

Add new item #9:

9. Whippets must be qualified to race (see Section 2.6).

Reason for rule change: There is currently no description or requirement of a dog being qualified to run in WRA. This could lead to unqualified dogs being entered and interfering with race results and/or potentially affecting other dogs, especially puppies.

It is important for the safety and integrity of the sport that dogs be qualified. All other dog sports that have dogs competing together, and many where dogs compete individually, have a required qualification to show minimum competence in order to enter.

Minimum and preferred descriptions are included because previous proposals using the preferred description were rejected as being too difficult to make happen. It's not always possible for a dog to meet the preferred criteria, but it is highly recommended.