Rule Change Proposal #1 – Limit Outside Box Draws

Rule Book Changes:

5.3.2 Rotation by Points

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. 4th Program), If a dog finishes in last place in the 3rd Program high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the 3rd 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.

[Insert paragraph break]

Whippets are then randomly drawn within each race as stated in section 5.3 above, meaning the first name drawn for each race will get box #1, the second name will get box #2 and so on down through all races in the complete program. Whippets in the High Point races may not draw Box 1 more than twice in the meet nor Box 6 more than twice in the meet. If a whippet draws Box 1 for the 3rd or 4th time, it will be moved to Box 2 and the dog in Box 2 will be placed in Box 1. If a racer draws Box 6 for the 3rd or 4th time, it will be moved to Box 5 and the dog in Box 5 will be placed in Box 6.

Proposal Reason:

This is consistent with NOTRA rules and prevents a dog in the High Point Race from getting an advantage by drawing the same outside box 3 or 4 times in a meet. While it is still possible to draw 4 outside boxes (two 1s and two 6s), the opposite sides limit that advantage somewhat.

Rule Change Proposal #2 – Change How the Lure is Handled at the Box

Rule Book Changes:

3.7 Box Operator

If possible, two persons should be assigned to work the starting box, but one will suffice if a second qualified person is not available. The Box Operator may serve as a foul judge also, if qualified. The lure and string with loop should be placed, not thrown, **at least fifteen (15) feet** down track, directly in front of, and at the center of the starting box in the circle specially outlined (usually with white spray paint), in clear view for all the Whippets to see. By watching the movement of the string, and with practice, the boxes should be opened the very instant the loop in the string moves. A delay in opening the box after the lure moves can cause Whippets to charge the door and be off balance when the door opens, causing an unfair advantage.

Proposal Reason:

Throwing the lure means the string will typically be in front of, not even with or behind the lure, as the rule states/implies. Whippets may then cue off of string movement instead of the lure, resulting in charging the door as described in the rule as something to avoid.

Throwing the lure also means the lure may not land in the circle and at least 15 feet in front of the starting boxes.

Placing the lure and string, instead of throwing it, ensures appropriate placement per the rule.

Suggestion to bold "at least fifteen (15) feet" to highlight importance and help ensure all clubs are placing the lure that far ahead.

Rule Change Prop #3 – Update How X Titles are Awarded Based on Historical Data

Rule Book Changes:

Section 7.5.4 The Whippet Race Champion Excellent Title (WRChX)

Any male Whippet that accumulates Fifty (50) National Points, and any female Whippet that accumulates Thirty (30) National Points will earn~~s~~ 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 Forty (40) ~~Fifty (50)~~ National points for WRChX-II and another Thirty-five (35) National points for WRChX-III or greater for males, Thirty (30) National Points for females ~~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 the title earner will receive an award ie: Laser engraved crystal block or some variation.

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.

Proposal Reason:

The point requirements for males over their racing career have made titles of WRChX-III and above unattainable. Only two males have ever reached WRChX-III and higher and this was more than 25 years ago in 1997 and 2000, whereas seven females have attained the title of X3 since 2003. When looking at titles and achievements over time, males have earned 61% of the WRChX titles, dropping to 52% of the WRChX-II titles which then dramatically declines to only 22% of the WRChX-III titles (see table below). It would seem that the point requirements favor females over males rather than equally awarding both for their achievements long term. This could, in part, be due to average meet attendance numbers as in the late 1990's and early 2000's meets had larger attendance than an average meet in the 2020's and it could also be due to more competitive entries. However, it does still seem to point toward inequality and title levels that cannot be reached by males.

This proposal is being submitted to better award performance by both male and female whippets over the long term. The proposed change would result in one additional male achieving an WRChX-II title and five additional males achieving WRChX-III titles. The very top two males with an WRChX-IV and WRChX-VI would become WRChX-VI and WRChX-IX, respectively, further distinguishing their amazing careers.

In studying the database, it has been since 2000 that a male dog has earned a WRChX-III or WRChX-IV. Every WRChX-III or WRChX-IV since 2000 has been a bitch. Smaller meet numbers and smaller numbers of meets in a region possibly influences this.

This can be approved for current dogs only or to retroactively apply these title numbers to retired dogs. If choosing to retroactively award these titles there are very few changes, one WRChX-II and five WRChX-III.

	X		X2		X3		X4		X5		X6	
	Males	Females	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
199x-2000	5	1	2	1	2		2					
2001-2005	7	5	3	3		1		1	1	1	1	
2006-2010	8	6	1	5		4		2				
2011-2015	7	5	3	2								
2016-2020	6	8	3	2		1						
2021-2025	8	2	2	1		1		1				
2026	1		1									
Totals	42	27	15	14	2	7	2	4	1	1	1	0

Rule Change Prop #4 – CR Point Change to Reward Whippets that Finish the Meet with less than 2 Race Points

Rule Book Changes:

Section 7.5 Titles Awarded by the Whippet Racing Association

Section 7.5.1 The Companion Racer (CR)

Any whippet that accumulates fifteen (15) race points earns the title of Companion Racer (CR). Race points are issued for placement in the races during a race meet or, for the sole purpose of the Companion Racer titles, race points can also be earned by completing a meet as defined below. A whippet will earn a minimum of two points or the total of their race points, whichever is greater, for a completed meet. In other words, if a whippet earns one (1) race point during the meet and completes the meet, that whippet will receive two (2) points towards their CR title. If a whippet earns 2.5 race points during a meet and completes the meet, that whippet will earn 2.5 points towards their CR title. This does not affect the whippet's race points or wave.

To complete a meet for CR points, whippets must compete in all four programs and cross the finish line in at least three of the four programs with no more than one off-course or one did not finish for the entire race meet. This is to distinguish between dogs who scratch or are disqualified versus dogs who might have been hit, lost sight of the lure, or inadvertently impacted by circumstances outside their control but who still attempt to race in all four programs. Whippets who scratch or are disqualified in any given meet will not earn any race points for that meet toward the title of Companion Racer. Only points earned during meets in which the dog has run a complete (did not scratch, was not disqualified, or did not finish or go off course in two or more programs) race meet can be utilized for this award. If a race meet is considered complete after three programs, then the whippet must have crossed the finish line in all three programs. Any whippet holding a WRCh or higher title will not earn CR points.

Section 7.5.2 The Companion Racer Excellent (CRX)

Any whippet NOT holding a WRCh or WRChX title that has earned a CR title and then accumulates an additional sixty (60) race points will earn the title of Companion Racer Excellent (CRX). Only points earned during meets in which the whippet ~~dog~~ has run the complete race meet as defined in Section 7.5.1 above can be utilized in the total for this award.

Any holder of the CRX title who accumulates a further sixty race points will earn another title and be known as a CRXII. Further CRX titles will be awarded with the Roman numeral being increased to reflect the number of titles earned and another certificate awarded.

Proposal Reason:

In WRA, whippets may compete in all four programs, yet some never receive any acknowledgement even after completing 8 or more meets. WRA, unlike other racing associations, does not recognize such efforts. And, the criteria for the CR and CRX titles do not account for the entries that score 0 (zero) not because they raced against others of equal ability but because of Race Champions or other strong competitors who have scratched meet after meet or entries that are skewed to higher averages/grades with very minimal attendance by lower averages/grades. Amazingly, these same entries that are given no credit for their needed and necessary racing efforts do count towards Champion and National points/titles for competitors that can scratch and do not even have to attempt all four programs. If these entries are not valued, then they surely should not count as entries for Champion or National race points. Finally, whippets can score points simply by 'luck of the draw' in that they are in a 3-dog race. Again, if this last place finisher can automatically gain points, a competitor who gives a solid racing attempt all four programs deserves credit for their efforts and would seem the very essence of a Companion Racer especially after 8 or more meets of competition and especially since their participation is often desired when qualifying other whippets.

This proposal is being submitted in an effort to award the entries who support the Champion and National point earners and compete meet after meet after meet in all four programs. Every effort will be made to award points retroactively for currently active racers going back no more than ten years. If a whippet has not competed in the past two years, it will not be considered active in this instance.

Rule Change Proposal #5

Withdrawn

Rule Change Proposal #6 – Remove Measuring & All AKC Disqualifications

Proposal: Eliminate all AKC breed disqualifications (height/measuring, coat, deafness). All references to measuring are removed.

- *Remove Section 1.2.7.*
- *Edit 3.2 to remove references to measuring.*
- *Remove Section 3.2.2 Measuring*

Rule Book Changes:

~~***Section 1.2.7***~~

~~**Disqualifications**~~

~~DISQUALIFICATIONS ENFORCED BY THE WRA INCLUDED IN THE AKC STANDARD FOR THE BREED ARE:~~

~~♦ A Whippet bitch measuring more than one-half (1/2) inch above twenty one (21) inches or below eighteen (18) inches.~~

~~♦ A Whippet male measuring more than one-half (1/2) inch above twenty two (22) inches or below nineteen (19) inches.~~

~~♦ Coat other than short, close, smooth and firm in texture.~~

~~♦ Deafness.~~

3.2 Inspection Committee

It is the responsibility of the local Race Secretary to select an Inspection Committee of three qualified people for each approved race meeting. The Race Secretary, or his/her appointee, will officially check-in those Whippets that qualify to participate in the meet. This person can also be the "Timer for Measuring Procedure." The purpose of this committee is:

- ~~To measure and inspect all Whippets following procedures described in section 3.2.2 (Measuring)~~
- To check and inspect all Whippets for all characteristics that might disqualify them from racing.
- To check muzzle of each racer for safety.

These are all done before the racing begins.

This committee of three should not include the RRD (Regional Race Director) or the NRD (National Race Director). However, if the RRD or NRD is present, he/she may step in to help only after allowing the host club reasonable time to solve a situation

~~***3.2.2 Measuring***~~

~~***3.2.2.1 Purpose***~~

~~The purpose of Measuring is to determine through the use of the wicket whether the Whippet is within the height limits as described in the Whippet Standard of the Breed, "19 to 22 inches for dogs"; "18 to 21 inches for bitches" as measured across the shoulders at the highest point. More than One I half inch above or below the above stated measurements will disqualify.~~

~~***3.2.2.2 Site***~~

~~The measuring site will be picked by the local Race Secretary. This site will be located away from "traffic" and other disturbances. In addition to the Measuring Committee and Race Secretary, only the Whippet being measured and handler will be allowed in this area. During the measuring procedure, there will be NO activity on the track, no testing of boxes, no lure machines going, or loudspeakers speaking! We must do everything possible to maintain "quiet," so to avoid distractions that could "trigger" the racing personality, thus making the "natural, relaxed stance" harder to obtain. The place of inspection will be a level, hard, even surface, into which the legs of the wicket will not sink, that is not smooth so it will give good traction to the whippets when standing on it.~~

~~If such a surface is not available, there will be an inspection board, generally made to these requirements: ½ inch to 1 inch plywood 24 inches wide, 44 inches to 45 inches long, and will be flat over its entire surface. The board may be unpainted, but if painted, only nonskid paint will be allowed. The Race Secretary, or an appointee, will check-in each entrant on the program that, after the measurement and inspection, is acceptable, and will be responsible to time each measuring attempt. The wickets for measuring each entrant will be approved by the NRD. Approved wickets are available through the WRA.~~

~~***3.2.2.3 Procedure***~~

~~Each Whippet is entitled to two (2) measuring procedures, of three (3) minutes each. In the event a Whippet does not measure properly on the first attempt, the whippet may be brought back for a second measurement before the Committee closes. To eliminate wasted time with this procedure, the owner and/or handler is encouraged to train the Whippet at home, so all become familiar with the exercise! The Inspection Committee will not speak other than answering questions from the handler, or to request that the handler properly position or handle the dog for inspection. The Committee will not touch the Whippet on the board except to perform individual inspection duties.~~

~~Any Whippet whose shoulder touches the crossbar of the wicket and either, or both legs of the wicket fail to touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing will, at the second measurement, be disqualified for that particular WRA meet. The entry fee will not be returned.~~

~~Any Whippet that has the crossbar of the wicket touch the shoulder and the legs of the wicket still touch the surface on which the Whippet is standing is qualified to run in that particular meet~~

~~3.2.2.4 Proper Positioning~~

~~The Whippet being measured should be walked or placed on the measuring board, and the handler should ready the Whippet for the wicket. The Whippet will be posed in a naturally alert position, with the head up, but not stretched upward in an exaggerated position nor will the top of the head be~~

~~lowered below the level of the top of the shoulder blades; its feet should be well under it, and its forelegs vertical, ie, the front legs must be perpendicular to the board, and parallel to each side of the wicket, as viewed from front and side. The front legs cannot be spread far apart, nor can they be angled or stretched in front of the Whippet's head. The hindquarters may not be pulled back, and hocks must be at a right angle to the board. ABOVE ALL, the handler is not allowed to push, poke, pinch, slap, or in any way attempt to alter or change the height of the Whippet. (Stroking or scratching will be allowed only to relax the Whippet.) If two (2) of the three (3) inspectors on the Inspection Committee agree a handler is attempting to alter the height of the Whippet, the handler will be excused and thereby forfeit one turn.~~

~~Once the handler feels he has attained the proper pose, the call is made for the wicket. A member of the Committee then brings the wicket quickly from behind the Whippet, over the back and lowers it so that the crosspiece comes directly over the highest point of the shoulder blades. That is the moment the majority (2 of 3) of the Inspection Committee must agree that the Whippet is within or outside of the limits as covered by the Breed Standard. A Whippet is disqualified if above or below a certain height, ie, dogs under 18 1/2inches or over 22 1/2 inches; bitches under 17 1/2inches or over 21 1/2inches. It must be noted that the wicket should never be allowed to hang or rest temporarily in place to see if the Whippet will "settle-down."~~

~~***3.2.2.5 Exempt Status from Measuring***~~

~~A Whippet will be granted an exempt status from measuring if it is 2 years of age or more and has participated in 30 race meets. An owner of another dog entered and successfully measured in the meet can challenge the measurement. A fee of $50 is required for a challenge. The dog in question will be allowed to measure twice by the measuring committee for that meet. If the dog measures in, the club and owner each get $25 from the challenge. If the dog fails to measure, the owner that challenged the measurement is refunded $50. Whippets meeting the necessary qualifications are noted in the Grading Guide. Also exempt from measurement are Whippets that raced and measured the previous day at back-to-back WRA meets held at the same venue.~~

6.6 Racing Muzzles

All Whippets must wear racing muzzles of good quality and in good condition during the regular race event and schooling races. Muzzles should be of the box type and should give a Whippet full freedom to open its mouth before, during and after the a race. Any owner new to racing should first inquire of the experienced race Whippet owners before having a special muzzle made. There are several types available constructed of leather, plastic and Teflon. Muzzles made of heavy wire that could bruise or cut other Whippets at the finish of a race are forbidden. Also, muzzles that allow a Whippet to grab the lure at the end of a race are forbidden. Light wire muzzles covered with a heavy rubber or plastic coating of the English type are permissible but not recommended. Uncoated wire muzzles are not allowed. Anyone using an uncoated wire muzzle will have his or her Whippets excused from the race

meet. Race muzzles will be inspected by the Inspection Committee before racing begins, at "Check-in ~~and Measuring~~."

Whippets will wear muzzles while parading to the starting box. The Race Secretary may alter this ruling in cases of extreme heat or under any emergency situation where it might be considered abusive to the racing Whippet. “NO BARK” type muzzles are forbidden.

Proposal Reason:

All references to measuring are removed. This would be in line with AOK9, FastCats, and NOTRA.