

SECTION 3.0 RACING OFFICIALS AND DUTIES

It is most important that each group or club make every effort to have officials that are well trained. The officials can come from other clubs or can all belong to the club offering the race meet. The important point to remember is that no race meet is better than the efficiency and honesty of the officials in charge. It is important to plan in advance the duties to be assigned to each official or group of officials.

Many people racing Whippets travel hundreds of miles to participate, and spend countless hours training their Whippets for a WRA meet. Therefore, it would be most unfair to use unqualified or opinionated officials that could influence results on a negative basis. Officials must not be under the influence of alcohol, or any other mind-altering substance (such as, but not limited to illegal drugs), during the period they are acting in any official capacity. Any owner racing a Whippet in a WRA Meet will report any such violation(s) directly to the local Race Secretary.

3.1 Local Race Secretary

The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the race meet. Should there be a change of the local Race Secretary, on the day of the race meet, an announcement stating the change must be made at the time of Inspection. The local Race Secretary will appoint qualified people to perform the necessary details of the race meet, and will act as coordinator of these individuals and/or committees and will assume responsibility only when true emergencies arise. If the Race Secretary deems it to be necessary, there may be an Assistant Race Secretary appointed. The local Race Secretary is responsible for race meet publicity, entering meets in the official web site and reporting meet results in the prescribed manner.

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 the muzzle of each racer for safety.

These are all done before the racing begins.

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

3.2.1 Disqualifications

If the Inspection Committee finds a Whippet which possesses a disqualification listed in Section 1.2, that particular Whippet will not be allowed to run at that race meet. All Whippets racing in WRA meets must be inspected at each meeting, except in cases where two race meets are held on the same weekend, by the same club and at the same location. In such instances, the inspection committee may choose to inspect for disqualifications only those Whippets who did not compete in the first day's meet. All Whippets must be inspected each day for soundness and bitches checked for evidence of being in season.

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 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 1/2 inches or over 22 1/2 inches; bitches under 17 1/2 inches or over 21 1/2 inches. 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 two 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.

3.2.3 Paddock Scratches

No Whippet may be scratched by its owner after the racers have been regrouped for the next racing program, unless the Whippet is injured or ill. Late scratches must be approved by the Inspection Committee. Owners scratching a sound, healthy Whippet after racers are regrouped, are subject to having all their Whippets disqualified from further competition at that event.

3.3 Foul Judges

For every race, there should be three thoroughly qualified judges who understand what constitutes intentional fouling by a Whippet or Whippets. Judges should stand in appropriate locations on opposite sides of the track, along the side of the track. The first judge should be approximately 50 yards from the front of the box. However, the first judge may be the box operator if qualified. The third judge should be standing in the general area of the finish line for either puppy or adult races, and the second judge should be approximately halfway between the first and third judge. This should provide the best possible vantage points for certainty when an intentional fouling occurs.

At least two foul judges must agree that a Whippet or Whippets has committed **the same** intentional foul. The foul judges will individually report the blanket number of the Whippet or Whippets creating the intentional foul to the Race Secretary **prior to discussion of the foul with any other person, including other foul judges.**

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 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 How to calculate Official Placement when the Head Line Judge finds no consensus between the judges.

Placement Judges should decide quickly about placement in order not to confuse the owners of dogs racing. Should there be a disagreement on a placement the decision of a majority of the judges will make the placement decision official.

3.4.1.1 Formula for determining ties

In the case of judges disagreeing in such a way that it is not immediately apparent which dog or dogs are in which placements, the judges sheets will be given to the Race Secretary, who will use, or make sure that the following method was used, to determine official placements. A number is assigned to each placement 1st = 1, 2nd = 2 etc. Then those numbers are assigned to the blanket numbers/colors as the judges have placed them. In this example the #1 dog was given 1st place by two judges, therefore it gets 1 + 1 for those two placements. It was put in 3rd place by the other two judges, it gets 3 + 3 for those two placements for a total of 1+1+3+3 or 8. Each dog's score is calculated using this method, and then the scores are placed LOWEST TO HIGHEST, for the official placement of each dog.

This method is to be used ONLY when there is a clear discrepancy between all line judges. First and foremost, there should always be an attempt to discern whether there is any agreement on placements by a majority of judges. This may require the head line judge or race secretary to simply list the order of each dog, as describe above without assigning any points and closely look at it.

In addition, this method can only be used, if all judges have all placements. Point assignments cannot be made to dogs that have no placement, thus this method cannot be used without all placements by all judges. (exception: If there are 6 dogs in the race and all judges have 5 or more placement, then this method may be used; or all judges have 4 or more placements in a 5 dog race, etc.)

ANY TIME THIS METHOD IS USED TO CALCULATE PLACEMENTS, IT MUST BE POSTED PUBLICLY ALONG WITH THE INDIVIDUAL JUDGES SHEETS FOR THAT RACE.

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4
1st place	1	1	4	4
2nd place	2	2	3	3
3rd place	3	3	1	1
4th place	4	4	2	2
5th place	5	5	5	5
6th place	6	6	6	6

Placement Score
1st = 1 pt
2nd = 2 pts
3rd = 3 pts
4th = 4 pts
5th = 5 pts
6th = 6 pts

Calculation				
red = 1	red = 1	red = 3	red = 3	#1 blanket 1+1+3+3 = 8
blue = 2	blue = 2	blue = 4	blue = 4	#2 blanket 2+2+4+4 = 12
white = 3	white = 3	white = 2	white = 2	#3 blanket 3+3+2+2 = 10
green = 4	green = 4	green = 1	green = 1	#4 blanket 4+4+1+1 = 10
black = 5	black = 5	black = 5	black = 5	#5 blanket 5+5+5+5 = 20
yellow = 6	yellow = 6	yellow = 6	yellow = 6	#6 blanket 6+6+6+6 = 36

Official Finish
#1 is 1st
#'s 3 & 4 are tied for 2/3
#'s 3 & 4 are tied for 2/3
#2 is 4th
#5 is 5th
#6 is 6th

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. 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 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, called Action Mode on some cameras, 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 official by the WRA Registrar/Recorder.

3.4.1.3 Final Judgement. Once the final placements are determined, under no circumstances should these placements be reversed.

3.4.2 Dealing with Questions. Any Questions or complaints regarding placement or order of finish should be directed to the local Racing Secretary only! Judges, under no circumstance, should discuss placement with owners or spectators.

3.5 Paddock Judges

This individual should be thoroughly qualified to ascertain all racing Whippets are in the paddock area on time, properly blanketed and wearing a safe, secure, and properly adjusted muzzle. Any muzzle that allows a Whippet to grab the lure is a serious safety threat to other Whippets and handlers, and therefore will not be allowed. The Paddock Judge shall note each Whippet for any obvious indication of ill

health before each race and is empowered to recall the inspection committee to determine if a Whippet, which has not been scratched, is lame, injured or ill before the Whippet is allowed to run in a race. The Paddock Judge should work closely with the local Race Secretary, or may be the local Race Secretary. Either the Paddock Judge or Race Secretary may be the official announcer of the race meet. All owners must report to the Paddock Judge, and proceed, AT A WALK, to the starting box as a group.

3.6 Lure Operator

The Lure Operator will be trained to properly place the lure. The lure should be kept approximately 25 feet ahead of the lead Whippet for adults, and 15 feet for puppies, to provide the best possible racing. The lure is to be pulled at a steady pace, rather than a jerking motion, and continued at full speed for at least 20 yards beyond the finish line.

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 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.

The Box Operator may serve as a foul judge also, if qualified. The lure should be placed ten to fifteen (10-15) feet down track, directly in front of, and at the center of the starting box. By watching the movement of the lure, and with practice, the boxes should be opened the very instant the lure 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.

Whippets should be placed (loaded) in the starting box in numerical order, one (1) through six (6) after all entrants reach the boxes. The Box Operator should check all Whippets and racing equipment as the dogs are placed in the starting box, it is the responsibility of the Box Operator to see that all Whippets are muzzled and jackets are on properly before the box is opened. The operator may assist owners in placing Whippets in boxes when necessary. After all Whippets are in the starting box, the Box Operator will tease the Whippets with the lure, and ascertain at that time all racers are facing the front and have their blankets and muzzles ON! The Box Operator will then place the lure in the center of the area, at the front of the box, in the marked circle. Box Operators will not delay the start of a race due to untrained Whippets that persist in turning around in the boxes. If a muzzle is broken, or pulled off by a dog, or if the jacket comes loose, the Box Operator must hold up the race until all problems are corrected! If a delay of more than a few seconds is necessary, all Whippets will be removed from the box by their handlers.

3.8 Timer

It is not necessary to have a timer, but if one is available, it is most important to have a thoroughly qualified individual with a stopwatch, or better still, an electric timer. Ideally, two stopwatches would be averaged for more accurate results. Time is irrelevant unless distance is exact, track conditions are thoroughly understood and proper vision of the race is available for the trained person operating the stopwatch.

3.9 Extra Officials

When possible, there should be extra people who are experienced and available to assist in the actual operation of the racing program. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE GROUP OR CLUB HOLDING A WRA MEET TO USE ONLY QUALIFIED OFFICIALS.

3.10 RACE COMMITTEE

The Race Committee consists of three (3) knowledgeable individuals including the Race Secretary. Duties are as follows:

1. Render a decision on any question regarding interpretation of the WRA Rules and Regulations.
2. Render a decision on any complaint or protest lodged by any owner or handler of a racer.
3. Supply a written decision when requested by the person lodging the protest or complaint.
4. Rule on barring, scratching, dismissing or disqualifying a racer based on the reports of the concerned officials.
5. Rule on as to whether a race shall be re-run.