

SECTION 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Requirements for Whippet Racing Association Racing

Any group or club interested in participating in the WRA sponsored Racing and the Whippet Race Champion (WRCh) programs must demonstrate to the National Race Director (NRD) the ability to fulfill the requirements of the program as listed in The Official Rules and Regulations, by:

1. Conducting a qualifying WRA race meet.
2. Or have been granted a waiver of the requirement for a qualifying meet by the NRD using the below listed criteria.

2.2 Requirements for a qualifying Whippet Racing Association race meet

1. The group or club requesting a qualifying WRA meet must send the request to the NRD at least 60 days in advance of requested date, in writing, although initial contact may be by telephone. The group or club requesting an approved WRA meet must hold at least one (1) successful qualifying meet.
2. The group or club must have a minimum of fifteen (15) adult Whippets starting in the first race program.
3. There should be four complete race programs. Three programs would be acceptable only in the event of severe weather or other racing conditions that would make further racing hazardous to the Whippets and/or their owners. The reduction to only three programs must be with the approval of the Regional Race Director (RRD) or his/her representative at the qualifying meet, or the Race Committee for said meet and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those in participation at that meet.
4. Results of the race meet must be sent to the NRD within two weeks, with a copy to the RRD.
5. The official qualifying race meet must be free of written, factual complaints to the NRD.
6. The group or club requesting permission for a WRA meet must show they are capable of operating a race meet under WRA Official Rules and Regulations.

Following compliance with all of the above requirements, the NRD will then notify the group or club of official approval to hold WRA race meets and of their acceptance as a WRA member club. At this time, the new member club will be asked to inform the NRD of the identity and location of its member representative.

2.3 Requirements for granting a waiver of the requirement for a qualifying meet

1. Has an experienced Race Secretary

2. Either has other trained people to do the necessary work within the club, or a guarantee of help from trained people from other clubs who will also help train the host clubs workers at the meet.
3. The National Race Director, or another individual appointed by the NRD, must attend the race meet to observe. Based on the observer's report the NRD may grant or deny permission for further race meets or require a practice meet before another race meet may be held.

2.4 Scheduling of Approved Whippet Racing Association Race Meets

1. Any approved group or club must write or otherwise communicate with the RRD having jurisdiction, requesting race dates at least sixty (60) days in advance of the proposed Official Race Meet.

The RRD will give preference to clubs that asks for dates on which they traditionally hold race meets.

The number of weekends into the year (see the corresponding dates table, in the race meet section of the website) will decide what is the traditional date for a race meet, with the following exception:

Those clubs that have meets tied to a specific weekend in a month, or a holiday shall be allowed to request ONE weekend, per year, that might not be the corresponding weekend per the corresponding dates table, for any particular year.

Otherwise, the RRD is to disapprove a date only for reasons of date conflict. All other problems or questions on race dates must be handled directly by the NRD.

2. Announcements of an approved Whippet Race Meet should be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. Should a cancellation be necessary, ALL ENTRANTS must be notified by the local Race Secretary. Any means possible may be used for notification as long as all entrants are notified. Notification may be carried out by, but is not limited to, letter, telephone, e-mail, or instant messaging. The Registrar/Recorder must be notified as soon as possible of a cancellation by the local Race Secretary.
3. No member club will hold WRA race meets on more than four (4) **weekends** per year if a club is within a radius of four hundred (400) miles of another club, or more than eight (8) weekends per year if that club is greater than a radius of four (400) miles of another club. (Each weekend may contain one or two WRA meets, for a maximum of eight or 16 WRA meets per club per year, respectively.)

2.4.3.1 Weekends when race meets are held in conjunction with the AWC (American Whippet Club) or NWCC (National Whippet Club of Canada) National Specialty or an AWC or NWCC Regional Specialty, and held on a weekend other than one of the

traditional weekends used by the host club, will not count against the limit of four weekends per year with WRA racing.

4. A member club may hold two (2) race meets in one weekend.
5. Two (2) Clubs may have meets in conjunction with each other on the same weekend if the race meets are no more than 50 miles from each other. Special permission for a greater separation may be given by the NRD in some cases if requested by both member clubs.
6. Regardless of regional boundaries, WRA race meets may be held on the same weekend provided the meet locations are separated by a driving distance of 400 miles. (For convenience, a computerized mapping program may be used to determine driving distance.)

2.5 Running an Official Race Meet

1. Owners/Handlers at WRA events accept and agree to abide by the WRA rules, and generally accepted rules of conduct and good sportsmanship. Physically or verbally abusive behavior towards race meet officials, workers, or other participants or attendees will not be tolerated, and the Race Committee may evict any persons exhibiting such behavior from the race meet site. In this event, entry fees shall not be refunded. Further, they shall pick up after their hound, keep the grounds clean, and treat their hounds with respect and in a humane manner.
2. No alcohol or other mind-altering substances, legal or illegal, shall be consumed by any attendees during the race meet hours. Race meet hours shall be construed as starting 30 minutes prior to specified check-in time until after the final program has been completed. Violations of this rule shall be reported to the Race Secretary who will advise the National Race Director (NRD). The NRD will direct the WRA secretary to send a written notice to the individual in violation.

First violation – The individual will receive a written notice of violation which shall include a copy of this rule.

Second violation – The individual will be suspended from attending/participating in any WRA event for 12 months from the start of the suspension.

3. The Group or Club must have a minimum of 15 adult Whippets starting the first race heat.
4. There should be four complete race heats. Three heats would be acceptable only in the event of severe weather or other racing conditions that would make further racing hazardous to the Whippets and/or their owners. The reduction to only three heats must be with the approval of the RRD or his/her representative at the meet, or the Race Committee for said meet, and with a 2/3 or greater vote from those in participation at that meet.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL TWO PROGRAMS EVER BE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL MEET.

5. Checking dogs in: Refer to section 3.2
6. Setting the board: Refer to section 5.3
7. Reporting results: Refer to section 2.6

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.

2.7 Reporting Results of an Official Race Meet

By the end of Tuesday immediately following the completion of the meet, the approved group or club operating a WRA Meet must enter the results for the meet in the meet reporting section of the official WRA website.

Once the Race Secretary has entered the results and checked for errors he or she will notify the Registrar/Recorder by e-mail or phone that the results are ready for verification.

The webmaster will provide the location of the website, login information, password and instructions for reporting results and use of the web site to all Race Secretaries, the Secretary/Treasurer, the Registrar/Recorder, the Awards Chairman and the NRD.

2.7.1 In the event that the official website ceases to exist or is down for more than two weeks, the following procedures will apply.

By the Tuesday immediately following the completion of the meet, the Registrar/Recorder must receive the results of the meet by phone, fax, or e-mail. Within two weeks following the race meet, the approved group or club operating a WRA Meet must send the complete results of the meet to the NRD, the Registrar/Recorder, and the Regional Race

Coordinator. A sample WRA race report is shown in *Figure 1*. These results should include the following information.

- Number of Whippet adults and puppies starting
- Registered name of each starter, its owner, and AKC/CKC registration papers included for the first time entered (FTE) Whippets
- Individual points, and placement earned by each Whippet
- Placement or position, with race points earned, of each Whippet in each race or heat. A photocopy of the race results sheets for each heat, copied from the results board, is the preferred way to do this.
- Names of Whippets eligible to receive WRCh or WRChX (National) points with the names and complete address of the owner(s).
- Disqualifications and scratches
- Any other information needed to properly award WRA title points. Sending of the above information is compulsory, and it must be sent to the NRD, the RRD and the Registrar/Recorder in writing within two weeks following the meet. Failure to supply this information could result in points being withheld. This information is needed in order for all to maintain proper grading records. The NRD will send all race reports to all RRD at year end.

2.7.2 Per Capita Payment

The local Race Secretary is to send the per capita fee for all dogs and puppies who started the meet, and the \$5.00 registration fee for any dog not previously listed in the Grading Guide to the Secretary/Treasurer. The per capita fee may be paid in the currency of the country hosting the meet. The final report and any registration papers collected shall be sent to the Registrar/Recorder. This requirement covers both adult and puppy racers. All records and fees must be received by the within 14 days or be postmarked within 10 days of the Monday following the race meet. The per capita will be waived for the club hosting the WRA National race meet.

The amount of per capita is specified in the Policies and Procedures of the Whippet Racing Association.

2.8 National Meet

Once a year WRA will celebrate a National WRA Meet. Member club(s) are encouraged to volunteer to host this meet. Offers to host the WRA National Race Meet and Fun Match must be submitted before September 1st at 11:59pm (NRD's local time) each year. When more than one host club location has been received, club members will be allowed to vote to determine the national meet

location. However, when taking bids for the National WRA Meet, the NRD will give preference to a rotation between the three major regions, East (Eastern and Southeastern), Midwest (Midwest and Southern) and West (Western and Northwest), rather than having a member vote. National bids will be accepted up to two years in advance. If no request to hold the national is received by the closing date, the first offer received after September 1st will be granted; if, in the NRD's judgment, the club is capable of hosting the National. If no club requests to host the national meet, then the NRD may solicit a host club. The WRA will make a monetary donation to the trophy fund for the National. If no club requests to host the national meet, then the NRD may solicit a host club.

2.8.1 Seniors and Legends Classes

In addition to the regular puppy and adult classes held at the national meet, the host club is encouraged to have the special classes of seniors and legends.

1) The criteria for eligibility to run in either of these classes is that the dog has, or will have attained the age limitation as follows:

a) If the national is held prior to June 30th:

Seniors will be dogs who will turn nine prior to June 30th of that year.
Legends will be dogs who will turn 11 prior to June 30th of that year.

b) If the national is held after July 1st:

Seniors will be dogs who will turn nine prior to December 31st of that year.
Legends will be dogs who will turn 11 prior to December 31st of that year.

2) Legends and Seniors classes must run at least 100 yards, but can run any distance from 100 to 200 yards at the owner's discretion. All owners must agree on the distance run.

3) Legends and Seniors may be hand slipped in deference to their age, IF all owners agree.

4) These classes will run once. Entrants in these classes will NOT count toward the number of adult starters, for the purpose of awarding championship and national points.

5) It is not necessary to measure dogs running only in Legends or Seniors.

2.9 Nonaffiliated Events

The lure coursing, oval racing, exhibition racing of AKC/CKC registered Whippets, or other breeds must not interfere with the conduct of an official WRA race meet. Nor may such events be advertised or construed as part of the WRA race program.

2.10 Official Entry Blank for Approved WRA Race Meets

A sample official WRA entry blank appears in the Appendix. The official entry blank must be sent to the local Race Secretary, with all the information requested on the form, by the entrant. Grade and average information will be taken from the grading guide if one is available. If a Whippet is first time entered (FTE), it should be so noted in the average column. All titles that each Whippet has earned should be noted on the entry form, and check, cash, or money order should be included for entry fees.

Alternatively, the Quick Entry Form, also found in the Appendix, may be used.

This Quick Entry Form will contain the club name, date of the meet, name of the Race Secretary, the dogs call name and registered name with all titles, the owners name, class (Adult, Puppy or Veteran), whether FTE (yes or no), the required Disclaimer of Liability, the owners, or agents, signature and address.

The following statement must appear on all entry forms returned and must be signed by the actual owner, or the owner's agent, of Whippet or Whippets entered.

"I and my heirs, legal representatives and assignees shall hold harmless and defend _____ (Name of Club), its officers, directors, committeemen and agents, from any claim arising from participation in this event. I agree to abide by the Official Rules and Regulations of the Whippet Racing Association during the period of this race meeting.

Actual Owner of Whippet or Owner's Agent.

Date.

The recommended closing entry dates for clubs and groups sponsoring WRA meets which require hard copy entry forms to be sent, should be 10 – 14 days prior to the approved race meet. All others, which are taking entries by electronic methods, should be 3 – 5 days prior to the approved meet.