

SECTION 5.0 OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM

5.1 Objectives

To match properly trained racing Whippets against each other by a point system based on actual racing performance. Weight, height, or sex have no bearing on the grading of Whippets in WRA.

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 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.

To obtain an adult Whippet's point average, the race points from the last three (3) meets are considered. The average is the average of scores from completed meet, in the last three meets. If a Whippet has no completed meets in the last three entered, then its average will be the average of the incomplete meets (where the dog scratched, disqualified or was OFF course).

The letter grading of race entrants is a more simplified grouping which will be used in first adult race program setup, and may be used for trophy presentations or for other general recognition of current achievement level. The letter grade is based upon the numerical point average as follows:

29.0 – 15.0 = Grade A	9.9 – 4.0 = Grade C
14.9 – 10.0 = Grade B	3.9 – 0.0 = Grade D (and FTE)

By being precise, the job of Race Secretary is more objective; the Whippets earn their average, and again, it is the responsibility of the owners to keep accurate records from the races they have attended, so that proper entries are made for the next performance.

Whippets which have no change in their racing average may have their grade reduced by one grade if it meets the following criteria:

- 1) One year has passed since a race meet was completed.
- 2) A Whippet's grade may be reduced by one grade for each year in which it has not finished a complete race meet.
- 3) If a Whippet has not competed in WRA race meets for more than two years then the racing grade from another organization will be used for grading the Whippet.
- 4) The Race Secretary may use his/her judgment in grading Whippets that are veteran racers that have not been in the WRA system for more than two (2) years even if graded in another race system. This down grading must reflect the Whippet's current level of ability.

5.3 Selection of Post Positions

The first complete program is arranged to run Whippets of comparable speed together, based upon their past performances. In the second, third, and fourth programs, racers are placed in races according to points scored in the previous program or programs.

There are two options for the first program set up. The Host Club will decide which option they will use and this choice will be noted on the race schedule and in the Host Club's announcement. The option choice will also be stated on the WRA website. A Host Club may change which option is used providing that change is announced 14 days in advance of the meet in the methods prescribed above.

5.3.1 First Program

OPTION #1

The first step in selecting post positions in the first complete race program is to determine the total number of entrants in that program, adult, or puppy). Then group the Whippets in the first adult program according to grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in that grade. If there is more than one race in any grade, then the Whippets of that grade will be divided as evenly as possible between the races, with the higher race containing the highest number of dogs. The whippets will be seeded by alternating, according to point averages, between the races in each grade starting with the highest average in the 'last' race within that grade. (Example: If there are 2 races in the 'A' grade, the dog with a 29 point average will go in the last/final race within that grade, not the first race). For puppies,

use random draw. Whenever possible, when two (2) or more Whippets have the same numerical point average, they are arranged in ascending order within the group by the score of each Whippet on its last complete race meet. When this information is not readily available, the Race Secretary may use personal knowledge or a random draw to determine placement.

OPTION #2

In the first program, Whippets shall be seeded in the order of national ranking. All boxes must be filled in accordance with the Set-up Chart. First Time Entered Whippets will be dispersed through the Grade D entrants as the Race Secretary deems appropriate. Post positions in all programs shall be determined by random draw. If there are 5 dogs in a race, box #3 shall remain empty. If there are 4 dogs in a race, boxes #2 and #5 shall remain empty. If there are 3 dogs in a race, boxes #2, #4 and #6 shall remain empty. If Whippets owned by the same owner, or which are kenneled together, are scheduled to be in the same race because of their averages, they shall not be placed in adjacent starting boxes unless there is no alternative. First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets of same ownership should be separated, if possible. There will be two high point races in the first program if there are 48 or more starters. If two high point races are required, dogs must be seeded alternately, by ranking, between the two high point races.

The actual selection of post positions in the first complete race program is then accomplished by randomly drawing the names of the individual Whippet racers for each race. 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 first complete program. If an owner has two or three entries that carry close averages, they will probably be running in the same race, but that's just the way it is. In the D races, First Time Entered (FTE) Whippets of same ownership should be separated, if possible.

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. 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.

The high point adult race should always have six (6) starters, except for the first heat where all dogs are grouped by grade only. When necessary, the semi-feature on down may have less than six (6) starters. These gaps should begin in the second race, and go consecutively upward, and should not be intermittent throughout the race program. (Please refer to Figure 2 "Quick Setup Chart").

5.4 Adult Point Scoring

First Complete Race Program

Grade A Races:

1 st Place – 8 points	4 th Place – 4 points
2 nd Place – 6 points	5 th Place – 3 points
3 rd Place – 5 points	6 th Place – 2 points

All Other Grade Races, Grades B, C, & D

1 st Place – 5 points	4 th Place – 0 points
2 nd Place – 3 points	5 th Place – 0 points
3 rd Place – 2 points	6 th Place – 0 points

Second Complete Race Program

High Point Race Points:

1 st Place – 5 points	4 th Place – 2 points
2 nd Place – 3 points	5 th Place – 1.5 points
3 rd Place – 2.5 points	6 th Place – 1 points

All Other Grade Races, Grades B, C, & D

1 st Place – 5 points	4 th Place – 0 points
2 nd Place – 3 points	5 th Place – 0 points
3 rd Place – 2 points	6 th Place – 0 points

Third and Fourth Complete Race program

High Point Race Points:

1 st Place – 8 points	4 th Place – 4 points
2 nd Place – 6 points	5 th Place – 3 points
3 rd Place – 5 points	6 th Place – 2 points

All Other Grade Races, Grades B, C, & D

1 st Place – 5 points	4 th Place – 0 points
2 nd Place – 3 points	5 th Place – 0 points
3 rd Place – 2 points	6 th Place – 0 points

5.5 *Puppy Races*

5.5.1 Age

Young Whippets who have reached the age of eight (8) months, but have not reached the age of fourteen (14) months the first day of a WRA meet are eligible to run in a special series of puppy races. Should a Whippet under fourteen (14) months of age compete in an adult race, it is no longer eligible to run in any puppy race at any meet thereafter. (Abuse of this ruling on age will disqualify, and all trophies, money, ribbons, etc., must be returned by the owner.) A young puppy under fourteen (14) months of age cannot be entered on the same program as both a puppy and adult racer.

5.5.2 *Grouping Puppies by Races*

There are no grades used in puppy races. The name of each puppy is written on a slip of paper. The Racing Secretary when possible, draws not more than four names to make up each race for the first program. Puppies should not be grouped by age, and when possible, an owner should not have more than one puppy in each race of the first program. After the first program, puppies are then rotated by points like the adult racing Whippets. No high point puppy racer should be in the #1 box more than twice. There should be only four puppy starters per race, per Figure 3 "Puppy Quick Setup Chart".

Owners should not enter Whippet puppies that are not fully trained for racing. Should a puppy not finish a race, and not intentionally interfere, the Race Secretary may allow further racing of the non finishing puppy at that race meet.

5.5.3 *Scoring of Puppy Races*

The scoring by points differs between adult and puppy racers. The scoring listed below rotates the puppies on true speed and ability, not age. Often a well-trained, fast younger Whippet can easily outrun older Whippets who might be poorly trained or lack speed.

First Puppy Race Program, All Races:

- 1st Place – 5 points
- 2nd Place – 3 points
- 3rd Place – 2 points

All Other Puppy Race programs

High Point Race:

- 1st Place – 8 points
- 2nd Place – 5 points
- 3rd Place – 3 points

All Other Races:

- 1st Place – 5 points
- 2nd Place – 3 points
- 3rd Place – 2 points

All Puppy races are to be run over a distance of 150 yards, and have three programs per race meet.

5.6 Trophies and Awards

Each approved group or club offering a Whippet Racing Association Race Meet selects its own trophies, ribbons, etc., and sets a precedent that these awards should be used to the very best advantage. While the emphasis is on rewarding the race Whippets who accumulate the most points, such as the "Top Ten," awards for Whippets in certain special categories may also be considered by each host club, such as High Point AKC Champion, High Point Obedience, High Point Puppy, High Point B, C, D and First Time Entered. The purpose of the WRA is to honor the fastest and most consistent Whippet, but these special categories offer an opportunity to support and encourage other Whippet owners. If awards are so noted, (advertised), in the host club race program, those awards must be given, if applicable.

In some cases there will be a tie in total race points earned by several dogs, and only one trophy is available for the award. It is up to the host club to decide the policy for this situation, but usually the award goes to the Whippet that comes off the board first. Tie scores can be run-off, or a flip of the coin could decide. However, in no way does a tie score change the total points earned in the race