



## Somerset Pedigree Whippet Racing Club

### Rules of Racing 2025

1. All Whippets must be Kennel Club Registered
2. Whippets must not be more than 32lbs in weight in order to race.
3. All visitors must have a WCRA or NPWRA passport or produce an acceptable pedigree in order to race.
4. All dog mess must be picked up and taken home, unless a bin is provided.
5. All dogs must wear muzzles for racing and trialling.
6. All dogs must run in standard coloured coats – trap 1 RED, trap 2 BLUE, trap 3 WHITE, trap 4 BLACK, trap 5 YELLOW.
7. Racing will be to the lure only; no ragging or other forms of encouragement will be allowed.
8. All dogs to be weighed in before racing at the discretion of the Racing Manager.

#### **9. VOID RACE.**

- 9a. A race shall be void if a trap fails to open through defect.
- 9b. If a trap fails to open at all or opens at a different time to the others, these races are to be re-run.
- 9c. If the lure fails to cross the line or if the lure stops too soon after the line, causing a dog(s) to check, the race is to be re-run.
- 9d. A race shall be re-run if a dog gets loose and interferes with the race.

#### **10. INTERFERENCE OR FIGHTING**

- 10a. Any whippet guilty of interference during a race will be disqualified at the discretion of the stewards and the race re-run without the offender.
- 10b. **Fighting-** Fighting occurs when a whippet deliberately and aggressively impedes the progress of one or more whippets during a race by turning its head.

It is not fighting when -

- a) A whippet “lays on” another whippet to stop it passing.
- b) A whippet tries to jump over the whippet ahead of it.
- c) A strong and determined Whippet shoves its way through the dog(s) ahead of it.
- d) A whippet runs to the inside or outside (even on a straight track) e.g. so that it is on the rails ready for a bend and in doing so pushes other whippet(s) out of the way.
- e) A whippet barks while racing.
- f) A whippet retaliates when interfered with, because the race ends with the first offence.

The Racing Manager decides when fighting has occurred after consultation with the Track Stewards.

A disqualified whippet shall take no further part in racing on the day and will be required to trial to the satisfaction of the Racing Manager before being allowed to compete again. (The trial may take place after racing on that day).

For subsequent offences the whippet shall be suspended for 7 days, and a minimum of 3 satisfactory clearing trials will be required. Clearing Trials should be with at least 3 other dogs in each trial, of equal ability. Each trial should try to replicate the circumstances which led to the disqualification.

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### Racing Rules.

The owner shall be provided with a disqualification form, to be completed by the Racing Manager of the club at which the trials take place.

This form or duplicate must be forwarded to the club at which the whippet offended.

#### **TRIALS FOR DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PASSPORT SIGNING ARE ONLY TO BE CARRIED OUT AT A WCRA AFFILIATED CLUB.**

11. No puppy shall be permitted to trial behind a mechanical lure until 6 months of age. It is the Racing Manager/Official's responsibility to ensure that all trials are conducted with the safety and well-being of the puppy foremost.

11a. No dog shall run a "bend" until 1 year of age.

12. If in the opinion of 3 officials a whippet is considered unfit to run, the owner will be asked to furnish the committee with a letter from a Veterinary Surgeon, declaring the whippet fit to race.

13. The condition of entry to all opens is a valid, WCRA Passport, to be shown on the day of the race meeting.

#### **14. Handicap Racing.**

Handicap racing is either  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard,  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard or 1 yard per lb, at the discretion of the Racing Manager.

#### **15. Veteran Racing.**

A whippet is considered to be a Veteran when it is not less than 5 years of age and still to be 9 years of age on 1st April of the current season. The handicap shall be a 1 lb advantage per year from 5 years of age