



Andover & District Whippet Racing Club

Constitution and Rules of Racing

1. That this club be called the Andover and District Whippet Racing Club.
2. A member shall pay an annual fee due on 1st January each year.
3. Any member elected to the committee must not be a committee member of any other whippet racing club.
4. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the committee.
5. All whippets should be KC registered, be acceptable to the committee and be eligible for a NPWRA passport. The committee reserve the right to refuse entry.
6. All whippets must have initial vaccinations and be free from any contagious diseases for 30 days e.g. kennel cough or enteritis before attending the club.
7. The Andover and District Whippet Racing Club and its officials shall be indemnified against injury to any person or dog and the loss of personal property at any race meeting. All whippets, owners, members of their family and friends attend and race at meetings at their own risk.
8. Only NPWRA passported dogs will be eligible to compete in opens promoted by the club.
9. Racing will be to the lure only and no 'ragging' or other form of encouragement will be allowed.
10. Owners wishing to race their whippets at a meeting should advise the Secretary by the Wednesday 21.00hrs prior to the meeting taking place, in order that a programme can be compiled.
11. 'In season' bitches are not allowed to race.
12. For all race distances all dogs will run the full distance i.e. handicap back.
13. The decision of the line judges and the stewards is final at all times.
14. Veteran dogs commence at 5 years and are to receive 1 yard per year allowance in all yard or 1/2 yard per pound club racing.
15. Whippets should race off the minimum weight mark of 14lbs and shall not exceed the weight limit of 34lbs. The height of a whippet at the shoulder should be under 21 inches for dogs and under 20 inches for bitches.
16. Any whippet running loose during a race will render the owner of that whippet to a fine of £1 on each occasion.
17. For the safety of the dogs at the start of each race, the lure will be positioned at the discretion of the starter.
18. All whippets will wear an approved muzzle for racing and for trials where more than one whippet is participating. Please ensure your dog is muzzled before arrival at the traps. It is the responsibility of the owner to see that their dog is correctly coated and muzzled and at the traps in adequate time for their race. It is not the responsibility of the trap man or of any committee member to call or run after late dogs. The race will be run without the offender. Any dog wearing the wrong coat will be placed last.
19. Any dog left in the trap because of equipment failure when others have run the full distance, should also complete the track before the race is re-run.
20. Dogs shall re-run immediately, unless puppies, veterans or in exceptional circumstances, when the re-run will be held at the discretion of the Race Manager.
21. For the safety of the dogs, each whippet must have someone at the end of the track to collect it at the conclusion of each race. Owners must not actively encourage any dog to run back to the traps.
22. Trials will be run at the current fee and must be pre-booked whenever possible. Dogs entered on the race programme cannot trial before racing commences. In multiple trials all named dogs should wear a racing coat in addition to the muzzle.

23. Trialling shall not commence before puppies are six months old. Puppies to race at the discretion of the Race Manager/Officials. It is also the responsibility of the Race Manager/Officials to ensure that all trials are conducted with the safety and wellbeing of the puppy foremost.
24. Puppies and newcomers wishing to commence competitive racing must run a trial cleanly with three other dogs on at least two occasions in front of the committee, before being allowed to race.
25. Puppies will receive a puppy allowance when they first race based on their age. Puppies from the age of 10 months will receive a deduction of -6lbs, which will be reduced monthly by 1lb until they reach 16 months of age or every time they win a weight group at a club meeting.
26. An annual Club Points competition will take place each year. One point will be awarded to all dogs who race. All dogs must compete in programmed and qualifying races, unless injured, to receive points, with the exception of dogs that are pulled out to run with puppies for which the Secretary must be informed. Only the first race counts for points unless it is a club meeting which does not go to a final, in which case both rounds will score.
27. Should a whippet fight or interfere during a race, it will be disqualified from that race at the discretion of the judges and stewards. 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.
 - E) A whippet barks whilst racing.
 - F) A whippet retaliates when interfered with, because the race ends with the first offence.The Race Manager decides when fighting has occurred after consultation with the track stewards. The whippet will be given the opportunity to clear at the end of the same meeting by running one clearance trial cleanly to the satisfaction of the Race Manager. If this fails, the whippet shall be deemed to be disqualified and must subsequently follow the disqualification procedure before being allowed to race once more.
28. A disqualified whippet shall be suspended for seven days. Once disqualified, the whippet is not eligible to compete again until two satisfactory clearing trials have been completed, with at least three other dogs in each trial, as far as possible, of equal ability. Each trial will try to replicate the circumstances which led to the disqualification.
29. The Race Manager/Secretary shall be responsible for the trialling of suspended whippets and for clearing trials for passport signing.
30. No betting on races is allowed.
31. No damage shall be caused to the ground, the buildings or any other property in the vicinity of the racing area.
32. No litter of any kind shall be left on the field at any time.
33. If in the opinion of three officials of the club, 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 is fit to race.
34. In case of no volunteers to line judge at club meetings, three people will be named on the programme, via their dogs names, who will be responsible for the judging that day.
35. The organisers reserve the right to bar any person they consider to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner (in the opinion of the committee) or to the detriment of the clubs interest from participating in any race meeting and if necessary may require that person to resign his/her membership, or be liable to temporary suspension. Reinstatement will be at the discretion of the committee.
36. Any person contravening the rules of the Andover and District Whippet Racing Club may be banned from the field and from racing with the club at any time.