



## Excerpts from the WCRA Rules of Racing – Revision 3.0 Jan 07

### 4.30 to 4.31.8 - Disqualification

**4.30** Fighting occurs when a Whippet deliberately and aggressively impedes the progress of one or more Whippets during a race by turning it's 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

**4.31** At the discretion of the race manager, a disqualified whippet will be permitted to undertake one trial at the end of racing on the day and at the place of its disqualification. This trial race should contain ideally three other whippets, one of whom is able to pass the offending whippets and the offending whippet to pass another dog cleanly. If the racing manager clears the whippet, the disqualification form should be completed accordingly by the racing manager or club secretary and the form, or a duplicate, must be forwarded to the WCRA Disqualification Officer within four days of the meeting at which the disqualification took place. Failure to do so, without reasonable excuse, will result in the club being fined three times the entry fee of the first dog for the WCRA Championships. If the whippet is not cleared, or does not undertake the 'one trial on the day' option, for whatever reason, then rule 4.31.1 applies. The 'one trial on the day' option can only be taken once per whippet per racing career, regardless of the outcome of the trial. (Note: if the 'one trial on the day' is not taken on the day of the disqualification, should the whippet be disqualified again during the season then the 'one trial on the day' can be taken on that day of disqualification).

**4.31.1** The owner of the whippet that is disqualified and **not** cleared on the day, shall be provided with a 'disqualification form' by the racing manager or secretary of the disqualifying club on the day of disqualification, with Part 1 completed as appropriate (see 4.31.3). When cleared, the racing manager of the WCRA affiliated club at which the clearing trials take place should complete details of the clearance trials in Part 2. This form, or duplicate, must be forwarded to the club at which the whippet offended and to the WCRA Disqualification Officer. It is the responsibility of the owner of the disqualified whippet to ensure that the necessary clearance paperwork is recorded with the WCRA



Disqualification Officer, to enable the whippet to compete at future Open race meetings where WCRA passports are a requirement of entry.

- 4.31.2** A disqualified whippet that is not cleared on the day of disqualification shall be suspended for seven days – (the day of disqualification is day one of suspension – therefore a whippet who is disqualified on a Sunday must wait until the following Sunday – day eight – before it can re-trial). The disqualified whippet must take part in a minimum of THREE acceptable consecutive clearance trials at a WCRA affiliated club before it may compete again. All clearing trials should contain ideally three other whippets, one of whom is able to pass the offending whippet and the offending whippet to pass another dog cleanly. If the disqualification took place on a straight then the whippet must re-clear on a straight. If the disqualification took place on a curve or a bend then the whippet must re-clear on a curve or a bend.
- 4.31.3** The racing manager or club secretary should complete Part 1 (see 4.31.1) of the disqualification form (as appropriate), the copy sent to the WCRA Disqualification Officer must also contain a brief summary of the incident on the reverse of the form, including names of the other dogs, trap placements and handicaps.
- 4.31.4** The racing manager or secretary of any racing club affiliated to the WCRA, who disqualifies any whippet(s) at any Open race meeting held by them, where WCRA passports are required as a condition of entry, must inform the WCRA Disqualification Officer within four days of the meeting at which the disqualification took place. Failure to do so, without reasonable excuse, will result in the club being fined three times the entry fee of the first dog for the WCRA championships. The WCRA Disqualification Officer will record all disqualifications and 'one trial on the day' occurrences submitted to him/her in the Disqualification Record Book and will keep the book in his/her possession, with the only general access to it being the sole prerogative of the Racing Manager of the WCRA.
- 4.31.5** Within two days prior to an Open race meeting where WCRA passports are a condition of entry, the WCRA Disqualification Officer will inform the secretary of the club of all whippets whose passports are suspended due to their gaining an entry in the Disqualifications Record Book. These whippets will be refused entry to the meeting. The Disqualification Officer will also inform the club secretary of those whippets who are eligible to run but who do not qualify for the 'one trial on the day' option. This is to include whippets pre-entered at the Open race meeting before they committed the offence. It is the responsibility of the club secretary and racing manager holding any Open race meeting where valid WCRA passports are a condition of entry, to ensure that all whippets have a valid passport and are cleared to compete.
- 4.31.6** Clearance trials for disqualifications and passport signings are only to be carried out by a WCRA affiliated club at a race meeting run by their officials and under their rules.
- 4.31.7** The WCRA Disqualification Officer must advise the WCRA Committee of any whippet who obtains three disqualifications within one season. The WCRA Committee reserves the right to withhold reinstatement to any whippet that is, or has shown itself to be, a confirmed fighter.



#### **4.31.8 Four or More Disqualifications**

The Disqualification Officer will record an ongoing total of the number of disqualifications held for each whippet.

At the fourth disqualification and for each subsequent disqualification, the offending whippet will incur an automatic ban from any/all Open and Championship events that require a WCRA Passport as a condition of entry, for a period of one year, from the date of the fourth disqualification. For example, a whippet disqualified on 4th June 2006 may not commence Clearance Trials until 5th June 2007.

This rule does not prevent the offending whippet from racing at Club(s) where valid WCRA Passports are not a condition of entry to race.

On receipt of confirmation of disqualification from the affiliated club or WCRA (as appropriate) the Disqualification Officer will advise the owner in writing of the number of disqualifications the dog now holds and the date from which Clearance Trials can be commenced.

Clearance Trials are to be run in accordance with rule 4.31.2

In order to enable the whippet to compete at future Open and Championship race meetings, where WCRA passports are a requirement of entry, the Disqualifications Officer must be in receipt of the necessary clearance paperwork.

It is the responsibility of the owner of the re-cleared whippet to ensure the necessary clearance paperwork is recorded with the WCRA Disqualification Officer

Any dog disqualified for a fourth or subsequent time will not be eligible for retrial on the day as the immediate one year disqualification takes precedence over the 'Trial on the Day' option.

The WCRA Disqualification Officer is required to advise the WCRA Committee of any whippet who obtains four disqualifications and of any subsequent disqualification thereafter. The WCRA Committee reserves the right to take further action, if it is felt appropriate.

The Disqualification Officer will advise the owner of the disqualified whippet in writing should any further action be taken.