



## Club Rules 2007

1. The club to be called 'Heart of England Pedigree Whippet Racing Club' (formerly Linton) and affiliated to the Whippet Club Racing Association (W.C.R.A).
2. The committee to be a committee voted by members.
3. Application for membership must be by application form (available from the Secretary), completed and signed by the applicant and returned to the secretary, together with KC1 card, up-to-date vaccination card, pedigree, transfer card and whippet. It must be proposed and seconded by paid-up club members.
4. Fees charged as follows:
  - £10.00 Single subscription (Annual)
  - £15.00 Family subscription (Annual)
  - £1.50 Entry fee for any dog, racing or trialing.
  - £2.00 Race entry fee for non-members.
  - £1.00 Fine for loose dog.
  - £1.00 For non-return of trophy.
  - £5.00 Deposit on returnable trophies (non-members only).
5. New members may immediately enter dogs for club racing points provided they can furnish the Secretary with confirmation from their home club that their whippet has completed three, four-dog trials or raced without interfering and is not currently disqualified from racing.
6. Anyone with a grievance is to tell a committee member so that it may be put forward at a committee meeting.
7. No betting or wagers are allowed at meetings run by the club.
8. Any problem that occurs on the race day will be taken to the Race Manager and their decision will be final.
9. The committee has the right to ban, or suspend, any member or competitor at this club for any time period.
10. Whippet minimum weight 14lbs. Maximum weight 32lbs. All weights taken from the lb. mark and rounded up (e.g. 25lb goes from the 25lb mark; 25.1lb goes from the 26lb mark). Veteran handicapping – yardage is reduced on the basis of 1lb. per year over four years old. The objective is to give veterans an actual yard per year over five years old, irrespective of the handicapping for that meeting.

Ability handicapping will also be applied, whereby dogs that win regularly and easily may be handicapped and dogs that rarely win may be given an advantage. The handicapping will be determined each month by the Race Manager and Assistant Race Manager(s). The intention of this is to close the gap between the best and the less able dogs but it is expected that handicapped dogs will still score more in the club championship.

11. Whippet to be 12 months old to be eligible for club racing.
12. All dogs must wear muzzles whilst competing in official races and trials.
13. All muzzles to be checked at the traps.
14. Members collecting a dog at the finishing line, having a dog already in their charge must have that dog muzzled.
15. No slip leads are to be used at race meetings or during trials.
16. No puppy shall be permitted to trial behind a mechanical lure until 6 months of age and to run solo until 9 months of age when another honest whippet may be introduced. It is the Race Manager(s)/Official's responsibility to ensure that all trials are conducted with the safety and wellbeing of the puppy foremost.
17. In the event of ten or less whippets being available to compete at a bend meeting, that meeting may be run on straights at the discretion of the race manager.
18. In the event of a false start, the lure may be run on the straight for 75 yards and to the first bend when on bends meeting as a safety measure.
19. The race manager/officials shall ensure that in-season bitches are not allowed to run.
20. If any whippet reaches the stage of half racing champion at W.R.C.A, and is entered from the Heart of England P.W.R.C. membership, that whippet will be awarded a velvet coat, provided it has run at 10 club race meetings that season.
21. Each individual member is to donate at least one raffle prize during the season, preferable at the start.
22. If in the opinion of three officials a dog is considered unfit to run, the owner will be asked to furnish the committee with a letter from a veterinary surgeon, declaring it fit to race.
23. 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 lies 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/dogs 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 dog(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 race 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 race manager, before being allowed to compete again. The trial shall take place after racing on that day.

For subsequent offences, the dog shall be suspended for 7 days, and a minimum of 3 satisfactory clearing trials will be required.

Clearing trials should be of at least 3 other dogs in each trial near equal ability.

Each trial should try to replicate the circumstances which led to the disqualification.

### Club Etiquette

All persons attending a club meeting and having a dog(s) in their possession, are requested to have their dog(s) under control (i.e. on a lead, except when racing or trialing) from 20 minutes before the start of the meeting (i.e. 1:10 pm), until the kit has been cleared from the field at the end of the meeting. This is to ensure that dogs are not at risk from harm whilst the business of the meeting is underway and out of courtesy to fellow members who can be inconvenienced by 'loose' dogs.