



## **AOK9 OVAL RACING PROGRAM**

### **OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

RELEASE 3.0 - April 2026

AS APPROVED BY RACING AND COURSING ENTHUSIASTS (RACE)

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## AOK9 Rules Release 3.0

### CHAPTER I - GENERAL RULES

#### 1.0 PURPOSE

Racing and Coursing Enthusiasts (RACE) has prepared these Official Rules and Regulations for its AOK9 Oval Racing Program (AOK9) to encourage competition between dogs of all breeds and/or mixed breeds. The AOK9 Program is intended to offer Clubs a racing program that is complementary to the excellent programs already enjoyed by sighthounds under LGRA, NAWRA, WRA, NOTRA etc. Every effort has been made to offer a set of rules that can be operated effectively and efficiently by local race clubs.

#### 1.1 ELIGIBLE BREEDS

All breeds and mixed breeds are eligible for competition under these rules.

##### 1.1.1 Dual Scheduling with Sighthound Racing Organizations

In the event that there is a LGRA, NOTRA, NAWRA, CWA, IRWO, CARA or other sanctioned racing event for sighthounds either co-scheduled by the host club on the same date and at the same location, or scheduled by another club within 100 miles, any sighthound breeds that are recognized by those organizations are encouraged to support those programs. Any dogs entered which are of a breed recognized by the designated sighthound organization scheduled on that day are encouraged, *but not required* to run under that organization's rules. The intent of the AOK9 Program is not to replace the programs that already exist for the sighthound breeds, but to create an alternate and inclusive avenue for racing that supplements the other racing programs that are already in place. New AOK9 Clubs are encouraged to become licensed with existing racing organizations for sighthounds if possible.

##### 1.1.2 Subsequent Recognition of Breeds by Existing Racing Organizations for Sighthounds

If and/or when any breed or mixed breed becomes eligible to race under LGRA, NOTRA, NAWRA, NOTRA, CWA, IWRO, CARA etc. that breed will be encouraged, *but not required* to yield to the other organization's rules/events in the event of dual scheduling as described in Section 1.1 above.

#### 1.2 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

##### 1.2.1 Ownership

The person entering a dog for racing must be the actual owner, or agent of the owner, or be in possession of papers transferring said ownership to the person entering the dog.

##### 1.2.2 Registration with AOK9

All dogs must be individually registered with AOK9 in order to be eligible for participation, points and titles in the AOK9 Program. Registration may occur prior to the scheduled race date or on the morning of the race date. To register a dog the owner/handler must complete the Individual Registration Application and include any additional documents specified on the registration application, along with a registration fee of \$2.00. Registration is for the life of the

dog, and each registration number issued is valid for any of the three programs currently offered by the AOK9 Program (Sprint, Oval, Singles Racing, and Lure Coursing).

### **1.3 RULES COMMITTEE AND RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS**

The President of RACE will establish the policy and the rules of conduct of RACE's AOK9 Racing Program. The Club Members shall implement and enforce AOK9 rules and policy when sponsoring a race meet.

#### **1.3.1 Rule Change Proposals**

Member Club Delegates shall forward proposed rule changes to the RACE President by October 10<sup>th</sup> of each year. The RACE Rules Committee shall then receive the proposals for comment by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Amendments to the racing rules shall be by a majority vote of the Rules Committee.

#### **1.3.2 Qualifying Clubs**

To qualify for participation in the Rule Change process, clubs must have held or co-hosted at least one sanctioned AOK9 meet or match during the 12 month period Nov. 21 thru Nov. 20 of the voting year.

### **1.4 THE OFFICIAL RACE MEET**

The Official Race Meet will be offered to all eligible breeds and mixed breeds. The preferred starting method is by a suitable starting box, if available. However, starts may be conducted by a hand slip if no suitable starting box is available, or if the dogs within a breed or mixed division do not all fit within the starting boxes. The method of starting will be advertised by the Club prior to the Meet by a premium list sent to owners of prospective entrants and posted on the AOK9 website as well as relevant social media accounts. All racers must wear racing muzzles and correctly colored and numbered jackets.

### **1.5 AGE REQUIREMENT**

Dogs must be 1 year of age or older on the day of an Official Race Meet to be entered. Clubs have the option of offering an unofficial puppy race class for puppies between the age of 6 and 12 months. The puppy race track shall be no longer than 100 yards, and results will not count towards points or WAVE.

### **1.6 RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The owner or agent entering a dog in an AOK9 meet assumes all risk and responsibility for loss or injury suffered or caused by his or her dog while on the grounds or near the entrance of the race meet.

### **1.7 THE HOST CLUB**

The Host Club for an Official Race Meet is the club, group, association or individual that puts on the meet. The Host Club must be licensed by the AOK9 Program and must agree to abide by these Rules and Regulations.

The Host Club must have a copy of the current Rule Book available to exhibitors at every meet.

## **1.8 THE HOST CLUB RACE COMMITTEE**

Prior to the start of an Official Race Meet, the Race Secretary shall appoint a Race Committee of three persons, to be announced prior to the start of racing. Other than judges' decisions, the rulings of this committee are final in all matters occurring on the day of the Official Meet; subject to these Rules and Regulations.

## **1.9 ENTRY FEES**

Entry fees shall be fixed by the Host Club and shall be forfeited if a dog is disqualified, dismissed or scratched from racing for cause except as follows: 1. Bitches in season which come in after entry is made shall have their fees refunded; and 2. Dogs which are determined to be lame, obviously sick, pregnant or in season by the Inspection Committee prior to completing any races shall be barred from racing and have their entry fees refunded.

## **1.10 QUALIFYING TO RACE**

Any dog entered in an AOK9 race meet which does not already have an established racing record with another racing organization, or has not previously raced at an Official AOK9 Meet (i.e., the Dog is First Time Entered (FTE)), must apply for a racing license. Dogs seeking only to run in the Singles Stakes need not apply for a racing license (See the AOK9 Singles Racing Rule Book).

### **1.10.1 Racing License**

In order to be granted a racing license and thereby be eligible to compete in a Regular Stake, a dog must complete at least one qualifying run. The Race Secretary is responsible for overseeing all qualifying runs. The qualifying run must be completed with at least one other dog (although two is preferred) of the same breed or speed, and must be ran as a mock race. This means that the qualifying run must be conducted in the same fashion as an official race would be, with the qualifying dog wearing an appropriately fitted muzzle and racing blanket, and starting from a starting box if appropriate based on their size and/or the needs of the club. The qualifying dog must demonstrate that it can run the entire length of the race track, and pass or be passed by another dog without interfering or stopping. If, by circumstance or design, the qualifying dog is not appropriately matched such that it is able to pass or be passed by the "helper" dog(s), the RMS may require the qualifying run to be done over at his/her discretion. Upon completion of a successful qualifying run, the Race Secretary shall submit written confirmation of the passing run(s) in their official race meet results report.

Dogs which have previously raced with competition under other organizations or events (e.g. the Whippet Racing Association, Large Gazehound Racing Association, Canadian Amateur Racing Association, National Oval Track Racing Association) will have the license requirement waived as long as the RMS can verify said record with the other organization. Qualifying runs can be held at practice races or before, during or after an Official Meet.

### **1.11 MINIMUM STARTERS FOR AN OFFICIAL MEET**

The minimum number of starters for an Official Meet shall be either two (2) starters of the same breed, or two (2) starters of the same type for a mixed division. Type is defined as a combination of size, proportion, and/or speed and running style.

### **1.12 OWNER/HANDLER SPORTSMANSHIP**

Owners/Handlers at AOK9 events accept and agree to abide by the AOK9 rules and generally accepted rules of conduct and good sportsmanship. Further, they shall pick up after their dog, keep the grounds clean, and treat their dogs with respect and in a humane manner.

## **CHAPTER II - REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL RACE MEET**

### **2.1 REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION**

Any club, group, association or individual may request certification from the National Race Director (NRD) to hold an Official AOK9 Race Meet. Such a group or individual is referred to as the Host Club. They should be knowledgeable and experienced, and able to properly conduct an Official Meet.

#### **2.1.1 Submitting a request for next year's Calendar**

Annually by November 20<sup>th</sup>, each Member Club Delegate shall submit a request to the NRD by mail or e-mail for next year's Calendar. . The application must include the dates requested, location, breeds for which races are to be offered, the method of starting for each breed, the name of the Host Club, and the name of the Host Club Race Secretary and Delegate. Priority for a given date will be based on the previous year's calendar. Requests received after November 20<sup>th</sup> will be considered based on the date of submission.

#### **2.1.2 Submitting a request for additions/changes to the current calendar.**

The request for certification to hold an Official Race Meet or change a scheduled date/site should be submitted to the NRD at least 60 days prior to the date requested. It must specify the date, location, breeds for which races are to be offered, the method of starting for each breed, the name of the Host Club, and the name of the Host Club Race Secretary and Delegate.

#### **2.1.3 Submitting a Request for the AOK9 Nationals**

The request for certification to hold the annual National Race Meet should be submitted to the NRD between October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. The request should specify the date, location, breeds for which races are to be offered, the method of starting for each breed, the length, width and height of the starting box holes, the name of the Host Club, and the name of the Host Club Race Secretary and Delegate. The request should also include details of the proposed site, a photo of the starting box, the format of the meet (one or two days), and accommodations offered. Whenever possible, the Nationals should be rotated between the west coast, mid-west, and the east coast, based on the following:

West	Mid-west	East
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2024	2025	2026
2027	2028	2029
Continuing		

Each request will be reviewed by the RACE Board of Directors. The Host Club may be asked to revise the request accordingly. All requests submitted will be considered for a vote by the Board of Directors. The site of the Nationals will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Board.

#### **2.1.4 Rescheduling canceled meets**

Canceled meets may be rescheduled within the 60 days following the original meet date(s) provided the host club submits a request for the make-up meet to the Secretary within 7 days of cancellation, the make-up date is at least 7 days from the date of request, and the make-up date falls within the same calendar year as the canceled meet. The date and location of the make-up meet must be specified in the request.

### **2.2 REPORTING RESULTS OF AN OFFICIAL RACE MEET**

#### **2.2.1 Phoned in/email Results**

Within 48 hours of a meet, the Host Club Race Secretary must phone, email, or mail in a completed meet report, using the official AOK9 Race Meet Report Template: (NOTE that emailed results are preferred). The official AOK9 Race Meet Report Template shall contain the following information:

1. Number of dogs starting in each breed or mixed division. Each division must be clearly identified as either a Breed Division or a Mixed Division. In the case of Breed Divisions, the breed shall also be clearly indicated.
2. The “call” name and owner name of each starter. If registration with AOK9 is pending, the breed, registered names of the starters and the owners’ names and addresses must be included.
3. The placing and meet score earned by each starter.
4. All First Time Entered (FTE), Disqualifications (DQ), Off Course (OC), Did Not Finish (DNF), and Scratch (S) with Race Number scratched from, i.e., ran race 1, did not run race 2, show S2
5. The results of each race, indicating any reruns.

NOTE: Failure to comply with the 48 hour rule will result in a \$10.00 fine per day for every day late.

#### **2.2.2 Results by Mail**

Host Clubs may submit results by mail postmarked within 7 days of a meet. The Host Club Race Secretary will submit a written report of the race meet to the NRD which will include the

information required in 2.2.1 plus copies of all foul judge sheets where a foul was recorded and registration applications on all FTE dogs. (See NOTE below regarding fines).

There will be a \$1.00 U.S. per capita assessed on each dog running in each AOK9 meet. (See Rulebook Section 1.2.2.)

There are two options for submitting these fees: they may be sent by mail directly to the RACE Treasurer, or they may be paid by PayPal. Any club wishing to pay in this manner should contact the Treasurer directly for the information.

**NOTE:** Failure to comply with the 7 day rule will result in a \$10.00 fine per day for every day late.

### **2.2.3 Recordkeeping**

The results of the meet will not be recorded in the permanent records of AOK9 nor will points towards any Racing Championship be awarded until all necessary results and fees have been received.

## **CHAPTER III – OFFICIALS**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

Each Official Race Meet must use well-trained, competent and strictly honest officials. They **must not** be under the influence of alcohol or drugs or consume such items while acting as officials. Each Official Race Meet must have the following officials (their duties are listed):

### **3.2 HOST CLUB RACE SECRETARY**

The Host Club Race Secretary will perform the following:

- (a) Applies to RACE (or asks the Host Club Delegate to apply) for certification from RACE to hold an Official Race Meet as described in 2.1.1.
- (b) Accepts entries for the meet and prepares a program for the meet which lists entries by breed, WAVE, name of dog and owner.
- (c) Collects all records of the meet and reports them to the President as outlined in 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.
- (d) Maintains an up to date knowledge of the racing ability and WAVE of each dog racing at Official Meets and assures that dogs start in the correct race.
- (e) Chairman of the Race Committee.
- (f) Appoints officials and other persons needed for the set-up and operation of the meet.
- (g) Assures that a copy of the current Rule Book is on hand.

- (h) Assures that all trophies and awards are on hand.
- (i) Provides grounds for the meet, arranges for clean-up before and after the meet.
- (j) Arranges for the set-up of the track when required.
- (k) Assures that all equipment and supplies are on hand and functional.
- (l) Coordinates the operation of the meet.
- (m) Conducts a public draw for each program of racing.
- (n) Calls the roll of the entered dogs before the draw for the first program of racing.
- (o) Calls up each race such that the meet is run efficiently without delay.
- (p) Announces the official order of finish of each race after receiving reports and consulting with Finish Line and Foul Judges and the Starter. Intentional fouls, possible fouls and pre-slips should be reported to the owner(s) immediately after the race. Such a report MUST be made no later than the start of the next program draw.
- (q) Assures that accurate score keeping is done on Official Record Sheets.
- (r) Rotates the racers by similar points for each program of racing in accordance with the scoring system.
- (s) Assures that the placing and scores are correctly listed on the scoreboard.

### **3.3 INSPECTION COMMITTEE**

The Inspection Committee shall consist of two knowledgeable individuals. At Roll Call, they inspect each Dog entered for lameness, sickness, and being in season.

### **3.4 RACE COMMITTEE**

The Race Committee consists of 3 knowledgeable individuals including the Race Secretary. They will perform the following:

- (a) Render a decision on any question regarding interpretation of the AOK9 Rules and Regulations.
- (b) Render a decision on any complaint or protest lodged by any owner or handler of a racer.
- (c) Supply a written decision when requested by the person lodging the protest or complaint.

(d) Rule on barring, scratching, dismissing or disqualifying a racer based on the reports of  
of  
the concerned officials.

### **3.5 FOUL JUDGES**

If possible, the Race Secretary shall appoint qualified Foul Judges prior to the running of a race. Otherwise, foul judge positions shall be filled by volunteers. Volunteers should be experienced and familiar with what constitutes a foul under the RACE rules. A Head Foul Judge may be appointed to assure that there are enough qualified judges for each race, and that judges do not have an interest in dogs entered in the race (i.e., owner, co-owner, handler). Two Foul Judges are required, but three are preferred. Depending on the number of qualified officials, the Race Secretary may appoint the box operator/starter as the third Foul Judge.

Foul Judges should stand at appropriate locations on opposite sides of the track. If three judges, the first judge should be approximately 50 yards from the box, the third judge should be at the finish line and the second judge approximately halfway in between. If only two judges, one should be within 8-10 feet of the finish line with the other halfway down the track.

Each Foul Judge must be well trained and experienced to carefully observe each race and determine whether there was “No Problem”, “No Race”, “Off Course”, “Possible Foul”, “Disqualifying Intentional Foul”. Each judge must also determine which racers are involved. Before conferring with anyone each Judge must make a written report to the Race Secretary of any problem on the Official Foul Judge Sheet (Fig. 8.5).

When a “Disqualifying Intentional Foul” is called, at least 2 judges must agree that it occurred and agree on the identity of the interfering Dog. It is not necessary that the judges agree on the identity of the dog(s) that suffered the interference. If there is lack of agreement about the identity of the interfering Dog, it should be called a “Possible Foul”.

### **3.6 FINISH LINE JUDGES**

If possible, the Race Secretary shall appoint qualified Finish Line Judges prior to the running of a race. Otherwise, foul judge positions shall be filled by volunteers. Volunteers should be experienced and familiar with the RACE rules. A Head Finish Line Judge may be appointed to assure that there are enough qualified judges for a race. A judge should not have an interest in a dog entered in the race to be judged. Qualified judges may officiate races in which their own dogs might be competing only if there is a shortage of officials and with agreement of the owner/handlers involved.

There must be at least two line judges for low point races and four line judges are recommended for high point races and when the races are very competitive. There must always be an equal number of line judges on each side of the track. The Finish Line Judges must be thoroughly qualified to accurately determine the order of finish of each race. One judge is designated “Head Judge”. Each Judge should carefully observe the order of finish of each race while standing well back from the track for good visibility, and, preferably from an elevated stand, at the Finish Line.

Immediately after each race, without conferring with anybody, they should each write the order of finish of every dog by number or color of racing jackets on the Finish Line Judges Report. The Reports are given to the "Head Judge" for correlation. The majority decides a difference of opinion. A tie should be called if the judges are equally split or if there is a very strong disagreement on a placing.

The outcome of the race for every racer must be indicated. A dog that leaves the track at any time prior to crossing the finish line shall be scored as 'off course'. A dog that does not cross the finish line or crosses the finish line only after receiving assistance from a person or persons on the track should be scored as "did not finish".

Results are not final until posted on the meet Scoreboard after reports of the Foul Judges have been considered.

### **3.6.1 Use of Camera To Determine Finish**

Video cameras may be used to settle cases of disagreement or confusion over the order of the finish. If the judges do not agree on what they see in the recording the methods enumerated in these rules will be used to settle the dispute based on what each sees in the recording.

The use of video equipment shall be in a supplemental mode and will not replace the placing judges. If used, the following procedure must be used on each race.

- 1) The placing judges will call the race as usual. If there is a disagreement among the placing judges, they (and no one else) may call a photo finish. When this happens, the race will be posted as a photo finish. The resolution of this race shall take place prior to the running of the next race.
  - (a) All placing judges for that race will immediately proceed to the viewing area along with the video and video operator.
  - (b) Only the placing judges of the disputed or tied race and the video operator shall review the finish. After the placing judges review the video, they shall announce their results. These results shall become official and posted on the scoreboard
- 2) An owner may protest the FINISH of a race and must do so before the running of the next race. The judges will view the tape and rule on the finish. The owner will be allowed to view the video of the protested race with the judges but may not participate in, or attempt to influence, any discussion of what is viewed.

Cameras: The camera shall be a digital video camera capable of recording moving images in a digital format and playing them back in slow or stop motion with no loss of clarity. The playback equipment must be able to view individual frames in a stop motion format.

Mounting and Positioning: The camera will be on a firm base at least 5 feet (60 inches) above the ground and on the side of the track which gets the best light to see the dogs, the idea is that no dog is hidden behind any other dog, with higher mounting preferable. A camera on each side of the track is preferable to one mounted on one side of the track, to catch dogs not seen by the other camera.

Ideally the camera would be mounted over the center of the track with enough height to see the full track width. The camera shall be placed on the finish line and pointed across the track with a clear view of the full width of the finish line and track. The camera will not follow the dogs down the track. It will allow the dogs to run through its field of view. The camera will have an unimpeded view of the finish.

Use: The camera shall be set to the fastest shutter speed, called Action Mode on some cameras, to achieve the greatest clarity. The camera will record the program and race numbers, preferably before the race. The recording of the program and dogs may be visual or audio. The camera should be started before the race starts and shall run until after all dogs that finish cross the finish line.

**Retention:** The recordings will be retained until at least two (2) hours after the last race is run for the day.

#### **3.6.1.1 Placements after review.**

Once the final placements are determined, under no circumstances should these placements be reversed.

### **3.7 SCOREKEEPER**

The Race Secretary may appoint a Scorekeeper, who will record the placements communicated by the Head Finish Line Judge in the Records of the race meet and on the scoreboard. The Scorekeeper shall also announce the dogs for each race and shall direct them to the starting box/line when they are properly blanketed and muzzled, after the Starter has signaled readiness.

All dogs shall exit the paddock area onto the track as directed, and shall proceed as a group to the starting box/line. THE SCOREKEEPER SHALL NOT PERMIT A DOG TO RACE UNLESS IT WEARS A MUZZLE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND IN GOOD CONDITION.

### **3.8 LURE OPERATOR**

The lure operator shall examine the lure machine to assure its proper operation after the lure has been taken to the start. The lure operator shall endeavor to keep the lure approximately 30 feet ahead of the lead dog. The lure operator shall endeavor to operate the lure as smoothly as possible down the course, and shall continue the lure past the finish line at full speed. If possible, the lure should not be stopped until the last dog has crossed the finish line.

### **3.9 STARTER AND ASSISTANT STARTER**

#### **3.9.1 Starting Boxes**

Using a starting box is the preferred method for starting races for all breeds. Hand slipping is permitted when no suitable starting box is available, or when dogs within a certain division do not fit into the boxes that are provided by the Club.

For a box start, the lure should be placed 15 feet in front of and centered in front of the starting box with some slack in the line. The lure should be in clear view of all the racers.

### **3.9.2 Hand Slip**

In the event that the meet is scheduled as a box start and for reasons beyond the control of the Race Secretary, the box is unavailable or inoperable, the meet may be hand-slipped. The reasons for the change must be clearly stated and accompany the meet results as reported to the RACE President. When a club repeatedly has the box unavailable or inoperable despite advertising a boxed meet, the club may be liable for suspension and/or voiding of all meets held under these circumstances.

When hand-slipping is used to start a race, the lure will be placed 10 feet in front of the dogs with no slack. The dogs will be held behind the starting line in blanket order. Handlers may restrain the dogs in any fashion as long as it does not interfere with the start of another dog.

The Starter will ask the handlers if they are ready and after receiving a verbal response will signal the lure operator to start the lure. A dog will be penalized into last place for that race if it is pre-slipped (i.e., released before the movement of the lure). A pre-slip is called by the Starter. If there is an Assistant Starter assigned to that race, both the Starter and Assistant Starter must agree on the pre-slip.

### **3.9.3 Other Duties**

The Starters check all racers and equipment at the starting box/starting line and assist in the loading of the racers into the starting box by numerical order.

They assure that no owner or handler touches the lure or teases the dogs with the lure.

The starters must immediately inform the Race Committee of any dog which unduly delays racing by refusing to face forward in the starting box, or which removes its muzzle several times at the start, or which refuses to walk to the start, or any similar actions that delay the start of the race for dogs that are already at the start line. (See Section 6.4 Scratches.)

## **CHAPTER IV - RUNNING THE OFFICIAL RACE MEET**

### **4.1 THE RACE FORMAT**

The Race Format consists of the distance of the races, the stakes racers may run in, the number of programs of racing (the number of times each racer runs in a meet), the number of racers in each race, and the method of rotating racers for each program of racing.

#### **4.1.1 Distance**

The races may be at Short, Medium, or Long Distances at the option of the Host Club, subject to AOK9 approval. Either a drag-lure, a continuous loop, or a rail-lure track may be used. The specific recommended distances are as follows:

- Short Distance Races: 300 yards or less
- Medium Distance Races: 301 yards to 400 yards
- Long Distances Races: over 400 yards

Medium distances are recommended where feasible. Rail-lure track distances may be changed as needed to accommodate the specific layout of the track to be used.

#### **4.1.2 Stakes**

There are two stakes that may be offered by AOK9-sanctioned racing clubs; Regular stakes and Singles stakes. The Host Club shall have the option of offering both regular and singles stakes, or just one of the two stakes.

#### **4.1.3 Number of Programs**

The Official Race Meet consists of three programs of racing in which an entrant can race once in each program. If a racer does not start in the first program, it is automatically scratched from subsequent programs. Each racer is assigned to a specific race in each program, either through use of the grading guide (first program) or scores earned in prior races (second and third programs). If the racer fails to run in its assigned race, it cannot be placed in any subsequent race in the same program.

In order for a meet to be official, all programs planned must be completed. Programs can be arranged to run each breed in sequence or intermingled. However, no dog should be required to race without a 30 minute rest between programs unless a rerun is required. A rerun may be run with less than 30 minutes rest depending on the length of the first run and with consent of the owner/handlers.

#### **4.1.4 Organizing Racers into Divisions**

Before the start of the first program, the Race Secretary shall organize all racers into divisions. Racers will only compete against other racers within their own division. There are two types of divisions that racers can be segregated into: breed divisions, or mixed divisions.

#### **4.1.5 Breed Divisions**

Breed divisions consist of at least two dogs of the same breed (i.e. 2 Dalmatians for a Dalmatian meet, 3 Jack Russell Terriers for a Jack Russell Terrier meet). Dogs of mixed heritage are considered to be their own "breed" for the purposes of these rules, and can run in their own breed divisions with similarly sized/typed mixed breeds (e.g. 2 medium sized terrier mixes, 3 pit bull type mixes).

#### **4.1.6 Mixed Divisions**

Mixed divisions consist of at least two dogs of different breeds that are similar in type (i.e. 1 Golden Retriever and 1 Labrador Retriever for a mixed meet). The goal is to group racers as evenly and fairly as possible, given the day's entry.

#### 4.1.7 Leftover Dogs

If there are any racers "left over" that do not fit into any available mixed divisions, but are similar enough in type to fit into a breed division, the Race Secretary has one of two options. (1) run the "left over" dog in that breed division, where they will compete for mixed points only while all other racers in the breed division will compete for breed points. (2) All racers may opt to run the division as a mixed division with all dogs competing for mixed points. An example of this scenario is given below:

Example: Suppose the entry consists of the following: 2 Jack Russell Terriers, 1 Patterdale Terrier, 3 Labrador Retrievers, and 2 similarly sized Shepherd mixes. The possible configurations could be: one Labrador Retriever breed division, one mixed breed division, and one Jack Russell Terrier division with the "extra" Patterdale Terrier included; or two mixed divisions; one for the large dogs and one for the smaller dogs

#### 4.1.8 Special Rules for Grouping Sighthounds into Divisions

~~Ideally, sighthounds should only run in breed divisions due to the predictable nature of the way they run. For the purposes of these rules, the designation of "sighthound" applies to the following breeds: Afghan Hound, Azawakh, Borzoi, Chart Polski (Polish Greyhound), Cirneco dell'Etna, Greyhound, Longdog, Lurcher, Magyar Agar (Hungarian Greyhound), Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Podenco Canario, Podengo Portugueso, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Silken Windhound, Sloughi, Taigan, Tazi, Galgo Espanol (Spanish Greyhound), Windsprite, and Whippet. For the purposes of these rules, a longdog is a cross between two different sighthound breeds (e.g. Greyhound/Saluki cross), and a lurcher is a cross between at least one sighthound breed and at least one non-sighthound breed (e.g. Whippet/Border Collie cross)~~

~~In the event that there are not enough sighthounds of one breed entered to make a breed division, different sighthound breeds may be grouped into a mixed sighthound division. Sighthound breeds should be grouped with other sighthound breeds according to the following lists:~~

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Borzoi	Greyhound	Cirneco dell'Etna	Afghan Hound	Ibizan Hound	Whippet
Scottish Deerhound	Galgo Espanol	Podengo Portuguese Medio	Saluki	Pharaoh Hound	Silken Windhound
Irish Wolfhound	Magyar Agar	Italian Greyhound	Azawakh	Portuguese Podengo Grande	Windsprite

Chart Polski	Lurcher*	Lurcher*	Sloughi	Podenco Canario	Lurcher*
Lurcher*	Longdog*	Longdog*	Tazi	Lurcher*	Longdog*
Longdog*			Taigan	Longdog*	
			Lurcher*		
			Longdog*		

~~\*\*When grouping lurchers and longdogs, size and heritage should be taken into account to the best of the secretary's ability.~~

#### **4.1.9 Grouping for First Program**

Racers within each division are to be grouped for the first program by a point system described in Section 4.3.1, Initial Meet Setup.

#### **4.1.10 Rotating the Racers**

Racers within each division are to be rotated for the second and third programs by a point system described in Section 4.3.4, Second and Third Program Draw.

### **4.2 THE GRADING SYSTEM**

The object of the Grading System is to match racers against each other by a point system based on racing ability. Racers are not divided by sex within divisions. All racers shall have a Grade classification A, B, C or D in the First Program of a meet using Graded Races. After each meet, each dog will have its Grade reevaluated depending on its performance in the meet.

#### **4.2.1 Initial Grading**

A dog with no previous race record at Official Race Meets starts in Grade D, with the following exceptions:

- 1) A dog may be started as a Grade C based on the results of schooling races and at the Race Secretary's discretion;
- 2) A dog that has raced in Official RACE AOK9 Oval Meets should be initially graded according to its oval record by reducing its oval grade by one grade.

#### **4.2.2 Grading with AOK9 Records**

When a dog entered for an Official Race Meet has previously raced at Official Race Meets, it should be graded based on its current RACE record. All dogs will have two WAVES (weighted averages), a Breed WAVE and a Mixed WAVE, to reflect their previous performance in Breed and Mixed divisions respectively. Breed WAVES will only be calculated using scores from breed divisions. Mixed WAVES will only be calculated using scores from mixed divisions.

Where there is a breed division with one "left over" dog of a different breed running, the "left over" dog's score will be counted towards its Mixed WAVE. Scores earned by all other breed racers in the breed division will count towards their Breed WAVE.

#### 4.2.2.1 Three Meets

When the dog has three or more meets on its racing record, only the last three meets entered are considered. When these three meets are complete, the WAVE is calculated as follows:

$$[(\text{meet 1}) + 0.7(\text{meet 2}) + 0.5(\text{meet 3})] / 2.2$$

where meet 1 is the most recent.

When the last three meets are all incomplete, the WAVE is the average of the scores.

#### 4.2.2.2 Two Meets

When the dog has two complete meets within the last three, or ONLY two meets, both of which are complete, the weighted average (WAVE) is calculated as follows:

$$[(\text{complete meet 1}) + 0.7(\text{complete meet 2})] / 1.7$$

When a dog has only two meets in its record, both incomplete, the WAVE is the average of the scores.

#### 4.2.2.3 One Meet

When the dog has only one complete meet within the last three, the WAVE is the score earned in that one complete meet.

If the dog has only one meet in its record and that meet is complete or incomplete, the WAVE is the score earned in that meet

#### 4.2.2.4 Dogs Running Alone

A dog running alone in the Regular stakes does NOT earn championship points. A dog that runs all three programs without competition (whether in a Regular or Singles stake) will be considered as having run a schooling meet and no WAVE will be assigned. If the dog has previously run with competition, the WAVE will remain unchanged from the last meet with competition when next entered. If the dog has never entered a meet with competition, it will be considered an FTE at the first meet where it runs with competition. (See Section 4.3.1.3, First Time Entered.)

#### 4.2.2.5 Assigning Grades

Grades are only used for dogs that have raced and obtained a WAVE in either AOK9 Sprint Racing or AOK9 Oval Racing. See Section 4.2.1.

GRADE	WAVE
A	11 thru 22
B	8 thru 10.999
C	5.5 thru 7.999

D	Less than 5 .5
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### **4.3 GRADED MEETS**

Entrants who are recorded in the Grading Guide have previously participated in Official Race Meets and therefore should be run in graded meets. See also Section 4.4, Ungraded Meets.

#### **4.3.1 Initial Meet Setup**

The Race Secretary, together with a committee of not more than two other qualified persons, make up the races for the first program.

##### **4.3.1.1 Using the Grading Guide**

Use of the Grading Guide WAVEs simplifies the grouping process and provides an objective basis for the grouping of the racers for the first program. The Race Secretary and committee should use the Grading Guide and the WAVEs when available. The entered racers should first be listed in the order of their WAVE as listed in the Grading Guide.

##### **4.3.1.2 Grading Guide Unavailable**

Segregate the entered dogs by grade. A knowledgeable Race Secretary will also group the better racers in each grade and the slower racers in each grade. The Race Set-up Chart (Figure 8.1) shows the required number of racers in each race and the order in which the races are to be run depending on the total number of starters in the program. The race groupings and the race order must conform to this chart. Grades may be combined to best fill the races according to the chart.

##### **4.3.1.3 First Time Entered**

In accordance with Section 4.2.1, Initial Grading, First Time Entered (FTE) starters may be inserted in an appropriate group based on their AOK9 oval record (not higher than Grade B), schooling races (not higher than Grade C), or placed with Grade D racers as appropriate.

#### **4.3.2 Selection of Post Position**

After the racers are grouped for each race, post positions are selected by random draw.

A truly random draw requires three people, one to shuffle the name tags of the racers, one to draw the name, and one to draw the post position. A suggested method is to have colored marbles or poker chips marked with the numbers 1 through 4. The name tags should be shuffled by the scorekeeper, one tag drawn by a second person, and a numbered post position then drawn by the third person.

Another possible method is to have the tags shuffled by the scorekeeper, drawn by a second person, and a post position called by a third person.

Each racer is to wear a racing jacket with the number of its post position and the appropriate color for that number.

#### **4.3.3 First Program Draw**

The entered racers should first be listed in the order of their WAVE as published in the Grading Guide.

The Race Set-Up Chart (Figure 8.1) shows the number of racers in each race and the order in which the races are to be run depending on the total number of starters. The WAVE of each racer is to be used as follows to make up the first program of races: The racers with the 4 highest WAVES are grouped for the highest or Grade A race. The racers with the next highest group of WAVES are then grouped for the next lower race. The use of WAVES in this manner is continued until all the racers are grouped. The High Point race always has four dogs, as does the Low Point race. If there are too few dogs to fill the intervening races with four dogs, the two and three dog races are always the LOWEST races.

Using the grouping method above, all racers are assigned to specific races. Within a division, low point races are run first and high point races are run last. Any racer that does not compete in its assigned race for whatever reason cannot be added to a subsequent race in the same program.

#### **4.3.4 Second and Third Program Draw - Rotation by Points**

After the first program, the grade designations are dropped, and the racers are regrouped for the next program by the points earned in the first program. The Race Set-Up Chart (Figure 8.1) is used to determine the number of racers in each race depending on the total number of racers available for the next program. The procedure is to work from the "High Score" race down to the "Lowest Score" race grouping the racers with the same points and with lower points if needed to fill out a race, to make up the races for the next program.

##### **4.3.4.1 Ties**

If racers have equal points, the following rule is to be used if the dogs are tied within a race. Add together all the scores of the tied racers and divide by the number of dogs that are tied. Distribute the points equally among the dogs.

If racers have equal points, the following rule is to be used if they need to be divided between races in the subsequent program: The racer that ran in the "Higher" race must be grouped into the "Higher" race in the next program, except in set-up of the final program if a dog finishes in last place in the high point race and has the same number of points as the dog that wins the next to the last race (semi feature race), the winner of the next to last race will move up to the high point race and the last place finisher will move down to the next to last race. Otherwise, if the racers were in the same race, the racer that placed higher must be grouped into the "Higher" race in the next program. If still tied, the racer that raced in the higher race in the previous program goes into the higher race. Finally, if still tied, the racer with the higher grade and rating or wave in the grading guide goes into the higher race. This procedure of grouping the racers with similar points totals is used after each program of racing until the meet is completed.

##### **4.3.4.2 Post Position**

Actual post positions in each group are reset by random draw for programs two and three as described in Section 4.3.2, Selection of Post Position.

#### **4.3.5 Scoring the Meet**

Points are awarded to each dog after each race depending on its finish in the race. Dogs that are Off Course or that Did Not Finish as described in Chapter 3, Section 3.6 will receive a score of zero in that race. The sum total of the points earned by each racer at the conclusion of the meet determines its final placing in the meet.

If there is a tie in total points at the end of the meet, the racer that ran in the “Higher” race in the final program is awarded the higher placing. If the racers with equal points were in the same race in the final program, the racer with the higher placing in that race is awarded the higher placing in the meet. A racer that does not complete all programs of a meet should be awarded a placing at the bottom of the list of racers with equal points. All dogs who started the first program of the meet will receive a placement.

Figure 8.2A shows the number of points awarded according to the order of finish in each race in each of the three programs.

Always use one High Point for each of the programs of graded races.

If the meet is ungraded then a High Point will be used in the 2nd and 3rd programs only. See Section 4.4.2, Scoring Ungraded Races (Table 8.2B).

### **4.4 UNGRADED MEETS**

If at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the entries in a division are first-time entered, then that division may run in ungraded races.

#### **4.4.1 Grouping for Ungraded Races**

The grouping for Ungraded Races is by random draw. The Race Set-Up Chart (Figure 8.1) should be used to determine the number of races and the number of racers in each race. Post position is determined by random draw in the same manner as for Graded Races. (See Section 4.3.2, Selection of Post Position and Section 4.3.3, First Program Draw).

#### **4.4.2 Scoring Ungraded Races**

Figure 8.2B shows the number of points awarded according to the order of finish in each race in each ungraded program.

### **4.5 SAMPLE FORMS**

A sample ENTRY FORM, PLACING JUDGE REPORT, FOUL JUDGE REPORT, and an OFFICIAL SCORE SHEET are shown in FIGURES 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6 respectively.

## **CHAPTER V - TROPHIES, AWARDS TITLES & CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS**

## 5.1 TROPHIES

The Host Club selects trophies, rosettes and ribbons and sets up a program to use them to best advantage. When point scoring is used, emphasis should be placed on rewarding the racers, which accumulate the most points, and the following are usually honored in each breed:

- High Score Dog
- High Score Opposite Sex
- Top Five Racers
- High Score in each Grade

If enough trophies are available and there are sufficient entries in each category, awards may also include:

- High Score FTE
- High Score Veteran
- High Score Oval Champion
- High Score Coursing Champion
- High Score Show Champion
- High Score Obedience Degree

## 5.2 BREED OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Breed Oval Championship (BOC) points are awarded to dogs running in breed divisions depending on the number of eligible entrants as indicated in the chart below. No BOC points will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races or finishes last in its breed division or that has not defeated at least one dog in at least one race in that day's racing.

BOC POINTS AWARDED (non BOC only)				
Eligible Entry	High Score Dog	Second High Score	Third High Score	Fourth High Score
2-4	1.0	0.5		
5-7	2.0	1.0		
8-10	3.0	1.5	0.5	
11-15	4.0	2.0	1.0	
16 -21	5.0	3.0	1.5	
22-30	6.0	4.0	2.0	
31-40	7.0	5.0	3.0	
41 or more	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0

The number of 'eligible entrants' is determined after the racers are scored and placements are awarded. To calculate 'eligible entrants', subtract any champion dogs (BOC, SBOC) that place above the first non-titled dog. The eligible entry includes the first non-titled dog and all those dogs that place below it (including dogs with championships and incomplete meets). Where there is a "left over" dog running in a breed division, the "left over" dog will not be counted

towards the final BOC point distribution (i.e. the BOC points will be distributed as if the “left over” dog had not run regardless of how the “left over” dog placed).

Example: Entry of 12 in the division. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placing dogs are both BOC’s, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place dog is a “left over” dog. The eligible entry for BOC points is therefore 9 dogs.

If there is a tie in racing points for placements which are to receive BOC points, the BOC points are to be split equally among the racers with the tied points.

A permanent title of Breed Oval Champion (BOC) will be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any dog which has earned at least 12 BOC points. RACE will award a certificate to the owner.

After a dog has earned the number of points which qualify for a BOC, it may continue to compete, but cannot earn any more BOC points.

### 5.3 MIXED RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mixed Oval Championship (MOC) points are awarded to dogs running in mixed divisions, or to “left over” dogs running in breed divisions (See 4.1.3), depending on the number of eligible entrants as indicated in the chart below. No MOC points will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races or finishes last in its division or that has not defeated at least one dog in at least one race in that day's racing.

MOC POINTS AWARDED (non MOC)				
Eligible Entry	High Score Dog	Second High Score	Third High Score	Fourth High Score
2-4	1.0	0.5		
5-7	2.0	1.0		
8-10	3.0	1.5	0.5	
11-15	4.0	2.0	1.0	
16 -21	5.0	3.0	1.5	
22-30	6.0	4.0	2.0	
31-40	7.0	5.0	3.0	
41 or more	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0

The number of ‘eligible entrants’ is determined after the racers are scored and placements are awarded. To calculate ‘eligible entrants’, subtract any mixed champion dogs (MOC, SMOC) that place above the first non-titled dog. The eligible entry includes the first non-titled dog and all those dogs that place below it (including dogs with championships and incomplete meets).

Example: Entry of 12 in the division. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placing dogs are both MOC’s. The eligible entry is therefore 10 dogs.

If there is a tie in racing points for placements which are to receive MOC points, the MOC points are to be split equally among the racers with the tied points.

A permanent title of Mixed Oval Champion (MOC) will be awarded as a suffix to the registered name of any dog which has earned 12 championship points. At least 2 of the 12 required points must be MOC points. The remaining points may be either BOC or MOC points. RACE will award a championship certificate to the owner.

After a dog has earned the number of points which qualify for a MOC, it may continue to compete, but cannot earn any more MOC points.

#### **5.4 SUPREME BREED OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

A dog may attain the title of Supreme Breed Oval Champion by accumulating 30 National Breed Oval Points in breed divisions. The awarding of National Breed Oval Points shall be per the chart in Section 5.6. A dog may accrue National Breed Oval Points towards SBOC II, III, etc. in increments of 30 points. Note that when running a Breed stake with a “leftover” dog, the “leftover” dog does not get counted towards the number of starters for the purposes of assigning Breed National Oval Points.

#### **5.5 SUPREME MIXED OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

A dog may attain the title of Supreme Mixed Oval Champion by accumulating 30 National Mixed Oval Points in mixed divisions. The awarding of National Mixed Oval Points shall be per the chart in Section 5.6. A dog may accrue National Mixed Oval Points towards SMOC II, III, etc. in increments of 30 points.

#### **5.6 NATIONAL POINTS**

National Points will be awarded to the High Score, 2nd High Score, 3rd High Score, and 4th High Score, depending on Starters as outlined in the NRC Points Awarded Table. National Points will be awarded to both BOC/MOC and non-BOC/non-MOC dogs, based on performance in a meet.

No National Points will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races or finishes last in its division or that has not defeated at least one dog in at least one race in that day's racing. The purpose of National Points is to track the highest performing dogs on a Seasonal and Career basis; and to show progress towards certification of a Supreme Breed/Mixed Oval Championship.

NRC POINTS AWARDED				
Number of Starters	High Score Dog	Second High Score	Third High Score	Fourth High Score
2-4	1.0	0.5		
5-7	2.0	1.0		
8-10	3.0	1.5	0.5	
11-15	4.0	2.0	1.0	
16-21	5.0	3.0	1.5	

22-30	6.0	4.0	2.0	
31-40	7.0	5.0	3.0	
41 or more	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0

If there is a tie in racing points for placements which are to receive NRC points, the NRC points are to be split equally among the racers with the tied points.

### **5.7 TURTLE OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Turtle Oval Championship (TOC) points are awarded to dogs running in either breed divisions or mixed divisions who place last in their division. The number of points awarded shall be equivalent to the number of points that would be earned by a dog placing first within the same division. No TOC points will be awarded to a dog that has previously attained a regular racing championship title. Additionally, no TOC points will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races, runs off course, or who is disqualified. Unlike regular championship points, TOC points shall only be awarded to one dog in each division, and the points do not “drop up” to the next lowest scoring dog

Example #1: In a division of 4 dogs where the first, second, and fourth place finishing dogs are racing champions of record and the third place dog is not a racing champion of record, the third place dog shall be awarded regular championship points, and no TOC points shall be awarded at all.

Example #2: In a division of 4 dogs where none of the dogs are racing champions of record, the first place finisher would receive 1 championship point, the second place finisher would receive 0.5 championship points, and the fourth place finisher would receive 1 TOC point. No additional TOC points are awarded.

### **5.8 SUPREME TURTLE OVAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

A dog may attain the title of Supreme Turtle Oval Champion by accumulating 30 TOC points. A dog may accrue STOC II, III titles etc in increments of 30 TOC points.

### **5.9 COMPANION RACING TITLES**

In addition to the racing championship titles listed above, the AOK9 Program would also like to offer companion level titles recognize those dogs who may not be the fastest dogs on the track, but who nonetheless demonstrate proficiency in the sport of amateur oval racing:

- Novice Oval Racer (NOR): Awarded to any dog who has completed a total six (6) Official AOK9 oval racing meets. No NOR credits will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races, runs off course, or who is disqualified.
- Expert Oval Racer (EOR): Awarded to any dog who has completed a total of twelve (12) Official AOK9 oval racing meets. No EOR credits will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races, runs off course, or who is disqualified.
- Master Oval Racer (MOR): Awarded to any dog who has completed a total of thirty (30) Official AOK9 oval racing meets. No MOR credits will be awarded to a dog that does not finish all races, runs off course, or who is disqualified.

## **5.10 APPLYING FOR COMPANION RACING TITLES**

Owners seeking official recognition of any companion racing titles must apply directly to the NRD using the Companion Racer Title Form. Credits or “legs” towards companion racing titles will *not* be tracked by the NRD. Once completed, the Companion Racer Title Form can be submitted by mail or email, along with a one-time application fee of \$10.00 per title. Upon review of the application, a permanent title will be awarded as a suffix to the dog’s registered name and a certificate reflecting the title will be issued to the owner.

## **CHAPTER VI - DISQUALIFICATION, DISMISSAL, BARRED, SCRATCHES, PROTEST**

### **6.1 DISQUALIFICATION FOR INTENTIONAL FOUL**

A dog shall only be disqualified for “Intentional Foul” between the starting box/line and the finish line. An “Intentional Foul” shall consist of a racer intentionally making contact or not making contact, but obviously impeding, stopping or forcing the second dog to run wide to avoid contact. A head turn may indicate intent to interfere but is not required for Intentional Interference to take place.

Only the Foul Judges can disqualify a racer and they should do this fearlessly, but only when sure of the identity of the dog that committed the foul.

Prior to discussing the foul with other Foul Judges, the Host Race Secretary or any other person, each Foul Judge shall write the foul on his/her Foul Judge Report Form. Then each Foul Judge shall go directly to the Host Race Secretary and show the written report. If two or more Foul Judges have written up the same foul, then the Host Race Secretary shall issue a notice of Disqualification to the Owner/Handler of the dog stating the foul committed and race/program that it occurred.

No person, even one qualified to foul judge, shall fill out a foul judge report unless known to be foul judging that race by the Race Secretary or the Race Secretary’s appointee (i.e., the Head Foul Judge) BEFORE the race begins.

Foul Judges are encouraged to include as much detail regarding each foul on the foul reporting sheet as they can provide.

#### **6.1.1 Retaliation**

If a dog retaliated after being attacked, it should not be disqualified. Only the aggressor should be disqualified.

#### **6.1.2 Uncertain Judge**

If a Foul Judge is uncertain whether an Intentional Foul was committed or is uncertain of the identity of the aggressor, he should call a "Possible Foul" on his Report, according to the provisions of Section 3.5.

### **6.1.3 Placing and Points**

If a dog is disqualified, points and placing in that race are distributed as if it had not participated. The disqualified dog retains the points earned prior to the race in which it was disqualified.

### **6.1.4 Penalty**

A dog that is disqualified is dismissed from further racing at this meet. If a dog is disqualified a second time within twelve (12) months of the first foul, it will be barred from racing at Official Race Meets for the twelve months following the date of the second foul. Should a dog be disqualified for "Intentional Foul" three times it will be permanently barred from Official Race Meets.

### **6.1.5 Appeal from Permanent Disqualification**

The owner of a dog that has been permanently barred may appeal to the NRD when he can prove his dog is a clean racer. The Owner must have concurrence from a Host Club Race Secretary that the Dog is now re-qualified, and attach that endorsement to the Appeal to the RACE President.

## **6.2 DISMISSAL**

Dogs may be dismissed for the remainder of the race meet by the Race Committee for the following reasons:

- (a) Dogs whose handler or owner interferes with an Official.
- (b) Dogs whose handler or owner interferes with or takes unfair advantage of other dogs in a race, i.e., when loading into a starting box, or when retrieving dogs at the conclusion of the race; no handler may tease his racer with the lure or touch the lure or have a lure in his possession to tease his racer at the start. These practices may distract other racers or give unfair advantage to some racers. The Starter/Assistant Starter only may tease the racers just before the start.
- (c) Dogs not running in a race which escape onto the race track and interfere with the running of a race.
- (d) Dogs whose handler or owner disregards requests by Officials to put their dogs on leash, or back from trackside since they may distract the racers.
- (e) Dogs whose handler or owner scratches a dog which is not injured or ill after the racers have been regrouped for the next program of racing.

### **6.3 BARRED FROM RACING**

The Race Committee shall bar any dog from racing for the following reasons:

- (a) A bitch that shows noticeable signs of being in season. She can be barred at any time during a meet when such signs become noticeable.
- (b) A dog that shows obvious signs of sickness or lameness.
- (c) Any dog that “Fouls” at schooling races can be barred temporarily from Official Race Meets if the Race Secretary feels the dog will “Foul” at the Official Meet.

### **6.4 SCRATCHES**

An owner or handler may scratch his racer from the meet before the racers have been regrouped for the next program of racing. No racer may be scratched by its owner or handler after the racers have been regrouped for the next program of racing unless the racer is injured or ill, and the injury or illness has been verified by the Race Committee.

The Race Committee may scratch a dog without prejudice for the following reasons:

- (a) Any racer that fails to finish a race or fails to finish in true racing style may be scratched from further racing.
- (b) Any dog which unduly delays racing by refusing to face forward in the starting box, or which removes its muzzle several times at the start, or which refuses to walk to the start, or any similar actions that delay the start of the race for dogs that are already at the start line.  
(See Section 3.9.3, Starter and Assistant Starter, Other Duties.)
- (c) Any dog left out of a race by neglect or oversight of the handler or owner.

### **6.5 NO RACE; RERUN OF A RACE**

A race is to be rerun after a suitable rest period only under the following circumstances:

- (a) If a racer catches or passes the lure or any part of the lure between the start and the finish line, it will be declared a “No-Race”;
- (b) If the lure operator sees a racer catch or pass the lure or a dog check on a piece of the lure which has fallen off, he should stop the lure if possible and the handlers are to retrieve their dogs;
- (c) If the starting box fails to open properly giving any racer an unfair advantage;
- (d) If a dog not entered in a race escapes and interferes with the racers;

- (e) If there is any outside interference with the race which is likely to have altered the race results;
- (f) If a situation occurs which presents a likelihood of injury to a racer, the lure should be stopped and the handlers are to retrieve their dogs;
- (g) If two or more dogs stop because of objects or distractions on or near the track (paper, garbage, etc.).
- (h) If a dog is disqualified for intentional foul during a race, that race will be re-run without the offending dog unless the owners of the dogs in the race unanimously agree to accept the order of finish.

The results of the meet should indicate which races were rerun.

#### **6.5.1 Options Instead of a Second Rerun**

If a race has been rerun and a second rerun of that race is indicated, the Race Committee, after considering the condition of the racers and the fairness to all involved, may choose one of the following alternatives instead of a second rerun:

- (a) If the first rerun of the race was more than 3/4 complete and in the opinion of the Race Committee, the placings of any one or more of the racers was not likely to change from that at the point where the race was stopped, the placing(s) should be awarded, and any remaining points should be equally divided among the other racers.
- (b) Split all the points available in the race equally among all the participants in the race.

#### **6.6 PROTESTING THE RACE MEET**

Any owner or handler of a dog entered in an Official Race Meet has the right to lodge a claim of protest in writing with the RACE President. Such person should first contact the meet Race Secretary at the time of the incident in question, to allow the Race Committee a chance to rule on the complaint. Such person should request a written decision from the Race Committee.

If the protest involves a decision or action taken by any member of the Race Committee then a substitute will be appointed to the Race Committee by the Race Secretary. This person will be drawn from the other club members or exhibitors present and must not have been involved in the decision or action leading to the protest.

An appeal to this decision can be requested from the RACE President, and must be filed within 10 days of the meet. A check for \$25.00 must accompany the appeal, payable to RACE. The Protest Fee will be returned if the Protest is considered justifiable by the RACE President.

## CHAPTER VII - RACE TRACK AND EQUIPMENT

### 7.1 RACE TRACK

The race track shall be a smooth, level, or banked surface. The surface of the race track should be turf, sod, soft dirt, or dampened and rolled sand.

The race track shall be a minimum of 20 feet in width at the start, and 30 feet in width at the finish line with an additional 10 - 20 ft. in width at both start and finish whenever field conditions allow. These are **minimum** widths, and wider tracks are preferred when possible, to allow the dogs more freedom of stride and to reduce bodily contact.

7.1.1 Drag-lure tracks are "U" shaped or modified ovals often setup on the day of the meet on a suitable turf field. A drag- lure track consists of an accurately positioned inner fence which defines the inner edge of the track, plus 4 to 8 precisely located pulleys spiked into the ground. A lure string is set around the pulleys, and a lure machine winds the string onto a reel pulling the lure in a pre- determined path around the track.

7.1.1.2 Layout of drag-lure tracks: There are five layouts for drag-lure tracks. The tracks for Short races are 220, 246, and 275 meter "U" shaped design; the track for Medium races is a 350-meter oval; and the Long races can be run on the 440-meter oval.

7.1.1.3 The inner fence design must be sufficiently transparent to view the race through it yet be visible enough to the racers to discourage them from attempting to cross it. The safety of the racers should also be considered in case a racer is forced into or accidentally strikes the fence.

7.1.2 Continuous-loop tracks are drag-lure tracks which have the lure string go around the pulleys in a continuous-loop. In order to avoid having the dogs run across the lure string many times in a circuit of the track, these tracks are designed so that the string runs outside the expected path of the dogs around the track.

7.1.3 Rail-lure tracks are usually designed for training Greyhounds for commercial racing. They usually have good sand or loam racing surface, but it should be inspected before racing begins to assure that there are no clods, rocks, or stones on the track. The inner fence consists of a rail on which a carriage rides. The lure is mounted on an arm which is attached to the carriage. The arm positions the lure into the track from the inner fence, usually several feet, and a foot or so above the ground. These tracks are usually 440 yards in circumference with 110-yard straights and 35-yard radius bends. A 220- yard Short race or a 300-yard Medium race can be run as a "U" on such a track.

7.1.3.1 Measuring the Race Distance of a Rail-lure track: The length of the race on the rail-lure track should be carefully measured to accurately locate the finish line with respect to the starting box. This can be done by measuring along the rail and compensating for the longer distance 1 yard out from the rail (or 1 meter out for metric distances). For example, a track with

35-yard bend radii will be 3.1 yards shorter on the rail compared to 1 yard out from the rail, and 6.2 yards shorter for a complete circuit of the track.

### **7.2 PADDOCK AREA**

The Paddock should be set in a centrally located area a short distance from the race track. The paddock should have sufficient room for blanketing of dogs, the scoreboard and a scorekeeper's table. Programs and score sheets should be available but are not mandatory.

### **7.3 LOUD SPEAKER**

A loudspeaker or megaphone should be available to inform owners, handlers and spectators of all activities in connection with the meet.

### **7.4 BLANKETS**

Each racer must wear a racing blanket. Only the following colors should be used:

Red Blanket	White Numeral "1"
Blue Blanket	White Numeral "2"
White Blanket	Black Numeral "3"
Green Blanket	White Numeral "4"

Blankets should extend from the shoulder blades to beyond the last rib, be fitted neither too tightly, restricting the stride, nor so loose as to unduly flap in the wind. Numerals should be at least four (4) inches tall.

### **7.5 RACING MUZZLES**

All racers must wear muzzles while racing. Approved muzzles include, but are not limited to, the box type used at all US Greyhound tracks; plastic coated English-style light wire racing muzzles, plastic basket muzzles or the pelican style muzzle (example: Irish coursing muzzles); "Softie" brand fabric muzzles. Each owner should provide his dog with a suitable muzzle.

The muzzle should allow the dog full freedom to open his mouth at all times. However, the muzzle must not allow the dog to be able to grasp the lure. A dog which can grasp the lure is a potential danger to the other dogs and handlers.

The racers must wear their muzzles from the Paddock area to the start.

### **7.6 STARTING BOX**

The Starting Box is the preferred method of starting a RACE Official Race Meet. A flip front, spring or hydraulically operated starting box with at least four holes, similar to those used at Greyhound training tracks and sized for Borzoi and Scottish Deerhounds is suitable.

### **7.7 LURE AND LURE MACHINE**

For conventional drag-lure operation, smooth operation is highly dependent on having sufficient inertia in the take-up spool. This will prevent the lure from jerking or jumping when power is applied or removed. A 9-inch diameter spool weighing about 6 pounds has been found to provide smooth operation. About 10 yards of slack string is provided at the starting box (See Figure 3-1) to permit the machine to get up to speed. It also gives the starter a signal to open the box properly for a "jump start". A special spool is used for continuous-loop operation which pulls the string through the spool. This spool must drive the string without slippage and without causing excessive wear of the drive string. It must also allow the passage of the lure through the drive spool for resetting the lure. Since the drag on the string is higher with continuous-loop operation than with a conventional drag-lure track, attention must be paid to having a high efficiency (low drag, low current) lure machine and having several well-charged batteries available. Continuous charging of the batteries throughout the meet can sometimes be used and may add to reliability and reduce the need for spare batteries.

## **CHAPTER VIII - CHARTS AND FORMS**

### **8.1 Race Set-up Chart**

Figure 8.1 shows the number of 4-, 3-, and 2-dog races and the total number of races for entries of two to forty-eight dogs.

### **8.2 Race Meet Points**

Figure 8.2A gives the scoring for graded races for all three programs.

Figure 8.2B gives the scoring for ungraded races for all three programs.

### **8.3 AOK9 Meet Entry Form**

Figure 8.3 includes both quick-entry and first-time entered information, plus disclaimer and signature of owner.

### **8.4 Placing Judge Report**

Figure 8.4 is the form that should be used by the Head Line Judge to report the outcome of each race. The form is reproducible with four reports per page.

### **8.5 Official Foul Judge Report**

Figure 8.5 is the Official Foul Judge Report. Each foul judge must report the outcome of every race and reports of fouls must be turned in to the Race Secretary immediately after the race in question.

### **8.6 Scoring Sheet**

Figure 8.6 is the official record of the draw and outcome of the meet for use by the Race Secretary. Participants may also use the form for their personal records.

### RACE SET-UP CHART

Total Number of Dogs	Number of Races			DOGS PER RACE												
	4-Dog Races	3-Dog Races	2-Dog Races	HP	Races must be run in this order										LP	
2	0	0	1	2												
3	0	1	0	3												
4	1	0	0	4												
5	0	1	1	3	2											
6	1	0	1	4	2											
7	1	1	0	4	3											
8	2	0	0	4	4											
9	1	1	1	4	2	3										
10	1	2	0	4	3	3										
11	2	1	0	4	3	4										
12	3	0	0	4	4	4										
13	1	3	0	4	3	3	3									
14	2	2	0	4	3	3	4									
15	3	1	0	4	4	3	4									
16	4	0	0	4	4	4	4									
17	2	3	0	4	3	3	3	4								
18	3	2	0	4	4	3	3	4								
19	4	1	0	4	4	4	3	4								
20	5	0	0	4	4	4	4	4								
21	3	3	0	4	4	3	3	3	4							
22	4	2	0	4	4	4	3	3	4							
23	5	1	0	4	4	4	4	3	4							
24	6	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4							
25	4	3	0	4	4	4	3	3	3	4						
26	5	2	0	4	4	4	4	3	3	4						
27	6	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	3	4						
28	7	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4						
29	5	3	0	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4					
30	6	2	0	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4					
31	7	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4					
32	8	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					
33	6	3	0	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4				
34	7	2	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4				
35	8	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4				
36	9	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
37	7	3	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4			
38	8	2	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4			
39	9	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4			
40	10	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
41	8	3	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4		
42	9	2	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4		
43	10	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4		
44	11	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
45	9	3	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	
46	10	2	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	
47	11	1	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	
48	12	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	

Figure 8.1

### Race Points Chart – Graded Races

	HP RACES	OTHER RACES
First Program		
1 <sup>st</sup>	8	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6	3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	3	0
Second Program		
1 <sup>st</sup>	6	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	2	0
Third Program		
1 <sup>st</sup>	8	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6	3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	3	0

**Figure 8.2A**

### Race Points Chart – Ungraded Races

	ALL RACES	
First Program		
1 <sup>st</sup>	5	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2	
4 <sup>th</sup>	0	
	HP RACES	OTHER RACES
Second and Third Programs		
1 <sup>st</sup>	8	5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	0	0



**Club:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Breed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**QUICK ENTRY (For dogs that have previously raced in RACE events):**

RACE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RACE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RACE NO: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**FTE (First Time Entered Dogs):**

CALL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTERED NAME (Include titles): \_\_\_\_\_

SIRE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAM: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION PAPERS ATTACHED: AKC \_\_\_\_\_ UKC \_\_\_\_\_ APDR \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**FTE (First Time Entered Dogs):**

CALL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTERED NAME (Include titles): \_\_\_\_\_

SIRE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAM: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION PAPERS ATTACHED: AKC \_\_\_\_\_ UKC \_\_\_\_\_ APDR \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

I and my heirs, legal representatives and assigns shall hold harmless and defend from any claim for personal injury, illness or property damage arising out of participation in this race meet sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, its officers, directors, committees, agents and members, Racing And Coursing Enthusiasts, American Preservation Dog Registry, their officers, directors, committees, agents, and members. I agree to abide by the Official Rules and Regulations of RACE and its code of conduct during this race meeting.

Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Figure 8.3  
FINISH LINE JUDGE REPORT**

<b>PLACING JUDGE REPORT</b>	
JACKETS	
1	RED
2	BLUE
3	WHITE
4	GREEN
PROGRAM _____ RACE _____	
PLACE	JACKET NO. OR COLOR
1 ST	
2 ND	
3 RD	
4 TH	
JUDGE _____	

<b>PLACING JUDGE REPORT</b>	
JACKETS	
1	RED
2	BLUE
3	WHITE
4	GREEN
PROGRAM _____ RACE _____	
PLACE	JACKET NO. OR COLOR
1 ST	
2 ND	
3 RD	
4 TH	
JUDGE _____	

<b>PLACING JUDGE REPORT</b>	
JACKETS	
1	RED
2	BLUE
3	WHITE
4	GREEN
PROGRAM _____ RACE _____	
PLACE	JACKET NO. OR COLOR
1 ST	
2 ND	
3 RD	
4 TH	
JUDGE _____	

<b>PLACING JUDGE REPORT</b>	
JACKETS	
1	RED
2	BLUE
3	WHITE
4	GREEN
PROGRAM _____ RACE _____	
PLACE	JACKET NO. OR COLOR
1 ST	
2 ND	
3 RD	
4 TH	
JUDGE _____	

**Figure 8.4**



# SCORING SHEET

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

Program			Race			Program			Race		
#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total	#	Name	Place	Pts.	Prev.	Total
1						1					
2						2					
3						3					
4						4					

**Figure 8.6**

