

NOTRA Rule Change Proposals 2018

Thank you to everyone submitting rule changes for the improvement of our sport. A special thanks to those who agreed to serve on the Rules Committee.

This year, there are 5 proposals. You may vote by returning this form or on-line. Each club has one vote. "To qualify for participation in the Rule Change Process, Club Members must have held, co-hosted, or have scheduled, at least one sanctioned NOTRA Meet during the Calendar Year." NOTRA Rulebook section 1.1.1

In the coming year, if you think about a rule change that you would like to propose during the year, the form for accepting rule change proposals will be active, although the official call for rule changes will occur in the fall. Feel free to submit changes early. (The form is <https://form.jotform.com/81231112786956>).

If you vote using this document, return to me at NotraSec2018@gmail.com. You must fill out the identifying information below:

Name: _____ Club you represent: _____

E-mail address: _____

Proposal 1:

Proposal Title and Brief Description: Separate Whippet NOTRA from Other Breed NOTRA. There are now enough Other Breeds, by number of breeds and owners, that the support of Whippets is no longer necessary. Separating the two organizations will allow other breed specific rules to not impact whippets and vis versa.

Rule Proposal:

Allow the NRD for Whippets and the NRD for Other Breeds to each select 3 people willing to serve on a committee to look into separating Whippet NOTRA from Other Breed NOTRA. The committee's intention will be to separate into two separate and independent rulebooks.

Why:

Originally whippet NOTRA allowed Other Breeds to join due to small numbers and inability to stand on their own as an oval organization. Those days are gone; Other Breeds are now basically an independent organization that needs to be independent of the whippet side.

Vote Proposal 1: Separate Whippet NTORA from Other Breed NOTRA

- yes
- no
- abstain

Proposal 2: Foul judge placement

Addressing the placement of foul judges on oval tracks.

Section 3.5.1 page 18: On the U-val tracks, the judges should always be outside the inner fence defining the track. On the full circle tracks, they should be located to give the best coverage to the bends.

Change to:

On all tracks, foul judges should be located to give the best coverage to the bends. If situating a foul judge outside the inner fence would distract dogs during the race, the race committee should use discretion as to locating the foul judges for the duration of the race meet.

Rational:

There are times that the track set up means that if you are to put a foul judge on the outside of the track the hounds may be distracted and run towards the judge. There have been numerous instances where this has occurred and it is practice to locate foul judges inside the track.

Vote Proposal 2: Foul Judge Placement

- yes
- no
- abstain

Proposal 3: Clarifying DNF and Racing Style

Proposed change (this does not appear to be replacing other rules)

Any racer which fails to finish a race or fails to finish in true racing style (dogs that do not cross the finish line, stop, stop and re-start, slow to a walk, or roll to try to remove their muzzle) may be scratched from further racing or may be allowed to continue if it did not foul other racers during the race, at the option of the Race Committee

Rational

Often the finish line or foul judges are asked to evaluate a DNF when recording the race. There can be a range of interpretations of what "true racing style" is. It should not be something different for each of the breeds. If a dog is "racing" it does not stop and walk, it does not need to be called by its owner over the finish line. There are times a dog may tumble or collide with another dog, and this may temporarily mean the dog needs to recover and get back on the track. Dogs who are not consistently able to race prove to be a distraction and a provider of cheap points and dumb down the sport for those participants who are trained and eager to run.

Vote Proposal 3: Clarifying DNF and Racing Style

- yes
- no
- abstain

Proposal 4: Hounds qualified to race

Changing the structure of the existing rule so that is more coherent

Existing Rule

1.11 QUALIFYING TO RACE

The Host Club Race Director **must** order a qualifying race for any hound which has not previously raced properly at an Official Meet, i.e. the hound is a *First Time Entered (FTE)* or the hound only has *Did Not Finish (DNF)* for the last three race meets in the current grading guide. If a hound has run off course (OC) in three meets on its racing record (Grading Guide) it shall be placed on restriction and must perform a qualifying run. (See [6.2 Dismissal For "Off-Course"](#)) If a hound is disqualified (DQ) twice within the same calendar year, it will be barred from racing at Official Race Meets for the remainder of that calendar year. Should a hound be disqualified for "Intentional Foul" three times, it will be permanently barred from Official Race Meets. (Refer to [6.1.5 Appeal from Permanent Disqualification](#) for information on re-qualifying a permanent disqualification)

Qualifying runs can be held at practice races or before an Official Meet. Entries at Official Meets should only be accepted from hounds which are qualified to race. A qualifying run shall consist of at least 200 yards including at least one turn. The hound being qualified will start from the starting box (if appropriate) and will run with another dog of the same breed or similar speed, said dog to be provided by the owner/handler of the dog being qualified.

Proposed Rule

1.11 QUALIFYING TO RACE

Qualifying runs can be held at practice races or before an Official Meet. A qualifying run shall consist of at least 200 yards including at least one turn. The hound being qualified will start from the starting box (if appropriate) and will run with another dog of the same breed or similar speed, said dog to be provided by the owner/handler of the dog being qualified.

Entries at Official Meets should only be accepted from hounds which are qualified to race. The Host Club Race Director must only accept entries from hounds qualified to run. Hounds who must qualify to enter include any hound:

1. which has not previously raced at an Official Meet (*First Time Entered -FTE*)
2. only has *Did Not Finish (DNF)* for the last three consecutive race meets in the current grading guide
3. has run off course (OC) in any three meets on its racing record (the current Grading Guide)
4. is disqualified (DQ) twice within the same calendar year.

If a hound has run off course (OC) in any three meets on its racing record it shall be placed on restriction and must perform a qualifying run. (See [6.2 Dismissal For "Off-Course"](#)). If a hound is disqualified (DQ) twice within the same calendar year, it will be barred from racing at Official Race Meets for the remainder of that calendar year. Should a hound be disqualified for "Intentional Foul" three times, it will be permanently barred from Official Race Meets. (Refer to [6.1.5 Appeal from Permanent Disqualification](#) for information on re-qualifying a permanent disqualification)

Rational: This does not change the existing rule at all but with the changes in the wording of the rules for qualifying runs last year it became apparent that the rules were being interpreted in a variety of ways that were not the actual intent of the existing rules

Vote Proposal 4: Clarification: Hounds Qualified to Race

- yes
- no
- abstain

Proposal 5: Formula for Determining Ties

This would be an addition to the existing rules:

If the line judges disagree on the placement of dogs in such a way that it is not immediately obvious which dog or dogs are in which placements and no camera is available, the judges' placement sheets will be given to the race secretary and the determination of placements will be made using the following method.

A number is assigned to each placement (1st = 1, 2nd = 2, etc. to the total number of dogs in the race). Those numbers are assigned to the blanket numbers as the judges have placed them. Each dog's score is calculated by adding the numbers. The scores are placed from lowest to highest for the official placement of the dog. (This method also works in the opposite manner with first getting 4, 2nd getting 3 etc, but then in the end dogs will be ranked from highest to lowest value.)

This method is only to be used when there is a clear discrepancy between all line judges. There should always be an attempt to determine if there is agreement between the majority of judges. In addition, this method can only be used if all judges have the majority of placements (if one judge only marked 2/4 dogs running, there score sheet will be invalid).

Judge 1 sees 1,2,3,4

Judge 2 sees 1,3,4,2

Judge 3 sees 3,2,4,1

Judge 4 sees 4,3,2,1

Assign points to each place: 1st = 1, 2nd=2, 3rd=3, 4th= 4

Place	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4
1	1	1	3	4
2	2	3	2	3
3	3	4	4	2
4	4	2	1	1

Placements	
1 st	1
2 nd	2
3 rd	3
4 th	4

Calculation

Red = 1, Red = 1, red = 4, red = 4 (1+1+4+4 = 10)

Blue = 2, blue = 4, blue = 2, blue = 3 (2 +4+2+3 = 11)

White = 3, white = 2, white = 1, white = 2 (3+2+1+2 = 8)

Green = 4, green = 3, green = 3, green = 1 (4 + 3 + 3 + 1 = 11)

The dogs are then ranked from lowest score to highest. Dog wearing the white blanket is 1st, dog wearing the red blanket is 2nd and the dogs wearing the blue and green blankets tie for 3rd.

Rational for Proposed Change

Often there is are judges that see a variety of placements in a very close race. It isn't the easy, one side saw this and the other saw that. Not all clubs have the ability to use cameras. In the case of a variety of placements, there should be a uniform and consistent way of calculating the placements. The above example is extreme but it is an actual recording of what the judges saw. Recently we observed an incident where the judges saw various placements but because there is not a specific way to resolve ties in the rule book the race secretary asked the owners how they would like the placements to be recorded. Racing is not like lure coursing where owners should be able to forfeit or not run off ties so that certain hounds get the points. Because racing is an objective sport, the race secretary should use an objective and consistent way to record the placements.

Vote Proposal 5: Formula for Determining Ties

- yes
- no
- abstain