

LGRA RULES EXCERPTS

A full copy of the LGRA rules can be downloaded from the LGRA web site <http://www.lgra.org>

The rules listed below are those that are of particular importance to helping the new exhibitor understand what is expected of him/her and the racers. Please read these carefully.

1.10 QUALIFYING TO RACE

The Host Club Race Secretary may order a qualifying run with or without other hounds for any hound which has not previously raced at an Official meet, i.e., the Hound is First Time Entered (FTE), or only has Disqualified, Did Not Finish, or Off Course on his racing record. Hounds qualified for National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA) meets are considered already qualified for LGRA. Qualifying runs can be held at practice races or before an Official Meet. Entries at Official Meets should only be accepted for hounds which are qualified to race.

1.12 OWNER/HANDLER SPORTSMANSHIP

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

3.4 RACE COMMITTEE

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

- Render a decision on any question regarding interpretation of the LGRA Rules and Regulations.
- Render a decision on any complaint or protest lodged by any owner or handler of a racer.
- Supply a written decision when requested by the person lodging the protest or complaint.
- Rule on barring, scratching, dismissing or disqualifying a racer based on the reports of the concerned officials.

3.5 FOUL JUDGES

The Race Secretary shall appoint qualified Foul Judges prior to the running of a race. 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 hounds entered in the race (i.e., owner, co-owner, handler). Two Foul Judges are required, but three 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 near 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. When a "Disqualifying Intentional Foul" is called, at least 2 judges must agree that it occurred and agree on the identity of the aggressor. If there is lack of agreement, it should be called a "Possible Foul".

3.6 FINISH LINE JUDGES

The Race Secretary shall appoint qualified Finish Line Judges prior to the running of a race. 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 hound 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, 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 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. It is desirable to have a board at the Finish Line on which the "Head Judge" posts the Program Number, the Race Number, and the Order of Finish of each race. The results are not "Official" until posted on the meet Scoreboard after reports of the Foul Judges have been considered.

3.7 SCOREKEEPER

The Race Secretary shall 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 hounds 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 hounds 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 HOUND TO RACE UNLESS IT WEARS A MUZZLE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE AND IN GOOD CONDITION.**

DISQUALIFICATION, DISMISSAL, BARRED, SCRATCHES, PROTEST

6.1 DISQUALIFICATION FOR INTENTIONAL FOUL

A Hound shall be disqualified for "Intentional Foul" when, between the starting box/line and the finish line, it turns its head away from the lure towards another racer and either makes contact or doesn't, **but obviously impedes, stops or forces the second Hound to run wide to avoid contact**, will be disqualified. Incidental body contact is not subject to disqualification. Only the Foul Judges can disqualify a racer and they should do this fearlessly, but only when sure of the identity of the Hound. Prior to discussing the foul with other Foul Judges or the Host Race Secretary, 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 Hound stating the foul committed and race/program that it occurred.

6.1.1 Retaliation

If a hound 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. The Race Secretary will direct that special attention be paid to this hound during the next program.

6.1.3 Placings and Points

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

6.1.4 Penalty

A hound which is disqualified is dismissed from further racing at this meet. If a hound is disqualified a second time 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.

6.1.5 Appeal from Permanent Disqualification

The owner of a hound which has been permanently barred may appeal to the National Race Director when he can prove his hound is a clean racer. The Owner must have concurrence from a Host Club Race Secretary that the Hound is now requalified, and attach that endorsement to the Appeal to the National Race Director.

6.2 DISMISSAL

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

- Hounds whose handler or owner interferes with an Official.
- Hounds whose handler or owner interferes with or takes unfair advantage of other hounds in a race, i.e., when loading into a starting box, or when retrieving hounds 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.
- .- Hounds not running in a race which escape onto the race track and interfere with the running of a race.
- Hounds whose handler or owner disregards requests by Officials to put their hounds on leash, or back from trackside since they may distract the racers.
- Hounds whose handler or owner scratches a hound 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 hound from racing for the following reasons:

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

7.4 BLANKETS

A racing blanket must be worn by each racer. Only the following colors should be used:

- Red JacketWhite Numeral "1"
- Blue JacketWhite Numeral "2"
- White JacketBlack Numeral "3"
- Green JacketWhite Numeral "4"

Blankets should extend from the shoulder blades to beyond the last rib, be fitted neither too tight or loose so as not to restrict the stride nor unduly flap in the wind. Numerals should be at least 4 inches tall.

7.5 RACING MUZZLES

All racers must wear muzzles while racing. Approved muzzles include the box type used at all US Greyhound tracks; plastic coated English-style light wire racing muzzles, or the pelican style muzzle. Each owner should provide his hound with a suitable muzzle. Box muzzles are available in 6 sizes through the National Greyhound Association, PO Box 543, Abilene, KS 67410. Another source is Roundabout Whippet Supplies, 18105 N.W. 11th Ave., Ridgefield, WA 98642 (Tel No. 360-887-4912). The muzzle should allow the hound full freedom to open his mouth at all times. However, the muzzle must not allow the hound to be able to grasp the lure. A hound which can grasp the lure is a potential danger to the other hounds and handlers. Muzzles made of heavy wire are dangerous and not permitted. Light wire muzzles of the English type, if not plastic coated, are not permitted. The racers must wear their muzzles from the Paddock area to the start.