

Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA)
An Unincorporated Association

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



Revised: January 2026

Continental Whippet Alliance

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Name and Objectives

SECTION 1

The name of the organization is Continental Whippet Alliance.

SECTION 2

The objectives of the Alliance shall be:

- a. to unite Whippet fanciers with the common goal of promoting, protecting and preserving purebred Whippet racing
- b. to encourage and promote quality in the breeding and racing of Whippets and to do all that is possible to bring their natural instincts to perfection
- c. to urge members and breeders to accept the Whippet Standard of the Breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence for Whippets
- d. to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Whippet by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at race meets and conformation competitions and by providing a friendly and enjoyable environment
- e. to provide a testing ground for Whippets to demonstrate they still have the instinct, desire and physical ability to do the athletic activity they were bred for, helping to maintain the Whippet as a healthy breed
- f. to issue rules, maintain records, determine fees and award titles to deserving Whippets

SECTION 3

The Alliance shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues, fees or donations to the Alliance shall insure to the benefit of any member or Affiliated Club/Group.

SECTION 4

The members of the Alliance shall adopt and may from time to time revise the By-Laws required to accomplish these objectives.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: Membership

SECTION 1

Eligibility

There shall be one type of membership open to qualified Affiliated Clubs/Groups that subscribe to the objectives of the CWA Constitution.

SECTION 2

Dues

Annual membership dues shall be payable on or before January 1st. During the month of November, the Secretary shall mail each Affiliated Club/Group a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Refer to fee schedule for current dues.

SECTION 3

Election to Membership

Applicants shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, and must sign a form which states that the applicants have read and agree to abide by the CWA Constitution, By-Laws, Board Code of Conduct, and Rules. The application shall state the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of all club officers, and shall indicate which two officers will serve on the CWA Board. The application must be endorsed by at least one affiliated CWA club. Both Board members of each endorsing club must sign the formal endorsement letter. The endorsement letter should indicate why the endorsing club thinks the new club will be an asset to CWA, and should also note what assistance the endorsing club will provide for the new club as needed.

Applications are filed with the Secretary who will share with the Board of Directors. A favorable vote by a majority of the Board of Directors is required for approval to membership. The new club's board members are not eligible to vote until after their club's initial race meet has been completed. Applicants who are rejected may not reapply for one year.

SECTION 4

Qualifications

An applicant for membership shall be an association, organization or club which has demonstrated its proficiency in conducting a race meeting. Applicants must agree to conduct a minimum of one CWA race meet and conformation competition each calendar year.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

SECTION 5

Termination of Membership

Memberships may be terminated:

- a. by resignation. Any Affiliated Club/Group may resign from the CWA upon written notice to the President; but no member may resign when in debt to the CWA. Annual dues and per capita fees are considered a debt.
- b. by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid by January 31st. In no case may an Affiliated Club/Group vote whose dues are unpaid.
- c. by failure to conduct a minimum of one race meet and conformation competition each calendar year. Exceptions may be granted by the Board for circumstances out of the club's control such as natural events (flooding, drought, etc.), lack of entries, or health issues. A club granted an exception may not vote until the club holds a meet following the exception.
- d. by failure to provide race meet and conformation competition results within two weeks of said event.
- e. by failure to replace a board member within a month of resignation notification.
- f. by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided by Article V of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II: Directors and Officers

SECTION 1 - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of two representatives from each Affiliated Club/Group in good standing. Representatives must participate in at least one event per year or be replaced with someone who is an active participant in their club's functions. Board members are appointed by Affiliated Clubs/Groups each January. Affiliated Clubs/Groups must notify the Secretary in writing giving the name, address and phone number of their designated Board member. General management of CWA affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors, that serves without compensation.

SECTION 2 - Officers

Officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar shall serve in their respective capacities, without compensation, for one year terms beginning March 1 (see Article III). Officers must be Board members.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings and Board meetings and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these By-Laws. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and oversee the day-to-day affairs. The President approves the annual schedule of events.
- b. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of absence or incapacity.
- c. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep a record of all meetings of the CWA, maintain a membership roster, prepare, mail, receive, preserve and tally all ballots for elections, rule changes, by-laws revisions, etc.
- d. The Treasurer will receive all moneys due or belonging to CWA, deposit same in name of CWA in bank account, render annual account of all moneys collected (i.e. membership dues, registration fees and per capita fees), and disbursed.
- e. The Registrar shall register all Whippets participating in the CWA program and issue CWA registration numbers to eligible Whippets.

SECTION 3 - Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring among the Officers will be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Any vacancies occurring among the Board of Directors must be filled at the affected club's discretion within one month of notifying the President or Secretary of the resigning board member. The affected club's voting privileges are paused until a replacement has been named.

ARTICLE III: Fiscal Year, Meetings, Elections

SECTION 1 - Fiscal Year

The CWA fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

SECTION 2 - Meetings

Due to the non-profit nature of the CWA and lack of compensation of its Officers and Board of Directors, and the distances between members, live meetings will be kept to a minimum and called at the discretion of the President or majority of the Board of Directors. Meetings for the purpose of voting on pending matters may be held electronically, via email or in a chat room set up for the purpose, at the discretion of the President.

- a. Meeting Notices. In the event a meeting of the Board of Directors is called, the President will notify each Director by electronic mail or phone at least three (3) days prior to said meeting.
- b. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors. Such meetings may be held electronically, either via email or in a chat room set up for the purpose.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

- c. Conduct of Meetings. The President, Vice-President or designated officer shall preside over meetings which shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order. The President, Vice President, or a designated officer shall preside over electronic meetings, which shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order to the extent possible.

SECTION 3 - Elections

Election of Officers will be held every year. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes from the Board of Directors for each office shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4 - Ballots

The Secretary will request nominations from the Board of Directors by November 5th for the upcoming year. The Secretary will include nominations in the ballots being distributed to each Board member for the rule and by-law change proposals as soon as possible thereafter, either electronically or via land mail. The deadline for Board members to vote is November 20th. Results to be announced by the Secretary along with the rule proposal changes for the upcoming year.

SECTION 5

The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, either electronic mail or land mail, through the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV: Committees

SECTION 1 – Registration Committee

The Board of Directors will comprise the Registration Committee and will determine the criteria for registration in the CWA program. It is the responsibility of the Registrar to enforce said criteria and issue CWA registration numbers to Whippets eligible to compete in the CWA race program.

The Registration Committee shall have the absolute right to refuse or rescind CWA registration numbers of any dog or bitch for cause. "Cause" in this instance includes, but is not limited to, events such as permanent removal of a dog's registration number by the original registering body (not including incidents where registration is suspended for investigatory purposes and the registration is later upheld as correct), banning of the owner or breeder by AKC, CKC, or any other National Kennel Club or National Purebred Racing Association, or any other circumstance in which the dog's pedigree is discovered to be falsified or otherwise invalid.

SECTION 2 - Other Committees

The President or Board of Directors may appoint standing committees or special committees to advance the work of the CWA in such matters as rules, protests, communications, trophies, conformation competition judge selection, equipment standardization, etc. Actions by committees shall be subject to final approval by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

Any committee appointed may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE V: Discipline

SECTION 1 - Charges

Any Affiliated Club/Group or individual participant may prefer charges against another Affiliated Club/Group or individual participant for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the CWA or the breed. Written charges along with a deposit (which shall be forfeited if charges are not sustained by the Board) must be filed with the President, who will forward them to the Board of Directors for resolution. If a majority of the Board considers the charges, if proven, to be prejudicial to the best interests of the CWA it shall fix a date of a hearing of the accused individual participant and/or the Affiliated Club/Group not less than three weeks nor more than eight weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to the accused by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes. Refer to fee schedule for current complaint fee.

SECTION 2 - Hearing

The individual participant and/or Affiliated Club/Group shall be entitled to participate in the hearing. The hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence and rules of judicial procedure need not be observed. The President shall preside over the hearing who will:

1. read the charges against the accused;
2. require that the charges be verified by the testimony of the accuser and appropriate witnesses;
3. allow for cross examination by the individual participant and/or Affiliated Club/Group member;
4. allow the accused to make a statement on his/her behalf and call witnesses if necessary;
5. allow witnesses to be questioned; and
6. rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence and on questions of hearing procedure.

Following the hearing, the Board of Directors shall vote on whether to impose discipline or dismiss the matter. The vote imposing discipline or dismissing the matter shall be final.

SECTION 3 - Suspensions and Expulsion

Depending on the severity of the offense, the Board of Directors has complete authority to suspend or expel Affiliated Clubs/Groups or individuals competing in the CWA program. Suspension or expulsion requires approval by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors.

In the event that a suspended/expelled person is found to be avoiding the consequences of the punishment with the assistance of a person in good graces with CWA, the assisting person will be subject to the same penalty as the original suspended/expelled person. Any such complaint must be filed according to the procedure described in Section 1 of this rule.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

ARTICLE VI: Amendments

SECTION 1

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the President, Board of Directors or any Affiliated Club/Group.

SECTION 2

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors. Said vote will be conducted by written ballot by the Secretary.

ARTICLE VII: Dissolution

SECTION 1

The CWA may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of 2/3 of the Board of Directors. In the event of the dissolution of the CWA other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the CWA nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the CWA shall be distributed to any members; but after payment of any debts, its property and assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit tax-exempt fund, foundation, corporation or charitable organization which is organized and operated exclusively for education or recreational purposes relating to the Whippet. Said distribution of property and assets shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: Revenue

SECTION 1 - Membership Dues

Annual club membership dues will be assessed in accordance with By-Laws Article I, Sections 2 and 3.

SECTION 2 - Registration Fees

Participants must pay a registration fee per Whippet, payable to the CWA. Said fee must accompany the CWA Registration Form sent to the Registrar. Fee is refunded if registration is denied. Refer to fee schedule for current registration fee.

SECTION 3 - Per Capita Fee

Affiliated Clubs/Groups must include a per Whippet fee with official race and conformation results sent to the Treasurer. Refer to fee schedule for current per capita fee.

SECTION 4 - Annual Accounting

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

Each year the CWA Treasurer will issue a report of all moneys received and disbursed. Said report will give a specific breakdown of membership dues, registration fees and per capita fees.

SECTION 5 - Publications

The retired CWA newsletter, Line & Lure, is available free of charge on the CWA website.

SECTION 6 - Returned Checks

There will be a fee charged on all checks returned to the Treasurer; fee to be based on bank charge and handling fee at the time of the transaction.

Continental Whippet Alliance

An Unincorporated Association

AKC conditional registration	7	Hearing	9
AKC limited registrations	7	ILP/PAL	7
Amendments		Meetings	5
Constitution and By-Laws	10	Membership	2
Annual Accounting	11	Dues	2
Ballots	5	Eligibility	2
Bench champions	8	Qualifications	2
Board of Directors	3	Membership Dues	11
Charges	9	Membership	
Chief Executive Officer	4	Termination of	3
Committees		Monorchid puppies	7
Other	9	neutered males	7
competitive bench champions	7	Objectives	1
competitive bench championship	6	Officers	4
Discipline	9	Vacancies	4
disqualifying faults	7	open straight racing champions	6, 7
Dissolution	10	Open straight racing champions	8
DNA Profile Requirement	6	Per Capita Fee	11
DNA profiles	7	President	4
domestic	6	Publications	11
drug testing	6	Registrar	4
Election to Membership		Registration Fees	11
Election to	2	Returned Checks	11
Elections	5	Revenue	11
Eligibility		Secretary	4
for registration	6	Spayed bitches	7
Fiscal Year	4	Suspensions and Expulsion	10
Foreign born	6	Treasurer	4
foreign-born		Vice-President	4
eligibility requirements	8		
four-generation pedigree	7		