

ASPEN GROVE SIGHTHOUND ASSOCIATION
RULE BOOK 2017

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RACE RULES OF THE ASPEN GROVE SIGHTHOUND ASSOCIATION

1. Goals and Objectives

The Aspen Grove Sighthound Association (AGSA) was organized for the purpose of engaging and encouraging the Sighthound Breeds in their ancestral heritage as hunters and racers and to compete against each other in amateur, organized straight racing events over a 200 yard distance. The goal is to stimulate the Sighthounds of all ages and abilities through conditioning, training and competition in Alberta, Canada. AGSA has produced a rule book, maintains records and awards Championship points and certificates to outstanding racers. We provide a safe 10 acre field of manicured grass that is fenced with chain link. AGSA is dedicated to promoting friendship understanding and respect between Sighthound owners, their friends and families at our meets and practices.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in AGSA's Race Program, a Hound must be individually registered by any of the following: the Canadian Kennel Club, the American Kennel Club, the National Greyhound Association or any other recognized registry. A copy of such registration must be submitted to AGSA. Hounds with a CKC Performance Event Number (PEN) are also eligible. Registration with AGSA is usually accomplished by mailing a copy of the Hound's registration papers along with the one time fee of \$2.00 to the Race Secretary with its first entry form.

3. Eligible breeds

Afghan Hound, Azawakh, Basenji, Borzoi, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Sloughi, Whippet.

Non-Sighthound Breeds or Mixed Breeds may attend training practices at the discretion of AGSA.

4. Risk and Responsibility

The Owner/Handler entering a Hound in an Official Race Meet or attending a training practice assumes all risk and responsibility for all loss or injury suffered or caused while on the grounds or near the entrance of the Race Meet.

5. Age Requirements

In order to be eligible to enter an Official Race Meet a Hound must be 1 year of age or older on the first day of the Race Meet. Hounds may be certified at 11 months of age.

6. Certifying

All First Time Entered Hounds (FTE) must be certified to race by a Race Director, or Race Secretary. Certification will consist of two qualifying runs with two other Hounds of the same breed or running style and speed. Certifying can be done on the same day providing there are sufficient suitable dogs available. The runs must be observed by four foul judges. If the runs are judged to be clean, the Race Secretary or Race Director will sign the Hound's certification form which must be submitted the first time a Hound is entering an official race meet. A Hound may be exempt from certifying as described above if it has a racing or coursing title from an other Organization. (See section **17.1**)

7. Entry Fees

Entry fees will be refunded for females in season or Hounds that are found to be lame by the Inspector. If AGSA is notified in advance of the race meet of the foregoing conditions the fees will be refunded however, a Veterinary Certificate may be required.

8. Appointment of Officials and Their Duties

8.1 Appointment Procedure

AGSA shall appoint the following well-trained, honest, reliable officials in advance of the meet. Officials shall not be under the influence of alcohol and are not allowed to consume alcohol during the race meet.

8.2 Race Director

8.2.1 The Race Director is a permanent appointee.

8.3 Race Secretary

8.3.1 The Race Secretary is a permanent appointee.

8.4 Inspector of Hounds

8.4.1 The Race Director shall appoint a qualified person as the Inspector of Hounds prior to commencement of the race meet.

8.5 Box Operator

8.5.1 The Race Director shall appoint a qualified person as the Box Operator.

8.6. Lure Operator

8.6.1 The Lure Operator must be well trained and experienced and shall be appointed by either the Race Director or the Race Secretary.

8.7 Foul Judges

8.7.1 The Race Director shall appoint and assure that there are a minimum of four (4) qualified foul judges observing each race of more than a single Hound.

8.8 Finish Line Judges

8.8.1 The Race Director shall appoint two qualified persons as Finish Line Judges for each race, one of which shall be appointed Head Finish Line Judge. Participants may be required to fill these positions.

8.9 Race Committee

8.9.1 The Race Committee consists of the Race Director, the Race Secretary and one other knowledgeable person appointed by the Race Director.

9. Duties and Responsibilities of Officials

9.1 The Race Director

The Race Director shall be responsible for scheduling race meets and is solely responsible for the conduct of the meet. Prior to commencement of the meet, the Race Director shall appoint qualified people to perform the necessary duties of the meet and shall appoint a Race Committee of three persons to assist in dealing with challenges.

9.2 Race Secretary

9.2.1 The Race Secretary shall issue AGSA registration numbers and maintain a file of each Hound registered. A fee of \$2.00 shall be charged for the initial registration of a certified Hound. The Race Secretary shall maintain the official Racing Calendar, maintain and publish race results, prepare a Grading Guide for each meet and maintain a record of Hounds earning championship points and other titles under AGSA's rules. The Race Secretary shall be knowledgeable of the intent and application of the Rule Book and use common sense in the application of the rules.

9.2.2 The Race Secretary assures that Hounds start in the correct grade according to the Grading Guide.

9.2.3 The Race Secretary will record the placements communicated by the Line Judges in the record of the race meet and on the scoreboard.

9.2.4 The Race Secretary shall announce the Hounds for each race and shall direct them to the starting box when they are properly blanketed and muzzled after the starting box operator has signalled his readiness.

9.2.5 AGSA's Race Secretary shall record the race results which shall include the following:

Number of racers starting;

The AGSA registration number or FTE of each starter and the surname of its owner;

Total points earned by each Hound;

Placement of each Hound in each race, including disqualifications, scratches and off course and the earned championship and master points;

Race-by-race results;

The final race results;

The calculation of the new WAVE for all the competing Hounds.

9.2.6 When there are sufficient people available, the Race Secretary may appoint a Paddock Judge.

9.2.7 The Race Secretary or Paddock Judge shall not permit a Hound to race unless it wears a proper blanket and properly fitted muzzle that is acceptable and in good condition.

9.2.8 AGSA shall review the Rule Book each year by November 1st. The Race Secretary shall include any amendments to the racing rules by December 30.

9.3 Inspector of Hounds

9.3.1 He/she shall inspect each Hound at Roll Call to determine that it is sound and not in season.

9.4 Box Operator

9.4.1 Prior to the Hounds leaving the paddock area for the starting box, the Box Operator shall close the box and place the lure on the track about four meters in front of the centre of the starting box.

9.4.2 When all participants have been gathered adjacent to the starting box Hounds shall be loaded in numerical order. The Box Operator shall open the rear sliders and the Owner/Handlers shall promptly place their Hounds into the starting box.

9.4.3 After all Hounds have been loaded into the starting box, the Box Operator shall promptly signal the Lure Operator to start the lure. The Box Operator shall open the starting box immediately when the lure starts to move.

9.5 Lure Operator

9.5.1 The lure operator shall test the lure machine prior to the competition to assure its proper operation.

9.5.2 During the race the lure operator shall endeavour to keep the lure approximately 15 to 20 meters ahead of the lead Hound. The lure operator shall strive to operate the lure as smoothly as possible up the track and shall continue running the lure past the finish line at full speed if possible, the lure should not be stopped until the last Hound has crossed the finish line.

9.6 Foul Judges

9.6.1 For a 200 yard race meet, two of the foul judges shall position themselves along the side of the track where they have a maximum view of the race.

9.6.2 In addition to the above, either or both the Lure Operator and/or the Box Operator shall serve as a foul judge.

9.6.3 The foul judges carefully observe each race and determine if there are any problems. They must declare if a hound goes off course, if an unintentional foul was committed, or if a potential disqualifying, intentional foul occurred, or if it is a no race.

9.6.4 In the event of a possible unintentional foul or disqualifying intentional foul being committed, prior to discussing the foul with other foul judges or the Race Secretary, each foul judge shall write the full details of the foul on the foul judge report form. Each judge must determine which Hounds were involved. Then each foul judge shall go directly to the Race Secretary and submit the written report and describe the episode. If two or more foul judges have written up and described the same disqualifying intentional foul, then the Race Secretary shall issue a notice of disqualification to the Owner/Handler of the Hound stating the foul committed and the race/program in which it occurred and record it in the race results. If only one foul judge has recorded the foul it will be deemed as a potential foul and the Race Secretary will note that in the record. A foul Judge may also recommend that a race be declared a “no race” if the foul and retaliation committed during the race affected the outcome of the race. A decision on declaring a “no race” shall be made by the Race Committee.

9.7 Finish Line Judges

9.7.1 There shall be one judge on each side of the finish line. Each Finish Line Judge shall write placements by number or blanket colour on the Finish Judge Report Form immediately after each race and shall then record the results on a Race Result Form.

9.7.2 After recording their individual order of finish the Head Judge will review the results after each race. If both Judges are in agreement the race results shall determine placement, however, in the event there is a disagreement between the two judges the Hounds involved shall be tied.

9.7.3 Judges shall not discuss their decisions with Owner/Handlers or spectators. When the Head Finish Line Judge communicates the placements to the Race Secretary, this decision shall be final and shall not be reversed.

9.7.4 Video Cameras at Finish Line

9.7.4.1 The use of a video camera and playback equipment at the finish line **may be authorized** in AGSA meets. The authorization shall be made by the Race Director or Race Secretary.

9.7.4.2 The video operator shall be appointed by the Race Director or Race Secretary.

9.7.4.3 The video camera shall be of sufficient speed to be able to actually capture the individual dogs as they cross the finish line. The playback equipment must be able to view individual frames in a stop motion format.

9.7.4.4 A video taken by a participant is not an official video and cannot be used to determine finish placement.

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

9.7.4.6 The Finish Line Judges will call the race as usual. If there is a disagreement then, and only then may they 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.

9.7.4.7 Both Finish Line Judges for that race will immediately proceed to the viewing area along with the video and video operator. When reviewing the video of the race in question, the video shall be reviewed so as to see the order of finish for all of the dogs in the race and order of placement shall be assigned as viewed on the video for all dogs in that race.

9.7.4.8 Only the Finish Line Judges of that race and the video operator shall review the video of the finish. After the Finish Line Judges review the video, they shall present their results to the Race Secretary. These results shall become official and posted on the score board.

9.8 Race Committee

9.8.1 The Committee shall render a decision on any question regarding intent or interpretation of the AGSA Rule Book.

9.8.2 The Committee will render a decision on any complaint or protest lodged by an Owner/Handler.

9.8.3 The Committee will rule on whether a race should be rerun.

10. Duties and Responsibilities of the Owner/Handler

All persons entering, participating in, or assisting at an Official Race Meet shall comply with the following Rules of Conduct and Responsibilities.

10.1 Hound Management and Supervision

10.1.1 All Hounds shall be securely leashed, crated or ex-penned with a secure top unless racing. To avoid injury, accident or distraction of the racers, no dog will be allowed near the race track at any time, unless called to the paddock by the Box Operator or Paddock Official. No Hound shall be tied and left unattended at any time. The Owner/Handler of an escaped Hound shall be subject to a \$5.00 fine.

10.1.2 The Owner/Handler shall examine the scoreboard to determine his/her Hound's race and blanket number, **arrange for its catcher and loader** and have their Hound in the paddock area promptly when its race is called. Hounds not in the paddock area after the second call may be considered scratched.

10.1.3 When the Box Operator or Paddock Official directs, all Hounds shall walk to the starting box with muzzles and blankets on. After their hound is loaded into the starting

box, the Owner/Handler shall stay off the track. No Owner/Handler is permitted to go to the front of the starting box or move the lure or tease the Hounds or to call their hound from the sidelines.

10.1.4 All Catchers at the finish line shall stand off the track until all of the Hounds have finished racing.

10.1.5 No female in season is permitted on the premises where the race meet is held.

10.1.6 The Owner/Handler shall pick up after their Hound, keep the grounds clean of refuse, recycle, and at all times act in a sportsmanlike manner.

10.1.7 The Owner/Handler is responsible for appointing their Catchers and Loaders.

10.1.8 The Owner/Handler may perform official duties as requested of them by the Race Director. Such duties may include but not be restricted to: foul judging, finish line judging, or paddock assistance.

10.2 Loaders and Slippers

10.2.1 A Loader or Slipper shall be the Owner/Handler of the Hound or his/her designate.

10.2.2 A Loader or Slipper shall be physically capable of comfortably controlling their Hound.

10.2.3 All Loaders or Slippers must be in a group adjacent to the starting box or starting line before being directed to load or line up the Hounds. The Hounds must be loaded quickly and efficiently. Young children are probably not suitable for this task.

10.3 Catchers

10.3.1 A Catcher shall be the Owner/Handler of the Hound or his/her designate.

10.3.2 Catchers must be in place at the runout past the finish line prior to Hounds being loaded.

10.3.3 Catchers must remove the Hounds from the runout area quickly and shall not remove their muzzles until off the track.

11. Shortened Meet Due to Hazardous Conditions or Emergency

11.1 An official Race meet shall consist of 3 completed programs. In the event of severe weather or other racing conditions that would make further racing hazardous to the Hounds and/or their Owner/Handlers, or in the event of an unexpected emergency at the racing venue the Meet may be delayed for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of the Race Director. If conditions prevent the Race Director from resuming the Meet and cancels it, 2 or fewer programs will not be considered an official meet.

12. Running the Race Meet

12.1 Stakes

12.1.1 Each breed is considered to be a Stake.

12.2 Breeds

12.2.1 AGSA may hold Race Meets of any combination of eligible Sighthound breeds. Eligible breeds shall be announced in the Premium List for that Race Meet.

12.3 Scratches

12.3.1 An Owner/Handler may scratch their Hound from competition before a Program or Race is run and must notify the Race Secretary immediately.

12.3.2 An Owner/Handler may not scratch their Hound after the draw for a race has been made unless the dog is injured. Such injury must be verified by the Race Director. If the draw for blanket colour has already occurred that post will be vacant for the race.

12.3.3 If the Race Secretary is notified of a scratch before the arranging of the next program the Hound's tag will be removed from the scoreboard and that will be reflected in the arrangement of the next program.

12.4 The Race Program

12.4.1 A Race Meet shall consists of three programs.

12.5 Number of Hounds in Each Program

12.5.1 The number of hounds in each race will be determined by using the Race Setup Chart in the Appendix.

12.6 Grading Principles

12.6.1 The object of grading hounds is to group them according to their racing ability. All Hounds shall have a grade and a WAVE.

12.6.2 All Hounds shall have a grade classification of A, B, C, or D, in the first program of a meet. Grades are determined by using the WAVE found in the Grading Guide. A Hound that has never raced shall start in Grade D. The point-grade guideline is:

WAVE	Grade
13.0 +	A
11.0 to 12.9	B
7.0 to 10.9	C
0.0 to 6.9 and First Time Entered	D

12.7 The Draw

12.7.1 In preparing for the draw, the Race Secretary shall arrange the Hounds in numerical sequence based on their WAVE as determined from the Grading Guide from high to low. The Hounds are then placed into races using the Set Up Chart as a guide.

12.7.2 The High Point Race is drawn first, then the next highest race and so on down to the last race. Grade D Hounds and First Time Entered Hounds will be dispersed as deemed appropriate by the Race Secretary. Once all the dogs have been placed in a race their post position is then determined.

12.8 Determining Post Position

12.8.1 Post positions in all races shall be determined by random draw except as explained in paragraph **12.8.2**.

12.8.2 Racers in the High Point Race in the 2nd and 3rd programs should not draw the inside or outside box a second time in the same meet. Should a racer draw Box 1 for

the second time it should be moved to Box 2. The displaced dog shall be placed in Box 1. Likewise, should a racer draw Box 4 for the second time it should be moved to Box 3. The displaced dog shall be placed in Box 4.

12.9 Rotation by Points

12.9.1 In the Second and Third Programs the Hounds are regrouped into races based on their cumulative scores. The Hounds are arranged in numerical sequence based on their cumulative scores from high to low and are then redrawn using the procedure described in section **12.7.1**. Post positions are then determined by random draw.

12.9.2 In the case of Hounds with equal points the Hound which ran in the higher race is placed ahead of the Hound which ran in a lower race. 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 Semi-feature race, the winner of the Semi-Feature Race will move up to the High Point Race and the last place finisher will move down to the Semi-feature race.

12.9.3 In the case of Hounds which ran in the same race and end up with equal points, the Hound which finished higher in the race shall be placed ahead of the lower placed Hound.

12.10 Rerunning of a Race

12.10.1 A race shall be rerun if any Hound catches or passes the lure at any point from the starting box to the finish line.

12.10.2 A race shall be rerun if the starting box fails to open properly.

12.10.3 A race shall be rerun if there is outside interference that affects placement of the racers.

12.10.4 At the Race Committee's discretion, a race may be rerun on occasions where there is extreme interference involving several Hounds in a race and which affects the placement of the racers.

12.10.5 There shall be a rest period of at least 15 minutes prior to the rerunning of a race. There shall be a rest period of at least 15 minutes prior to the second rerunning of the race if it is required.

12.10.6 A race shall not be rerun, nor shall a Hound be placed in a substitute race, if a Hound is left out of a program for any reason.

12.11 Protest Procedures

12.11.1 An Owner/Handler racing a Hound at a race meet held under these rules has the right to lodge a protest by contacting the AGSA Race Director and/or the Race Secretary immediately following the race in question. The Race committee will be convened and the details of the protest will be considered. The Race Committee shall promptly render a decision which is final.

12.12 Calculation of the WAVE

12.12.1 The objective of the grading system is to match Hounds against each other by a point system based on racing ability. The racing average (WAVE) shall be based on a computed-weighted average of the points earned in its last three (3) Meets.

12.12.2 The weighted average (WAVE) is calculated using the following basic formula:

$$((\text{Meet 1}) + 0.7 (\text{Meet 2}) + 0.5 (\text{Meet 3})) \div (2.2)$$

where Meet 1 is the points earned in the most recent meet and Meet 2 is the points earned in the next most recent meet and Meet 3 is the points earned in the oldest of the last three Meets.

12.12.3 Only completed meets are used for calculating the WAVE. Meets in which the Hound was scratched, off course, dismissed or disqualified shall not be counted. If only 2 meets have been run or if in the last 3 Meets one was a scratch, then the formula is:

$$((\text{Meet 1}) + 0.7(\text{Meet 2})) \div (1.7)$$

12.12.4 If only one race meet has been completed then the WAVE is the score earned in that one meet.

12.12.5 Racers shall not be divided by sex or any other factor.

12.13 The Start of a Race

12.13.1 All Hounds after being blanketed and muzzled shall exit the paddock area and shall proceed as a group to an area adjacent to the starting box as directed by the Box Operator and wait for the Box Operator to call their colour to be loaded.

12.13.2 After all Hounds have been loaded into the starting box, the Box Operator shall promptly signal the Lure Operator to start the lure. The Box Operator shall open the starting box immediately when the lure starts to move.

12.14 Dismissals and Disqualifications

12.14.1 Owner/Handler Dismissal

12.14.1.1 At their sole discretion, the Race Director or the Race Secretary, may dismiss for the remainder of the race meet or suspend indefinitely from racing at AGSA an Owner/Handler for any of the following infractions:

12.14.1.1.2 Discussing or challenging the decision of any official other than by direct complaint to the Race Secretary.

12.14.1.1.3 Owner/Handlers shall pick up after their Hound, keep the grounds clean of refuse, recycle, and at all times act in a sportsmanlike manner.

12.14.1.1.4 Yelling or shouting in the vicinity of the race track while the hounds are racing is strictly forbidden. Owner/Handlers in violation shall be subject to a fine of \$10.00 at the Race Secretary's discretion.

12.14.1.1.5 Participants and spectators are not permitted to "visit" with the Box Operator, Lure Operator, Finish Line Judges or Foul Judges during the running of a program. Please wait for breaks between programs;

12.14.1.1.6 A frivolous claim of a foul;

12.14.1.1.7 Crossing the track with a Hound while a race is in progress and causes interference with the race;

12.14.1.1.8 Approaching the front of the starting box or moving the lure after the Hounds have been loaded (unless specifically directed to do so by the Box Operator);

12.14.1.1.9 Does anything to attempt to take unfair advantage of other Hounds;

12.14.1.1.10 Losing control of his/her Hound and it enters the track while a race is in progress;

12.14.1.1.11 Late arrival for Roll Call or for the undue delay of a race;

12.14.1.1.12 Refusing to comply with an Official's request;

12.14.1.2 Engaging in Unsportsmanlike and Objectionable conduct including, but not limited to the following:

12.14.1.2.1 Conduct accompanied by ill will, spite, hostile gestures, threats or hurtful words towards a participant or Official;

12.14.1.2.2 Fighting, vulgar language, vulgar gestures or public intoxication;

12.14.1.2.3 Striking a Hound;

12.14.1.2.4 Use of disruptive acts or words prior to a race start intended to interfere with the Officials, participants or the race itself;

12.14.1.2.5 Any use of illegal equipment;

12.14.1.2.6 Any individual who commits an act or makes an utterance during or after a meet which in the opinion of the Race Committee tends to make a false, absurd or distorted representation of the meet;

12.14.1.2.7 Other misconduct detrimental to AGSA or the sport of straight racing;

12.14.2 Hound Dismissal

12.14.2.1 At their sole discretion, the Race Director or the Race Secretary, may dismiss a Hound for the remainder of the race meet for any of the following rule infractions:

12.14.2.2 A Hound whose muzzle is a hazard to other racers, or comes off in two races and is not rectified by the Owner/Handler.

12.14.2.3 A Hound who is not present to start in one program is automatically dismissed from all subsequent programs.

12.14.2.4 A Hound that runs off course or does not finish in both the first and the second program shall be dismissed from further racing at that meet.

12.14.2.5 A Hound which, in the opinion of the Race Director poses a risk to other dogs, participants or spectators.

12.14.2.6 A Hound whose Owner/Handler interferes with an Official or another hound.

12.14.2.7 A Hound whose Owner/Handler disregards instructions from the Race Committee.

12.14.2.8 A Hound whose Owner/Handler fails to follow basic standards of care or sportsmanship.

12.14.3 Hound Disqualifications

12.14.3.1 Any Hound who fouls another racer by unnecessary, intentional bumping, fighting, riding or intentional interference shall be disqualified from all placements in the race where the foul was committed, and shall be disqualified from further participation in the race meet. Racing points earned prior to the foul shall be allowed.

12.14.3.2 Intentional fouls may be judged from the start to when the Hounds are retrieved at the runout area.

12.14.3.3 Any Hound disqualified for intentional interference will be barred from racing until it is re-certified. Should a Hound receive two disqualifications in one calendar year it will be barred from racing for the remainder of the calendar year and will not be able to be re-certified until the following calendar year. Should a Hound be disqualified for intentional interference a third time, this Hound shall be permanently barred from all future racing.

12.14.3.4 An intentional foul is when a Hound goes towards and charges another Hound disturbing its line of travel or if it rides another Hound for some distance. To be

deemed a foul, a hound must turn it's head towards another Hound and also move towards the other Hound causing it to move in order to avoid contact.

12.14.3.5 Unintentional, incidental body contact such as lane changing or just looking at another dog is not a foul.

12.14.3.6 If a Hound retaliates after being attacked it shall not be disqualified. Only the instigator shall be disqualified.

12.14.3.7 Hounds on suspension or permanently barred due to disqualification will be noted on a list in the AGSA Records. The list will include the date of disqualification(s) and when suspensions have been lifted where applicable.

12.15 Scoring and the Race Points Chart

12.15.1 Scoring

12.15.1.1 The Race Points Chart shows the number of points awarded to Hounds according to their order of finish.

12.15.1.2 If a Hound goes off course or does not finish in true racing style it shall not be awarded points for that race.

12.15.1.3 If a dog is disqualified it shall not be awarded points for that race.

12.15.1.3 If the race is hand slipped and a hound is pre-slipped, that Hound is automatically placed last in that race.

12.15.1.4 If there is a tie in a race, the Hounds shall split the available points.

12.15.1.5 The total points earned from all three programs determine the final standings of the Race Meet. There shall be no ties in determining final placement. If there is a tie in total points, the racer that ran in the higher race in the final program will be awarded the higher placement. If there is a tie in total points within a race, ranking within that race shall be by order of finish. Scratched Hounds shall be placed by points earned but beneath Hounds with the same number of points who completed all 3 programs.

RACE POINTS CHART		
First Program	High Point Race	All Other Races
1st	8	5
2nd	6	3
3rd	4	2
4th	3	0
Second Program		
1st	6	5
2nd	4	3
3rd	3	2
4th	2	0
Third Program	High Point Race	All Other Races
1st	8	5
2nd	6	3
3rd	4	2
4th	3	0

13. Race Track and Equipment

13.1 The Race Track

13.1.1 The race track is a straight, grassed, smooth surface of 200 yards, plus an additional 30 yards past the finish line. The race track is 20 feet in width at both the starting box and the finish line and widens to 30 feet in the run-out area.

13.1.2 The track is staked with fibreglass poles and flagged with one strand of flagging tape 16” above ground level.

13.2 Paddock and Scoreboard Areas

13.2.1 The paddock area is centrally located a short distance from the race track for the convenience of the handlers. The paddock boundaries are marked by flagging, and has sufficient room for blanketing and muzzling of Hounds.

13.2.2 The scoreboard with identifying tags displaying the call name of the Hound, its WAVE, and its Grade as set forth in the most current grading guide and scores earned in the meet, and post position will be placed in a prominent location.

13.3 Race Blankets

13.3.1 AGSA has two sets of Whippet-size race blankets available to participants on site but Owner/Handlers are encouraged to purchase their own properly fitted sets.

13.3.2 Colours must be pure. Numbers must be large (approximately 10 cm) and placed where they will be visible when viewed from either side. Blankets with faded colours shall not be allowed. The blankets and ties should allow the Hound to run freely without restriction. The blanket should cover the Hound from the shoulder blade to just past the ribs. Ties may be of any type but use of velcro tabs is encouraged. Only the following vivid colours and numbers shall be used:

#1 Red Blanket, white number

#2 Blue Blanket, white number

#3 White Blanket, black number

#4 Green Blanket, white number

13.4 Muzzles

13.4.1 All Hounds must wear muzzles while racing.

13.4.2 Muzzles should be a basket type racing muzzle which allows sufficient depth for the Hounds to open their mouths wide while racing, but which prevents it from biting. Light weight, plastic coated wire muzzles, such as those imported from England are acceptable, as are the Lupo and Halemar type Greyhound muzzles. Muzzles which display an obvious potential for injury, are prohibited.

13.4.3 Muzzles shall be worn from the time the Hound leaves the paddock area for the starting box until the race is completed and dogs are off the track.

13.4.4 If a Hound has proven itself to be aggressive at the end of the race by grabbing the lure through its muzzle and refusing to release it, those Hounds should use a Lupo or Halemar type Greyhound muzzle to avoid unnecessary delay of the next race.

13.5 Lure and Lure Machine

13.5.1 The lure machine is a battery driven drag lure and capable of easily pulling the lure at a consistently smooth and steady pace approximately 20 meters ahead of the lead Hound. Back-up batteries and lure machine is available.

13.5.2 The lure is made of either real or synthetic white fur or of white vinyl streamers and is large enough to be sighted at all times, and travel in a straight path. The lure will be replaced if it becomes dusty, muddy, or takes on the same colour as the race track.

13.6 Starting Box and Slipping

13.6.1 Hounds may be either box started or hand slipped.

13.6.2 Some breeds may be hand slipped and others box started in the same meet but each breed must be started in the same manner.

13.6.3 The starting box has 6 individual starting slots. The front gate covers all the starting slots and lifts up and over the starting box when opening. The front gate is made of metal tubing and the lower 10" is made of 1" hollow metal tubing with about 1" spacing between the bars. The loading gates slide up to admit the Hound and allow for a 2" space at the bottom so that it cannot hit the tail. The front gates and loading gates are painted to match blanket colours. The floor of the starting box is covered with carpet to prevent the Hounds from slipping when springing from the starting box.

14. Discipline

14.1 Upon proper notice to AGSA it shall honour disciplinary rulings imposed by other racing organizations, and by the CKC or the AKC.

14.2 When the AGSA Race Committee has been advised that a person has engaged in intentional misconduct detrimental to the Association, he or she will be advised of the circumstances, and the Committee will obtain all facts deemed pertinent from any party to the matter. After hearing the facts, the Committee shall report its findings to the Race Director. If the Committee finds misconduct, the Race Director shall determine the sanction to be imposed.

15. Ribbons, Titles, Points and Awards

15.1. Ribbons

15.1.1 Ribbon colours are as follows:

- 1st **Purple**
- 2nd **Blue**
- 3rd **Red**
- 4th **White**
- 5th **Green**

15.2 Championship Points

15.2.1 Championship Points are awarded to the top 4 qualifying finishers that are not already champions based on the number of starters in each stake as outlined in the table below. Starters are Hounds that finish in at least one race in a program. A qualifying finisher is a hound that completes all three programs without a SC, OC, DNF, or DQ. Championship Points are calculated as shown below.

1st 3 x # of dogs defeated (maximum 45)

2nd 2 x # of dogs defeated (maximum 30)

3rd 1 x # of dogs defeated (maximum 15)

4th .5 x # of dogs defeated (maximum 7.5)

When determining the number of championship points to be awarded, the number of dogs defeated is determined by the highest placed non-champion dog (if there are ten starters, but the highest placed non-champion is 3rd, then he has defeated 8 dogs (including himself), and points are awarded to all placing dogs based on 8 dogs defeated). When two dogs are tied for a placing which is to receive Championship or

Master points, they will split the points equally.
See the “Example Program of 15 Starters”.

Example Program of 15 Starters				
Finish	Name	Race Points	Ch Points	Master Points
1	Arco SRCh	22	N/A	14x3 =42
2	Blackie SRCh	18	N/A	14x2 =28
3	Charlie	15	$((12 \times 3) + (12 \times 2)) \div (2) = 30$	$((14 \times 1) + (14 \times 0.5)) \div (2) = 10.5$
4	Drake	15	$((12 \times 3) + (12 \times 2)) \div (2) = 30$	$((14 \times 1) + (14 \times 0.5)) \div (2) = 10.5$
5	Echo SRCh	13	N/A	
6	Fanny	10	12x1 =12	
7	Georgie	9	$(12 \times 0.5) \div (2) = 3$	
8	Hailey	9	$(12 \times 0.5) \div (2) = 3$	
9	Indy	7	-	
10	Juno	3DQ 3	-	
11	Kiro	2	-	
12	Lara	0	-	
13	Mouji	0	-	
14	Nala	0	-	
15	Ona	SC 1		
	Explanation: 14 starters, 13 Qualified finishers, 12 eligible for Ch points, 14 eligible for Master Points			

15.3 Master Points

Master Points shall be awarded to the top 4 Qualifying Finishers in the order they finish, regardless of champion status, as per the table above for awarding Championship Points. Master Points will be used to calculate annual top ten standings, as well as the Straight Race Champion titles.

15.4 Straight Racer Level 1 to Level 4 Titles

15.4.1 To earn the Aspen Grove Sighthound Association Straight Racer Titles (**SRL1, SRL2, SRL3, SRL4**) a Hound must earn 10, 25, 50 or 75 Championship Points respectively from AGSA race meets.

15.5 Straight Race Champion and Straight Race Champion Excellence Titles

15.5.1 To earn the Aspen Grove Sighthound Association Champion title (SRCh), a Hound must earn 100 Championship Points from AGSA race meets.

15.5.2 When a Hound completes the SRCh title, it will continue to compete for additional titles. Upon earning a total of 100 Master Points a hound will be awarded the SRChX. At 200 Master Points a Hound will be awarded a SRChX2. A SRChX3 title will be earned at 300 Master Points, a SRChX4 will be earned at 400 Master Points and so on.

16. Abbreviations and Definitions

16.1 Abbreviations

FTE First time entered

DNF Did not finish

DQ Disqualified

OC Off course

SC Scratched

SRL1 Straight Racer Level 1 a title earned after acquiring 10 Championship points

SRL2 Straight Racer Level 2 a title earned after acquiring 25 Championship points

SRL3 Straight Racer Level 3 a title earned after acquiring 50 Championship points.

SRL4 Straight Racer Level 4 a title earned after acquiring 75 Championship points.

SRCh A title earned after acquiring 100 Championship points.

SRChX A title earned after acquiring 100 Master Championship points.

SRChX2 A title earned after acquiring 200 Master Championship points.

SRChX3 A title earned after acquiring 300 Master Championship points and so on.

WAVE Weighted Average score. (See **12.12**)

16.2 Definitions

16.2.1 Qualified Finisher

A qualified finisher is a racer that has completed all three programs without a DNF, DQ, OC, or SC.

16.2.2 True Racing Style

A hound must complete the entire race without slowing down, changing gait, stopping midway on the track or being coaxed or called across the finish line.

16.2.3 Starters

In order to be counted as a starter for the calculation of points, a Hound must finish in at least one program. For example, if a Hound receives a DNF or OC in the first program it will not count for points if it is then scratched and does not run in subsequent programs. If a Hound is DQ'd in the first program it will not count for points.

16.2.4 The Semi-feature Race

The Semi-feature Race is the race that is run prior to the High Point Race.

17. CERTIFICATION EXEMPTION

17.1 Hounds are exempt from certifying if they have any of the following titles
(You must Include proof of the following with your entry except previous CARA dogs)

- ORC – Oval Race Champion (NOTRA) or higher title
- GazeHound Race Champion (LGRA)

- SR – Straight Racer (NAWRA)
- TRP – (CWA) or higher

18. The Grandfather Clause

18.1 In order to recognize the racing efforts of Hounds that have raced at AGSA from 2012 to 2015, points and titles accumulated during this period will be carried forward into the AGSA record book and not erased. Note, that only the points earned at AGSA meets during this period qualify to be carried forward not points from other venues.

18.2 All championship points earned from prior CARA AGSA races will be entered into AGSA's record book as championship points. Points earned from 2016 forward will be added to these totals and will be applied towards future AGSA titles.

18.3 All National points earned from prior CARA AGSA races will be entered into AGSA's record book as Master Points. Master Points earned from 2016 forward will be added to these totals and will be applied towards future AGSA titles.

18.4 A **RChS** title that was earned by a Hound acquiring 100 Championship points from AGSA meets held with CARA will be recognized as though they hold a **SRCh** in meets held in 2016 and in future years. An AGSA **SRCh** title will not be awarded as it is an equivalent title to the **RChS** title. Hounds with a **RChS** title will be accumulating Master Points towards the **SRChX** and higher awards. Any AGSA **SRCh** title awarded will be an additional title and will not replace the CARA RChS title.

Race Setup Chart (If there are 30 Hounds or more they are split into 2 Stakes)

# Dogs	1 High point	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	2							
3	3							
4	4							
5	3	2						
6	4	2						
7	4	3						
8	4	4						
9	4	2	3					
10	4	3	3					
11	4	3	4					
12	4	4	4					
13	4	3	3	3				
14	4	3	3	4				
15	4	4	3	4				
16	4	4	4	4				
17	4	3	3	3	4			
18	4	4	3	3	4			
19	4	4	4	3	4			
20	4	4	4	4	4			
21	4	4	3	3	3	4		
22	4	4	4	3	3	4		
23	4	4	4	4	3	4		
24	4	4	4	4	4	4		
25	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	
26	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	
27	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	
28	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
29	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4