



American Whippet Club

TRIATHLON RULES

December 31, 2018



The AWC has held the Triathlon in conjunction with its National Specialty since 1995. The Triathlon combines three events (lure coursing, conformation, and obedience) to showcase the versatility of Whippets. The Triathlon's scoring system ranks the success of each Whippet's overall performance in comparison to the other Whippets competing. Participants do not have to be AWC members to enter the Triathlon.

After each event is completed, participating Whippets are ranked from first to last, based on the scores received (a higher score equates to a lower rank). Upon completion of all three events, each Whippet's three individual event rankings are averaged to produce a total final rank. The ranks of all participating Whippets are then ordered from first to last to determine placements. The Whippet with the final lowest rank (numerical ranking average) is the AWC Triathlon Champion and is awarded the Cora Miller Perpetual Trophy and Jack McManus Perpetual Trophy and is eligible to participate in the AWC Parades of Honor at National Specialties. Whippets ranked first through tenth place receive special awards and rosettes.

Whippets competing in the Triathlon must be eligible to compete in all Triathlon events. Whippets with disqualifying faults as indicated in the AKC standard are not eligible to compete in lure coursing trials; therefore, they are not eligible for the Triathlon. Whippets must complete all three events (lure coursing, conformation, and obedience) to earn a final score and ranking. Spayed/neutered Whippets are eligible to compete. Whippets with ILP/PAL numbers are ineligible to compete. If a Whippet does not complete all three events, it will be disqualified from the Triathlon (without entry refund). The criteria for evaluating whether your Whippet completed an event are based on AKC regulations. For lure coursing, see *AKC Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials, Chapter IV, Sections 9-14*. For obedience, see *AKC Obedience Regulations, Chapter I, Sections 17-18*. The Whippet must also compete in the conformation competition. The Triathlon is not an AKC titling event, but an AWC scoring/ranking event. A non-qualifying score in obedience does not eliminate your Whippet from the competition. Non-qualifying scores will be placed in order from high to low after all qualifying scores have been ranked.

Refunds of your Triathlon entry fee will be provided if you withdraw your Whippet before the day of the first Triathlon event, typically the AKC lure coursing trial.

NOTE: Whippets may participate in both the Triathlon and Versatility competitions. See AWC Versatility Rules for details on the Versatility competition.

APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN WHIPPET CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Changes not permitted without prior written approved of the AWC BOD. Submit recommended written changes to the AWC BOD.

HOW TO ENTER THE TRIATHLON

Submit **three** separate entries - one for AKC lure coursing, one for AKC obedience, and one for the Triathlon - by the required closing dates. Premium lists and the Triathlon entry form are on the AWC website at:

<http://www.americanwhippetclub.net/national/triathlon>.

1. **Lure coursing.** Your Whippet must participate in the AKC lure coursing trial held in conjunction with the AWC National Specialty. Fill out the standard entry in the AKC lure coursing Premium and submit it by the closing date. On your Triathlon Entry form, indicate the stake in which your Whippet is entered.
2. **Obedience.** Your Whippet must participate in the AKC obedience trial held as part of the AWC National Specialty. Fill out the standard AKC obedience entry in AWC National Specialty Premium. You may enter multiple obedience classes (e.g., Veterans, Novice B) in the trial, but you must declare only one of these classes for purposes of an obedience Triathlon score on your Triathlon entry form. If your Whippet has a title or legs toward a title in an obedience class in AKC, you are not permitted to enter a lower-level class for purposes of a Triathlon score. To do so will result in disqualification from the Triathlon. For example, if your Whippet has a CD or leg towards a CD you may not enter Beginner Novice and use that score for the Triathlon. Move ups, in accordance with AKC regulations, are permitted, but competitors must notify the Trial Secretary as well as the Triathlon Chair at least thirty minutes before the obedience trial begins.
3. **Triathlon Conformation Competition.**
 - a. Submit your Triathlon entry, along with the \$10 entry fee, to the AWC Triathlon Chair by the closing date using one of the following methods:
 - i. (Preferred Method) Online Entry and payment via PayPal:
<http://www.americanwhippetclub.net/national/triathlon>
 - ii. Mail entries and checks made payable to the AWC, in US funds drawn from a US bank. Entry and check must be received (not just postmarked) by the closing date to be eligible to compete in the Triathlon Competition.
Do NOT Mail Entries Requiring A Return Signature.
 - b. Your Whippet is automatically entered in the Triathlon Conformation competition upon receipt of your Triathlon entry and fee. Triathlon and Versatility conformation judging is conducted simultaneously by one judge. All Whippets enter the ring for group examination until the judge directs the group to exit the ring. Then each Whippet enters the ring, one at a time, for individual judging and scoring by the judge. After individual judging is completed, the entire group re-enters the ring for additional judging when the judge may make several cuts before the final scoring of all Whippets is completed. The four top-scoring Triathlon Whippets are determined by their scores and receive first through fourth placement rosettes. Triathlon judging is separate from other conformation judging at the National. (Please see the AWC National Premium for other conformation classes, e.g., Futurity, Sweepstakes, regular classes).

SCORING AND RANKING

LURE COURSING

1. **Scoring.** Your Whippet's scores from the AKC lure coursing trial are used to compute this portion of the Triathlon. The base score for lure coursing is the total score from preliminary and final runs, regardless of the stake entered or any additional scores earned in run-offs for best of breed.
2. **Ranking.** Whippets are then ranked according to their numeric scores. The Whippet receiving the highest score is ranked 1; the second highest score is ranked 2 and so on until all Triathlon competitors are ranked. (Note: A high score = low rank)

CONFORMATION

1. **Scoring.** Your Whippet's score from the Triathlon Conformation judging is used in this portion of the Triathlon. Using the Whippet Breed Standard as a baseline for a maximum score of 100, and a special Triathlon scoring sheet, the judge gives each Whippet its individual conformation numeric score. If a Whippet is excused from the ring, it will be disqualified from the Triathlon.
2. **Ranking.** Whippets are then ranked according to their numeric score. The highest numeric score is ranked 1; the second highest numeric score is ranked 2 and so on until all Triathlon Whippets are ranked. (Note: A high score = low rank)

OBEDIENCE

1. **Scoring.**
 - a. Your Whippet's score from the AKC obedience trial is used in this portion of the Triathlon. All points earned are applied whether your Whippet earns a qualifying score or does not qualify. While qualifying in obedience will result in a better obedience ranking, it is not a Triathlon requirement. The Triathlon is not an AKC titling event but an AWC scoring/ranking event. Whippets with qualifying scores are always ranked higher than those with non-qualifying scores.
 - b. For non-qualifying scores, the Triathlon Chair will calculate scores based on the numerical scores written on each Whippet's obedience score sheet by the judge and use these scores to rank the dogs with non-qualifying scores. If a Whippet is excused from the ring, it will be disqualified from the Triathlon.
 - c. Prior to the obedience trial, the Triathlon Chair will inform the obedience judge that some Whippets entered in the obedience trial may also be participating in the Triathlon and request that all exercises be scored to the extent possible.
2. **Ranking.** All qualifying Whippets shall be ranked before non-qualifying Whippets. (Note: A high score = low rank)

- a. First, all qualifying Whippets are ranked from the highest score to lowest score then prioritized by class in the following order: Utility, Preferred Utility, Versatility, Open, Preferred Open, Veterans/Novice, Preferred Novice and Beginner Novice.
- b. Second, all non-qualifying Whippets are ranked from the highest score to lowest score then prioritized by class in the following order: Utility, Preferred Utility, Versatility, Open, Preferred Open, Veterans/Novice, Preferred Novice and Beginner Novice. Non-Qualifying Whippets are always ranked below all qualifying Whippets, regardless of class entered.

An example of the scoring and ranking of qualifying and non-qualifying by class appears below:

First, Qualifying Scores are ranked by Class: (a score of at least 170 with at least 50% of available points for each exercise performed):

Entry #	Class	Score	Q or NQ	Ranking
3	Open A	170	Q	#1
2	Veterans	180	Q	#2
1	Novice B	180	Q	#2
5	Novice A	175	Q	#4
4	Beginner Novice B	185	Q	#5

Second, Non-Qualifying Scores are ranked by Class (a score below 170 and/or fewer than 50% of available points for each exercise performed):

Entry #	Class	Score	Q or NQ	Ranking
7	Utility A	170	NQ	#6
9	Open A	75	NQ	#7
10	Novice B	80	NQ	#8
8	Beginner Novice B	85	NQ	#9
6	Beginner Novice A	80	NQ	#10

TIES

For lure coursing, conformation, and obedience, Whippets receiving the same score in an event will receive the same rank, with the next highest scoring Whippet receiving the rank following the tied Whippets. For example, if Whippet A and Whippet B both receive a score of 285 and Whippet C receives a score of 283, Whippets A and B are ranked 1 and Whippet C is ranked 3.

FINAL RANKINGS

A Whippet's rank (not scores) from lure coursing, conformation, and obedience will be added together and then divided by 3 to calculate the Whippet's average and that average is used to determine the overall final rank and placement in the Triathlon Competition. For ties in final rankings, lure coursing scores (not rankings) will determine final rankings and placements. If the tie continues because the Whippets earned equal scores in coursing, then scores (not rankings) in conformation will determine final rankings. The last determination if the tie continues will be made based on obedience scores (not rankings).

AWC TRIATHLON CHAIR

The Local National Specialty Chair will appoint an AWC Triathlon Chair when appointing local committee chairs. Separate Triathlon and Versatility Chairs may be appointed if desired. Any AWC member in good standing may be appointed to this position even if previously appointed.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Assist National and Local Specialty Chairs in selecting a conformation judge for the Triathlon/Versatility Conformation event.
2. Ensure the current Triathlon Competition Rules and Entry Form are included in the Supplemental to the Premium for the National Specialty.
3. Respond to questions and provide information about the event. For clarification on an issue not specifically addressed in the rules, Chair will consult with the AWC BOD prior to responding.
4. Receive online entry information as well as mailed paper entries and checks and review for completeness before consolidating entry information in the entry database using an application such as Microsoft Excel. NOTE: This database will be made available for review by participants in the Triathlon, the BOD, National and Local Show Chairs, etc. upon request at any time during or after the Triathlon.

5. Forward checks and entry refund requests (received prior to the lure coursing trial) to the AWC National event accountant for processing.
6. Provide catalog entry information to National Show Chair.
7. Receive and process move ups for the lure coursing and obedience trials (in coordination with the relevant trial secretary).
8. Create an AWC Triathlon board, if one is not available from the prior year, and board tags for each Whippet entered in the Triathlon. The board is used to display the Whippet's event scores and ranks for each event as well as their final ranking.
9. Set up the Triathlon/Versatility display table in the assigned location at the National. The table will hold the Triathlon and Versatility boards, display a current AWC Triathlon/Versatility banner (also to be acquired by the Chair) and hold rosettes, prizes and trophies to be awarded for these competitions, plus a photo of the prior National's winners.
10. Collect judging sheets and calculate the scores and ranks and update the Triathlon board as soon as possible after each Triathlon event.
11. Ensure: (a) the conformation judge has a ring steward(s) and a judging sheet for each entered Whippet with catalog number; (b) armbands with catalog numbers are available to the conformation exhibitors before the event begins; (c) the judge is properly introduced before exhibitors enter the ring. At the conclusion of the judging, and while exhibitors are still in the ring, thank the judge and present a small gift of appreciation.
12. Finalize the results of the Triathlon with the help of an assistant of the Chair's choosing, double-checking the scoring/ranking of each event and the final rankings for compliance with these rules.
13. Collect rosettes, plates and special prizes/trophies for Triathlon award presentation and ensure the show photographer is available for the award ceremony.
14. Announce and make award presentations for the top 10 Triathlon placements and assist with win photos as requested by the photographer and exhibitors.