



American Whippet Club

VERSATILITY RULES

December 31, 2018



The AWC has held the Versatility Competition in conjunction with its National Specialty since 2007. Versatility combines four events (lure coursing, conformation, rally, and agility) to showcase the versatility of Whippets. The Versatility'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 Versatility competition.

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 four events, each Whippet's four 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 Versatility Champion and is awarded the TJ Challenge Trophy and Calvin Trophy and is eligible to participate in future AWC Parades of Honor at National Specialties. Whippets ranked first through tenth place receive special awards and rosettes.

Whippets competing in the Versatility competition must be eligible to compete in all Versatility 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 Versatility competition. Whippets must complete all four events (agility, lure coursing, rally and conformation) 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 four events, it will be disqualified from the Versatility competition (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 rally, see AKC Rally Regulations, Chapter I, Sections 17-19. The Whippet must also compete in the conformation competition. The Versatility competition is not an AKC titling event, but an AWC scoring/ranking event. A non-qualifying score in agility or rally 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 Versatility entry fee will be provided if you withdraw your Whippet before the day of the first Versatility event, typically the AKC agility trial.

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

HOW TO ENTER THE VERSATILITY COMPETITION

Submit **four** separate entries - one for coursing, one for agility, one for rally, and one for the Versatility Competition - by the required closing dates. Premium lists and the Versatility entry form are on the AWC National Specialty website at:

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

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 Versatility entry form, indicate the stake in which your Whippet is entered.
2. **Rally.** Your Whippet must participate in the AKC rally trial held as part of the AWC National Specialty. Fill out the standard AKC rally entry in the AWC National Specialty Premium. You may enter multiple rally classes (e.g., rally Advanced, rally Excellent) but you must declare only one of these classes as your rally entry on your Versatility Competition entry form. If your Whippet has a title, or legs toward a title, in a higher level rally class in AKC, you may not enter a lower class for the Versatility Competition. To do so will result in disqualification from the Versatility Competition. For example, if your Whippet has a RA or leg towards a RA you may not enter Rally Novice and use that score for the Versatility Competition). If you are working on an RAE, you must use your Excellent class score for your Versatility Competition. If you are working on Rally Champion, you must use your Master class score for your Versatility Competition. Transfers, in accordance with AKC regulations, are permitted, but competitors must notify the Trial Secretary as well as the Versatility Chair at least thirty minutes before the rally trial begins.
3. **Agility.** Your Whippet must participate in the agility trial identified as part of the Versatility competition that is held in conjunction with the AWC National Specialty. Submit the standard agility entry in the identified premium. You must enter your Whippet in both the Standard (STD) and Jumpers with Weaves (JWW) classes to qualify for the Versatility Competition. If your Whippet has a title, or legs toward a title, in the STD or JWW Class in AKC, regardless of whether it is in the Regular or Preferred division, you may not enter a lower class for the Versatility Competition. To do so will result in disqualification from the Versatility Competition. For example, if your Whippet has an AKC Regular Excellent STD title or leg towards the title, you may not enter the AKC Preferred Novice STD class and use that score for the Versatility Competition. Likewise, a Whippet with a Preferred Excellent JWW title may not enter the Regular Novice JWW class and use that score for the Versatility Competition. However, if your Whippet has an AKC Regular Novice STD title or leg towards the title, you may enter the AKC Preferred Novice STD class and use that score for the Versatility competition.
4. **Versatility Conformation Competition.**
 - a. Submit your Versatility Conformation entry, along with the \$10 entry fee, to the AWC Versatility 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/versatility>
 - 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 Versatility Competition.
Do NOT Mail Entries Requiring A Return Signature.

- b. Your Whippet is automatically entered in the Versatility conformation competition upon receipt of your Versatility 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 Versatility Whippets are determined by their scores and receive first through fourth placement rosettes. Versatility 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 Versatility Competition. 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 Versatility Competition competitors are ranked. (Note: A high score = low rank)

CONFORMATION

1. **Scoring.** Your Whippet's score from the Versatility Competition Conformation judging is used in this portion of the Versatility Competition. Using the Whippet Breed Standard as a baseline for a maximum score of 100, and a special Versatility Competition 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 Versatility Competition.
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 Versatility Competition Whippets are ranked. (Note: A high score = low rank)

RALLY

1. **Scoring.**
 - a. Your Whippet's score from the AKC rally trial is used in this portion of the Versatility Competition. All points earned are applied whether your Whippet earns a qualifying score or does not qualify. While qualifying in rally will result in a better rally ranking, it is not a Versatility Competition requirement. The Versatility Competition 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 Versatility Chair will calculate scores based on the numerical scores written on each Whippet's rally 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 Versatility Competition.
 - c. The Versatility Chair will ensure the rally judge is made aware that Whippets entered in the Rally Trial may also be participating in the Versatility Competition and will require a score (whether qualifying or non-qualifying) if possible at the end of their exercise.
2. **Ranking.** All qualifying Whippets in Rally are ranked before non-qualifying Whippets. (Note: A high score = low rank)
 - a. First, all qualifying Whippets are ranked from the highest to the lowest score by class in the following order: Master, Excellent, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice.

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

- b. Second, all non-qualifying Whippets will be ranked by class in the following order: Master, Excellent, Advanced, Intermediate and Novice. Non-qualifying Whippets shall always be ranked after qualifying Whippets.

An example of the scoring and Final Rally Ranking for Whippets by class follows:

Entry #	Class	Score	Qualifying Score	Ranking
7	Master	80	Yes	#1
2	Excellent B	75	Yes	#2
5	Advanced A	80	Yes	#3
8	Novice A	85	Yes	#4
1	Novice B	85	Yes	#4
9	Excellent A	65	No	#6
3	Advanced B	69	No	#7
10	Advanced A	60	No	#8
4	Novice B	60	No	#9
6	Novice A	55	No	#10

AGILITY

1. Scoring.

- a. Your Whippet's STD (Regular or Preferred) and JWW (Regular or Preferred) scores from the Agility Trial are used to compute this portion of the Versatility Competition. All points earned are applied whether your Whippet earns a qualifying score or does not qualify. While qualifying in agility will result in a better agility ranking, it is not a requirement. The Versatility Competition is not a titling event but an AWC scoring/ranking event. Whippets with qualifying scores are always ranked higher than those with non-qualifying scores.
- b. The Versatility Chair will ensure the agility judge is made aware that Whippets entered in the trial may also be participating in the Versatility Competition and will require a score (whether qualifying or non-qualifying) if possible at the end of their exercise.

2. Ranking. All qualifying Whippets in agility are ranked before non-qualifying Whippets. (Note: A high score = low rank)

- a. First, all qualifying Whippets are ranked separately in the STD Class (Regular or Preferred) and JWW Class (Regular or Preferred) from the highest to lowest score then prioritized by class in the following order: Master, Excellent, Open and Novice.
- b. Second, all non-qualifying Whippets are ranked separately in the STD Class (Regular or Preferred) and JWW Class (Regular or Preferred) from the highest to lowest score then prioritized by class in the following order: Master, Excellent, Open and Novice. Non-qualifying Whippets are always ranked below all qualifying Whippets, regardless of class entered.
- c. Third, each Whippet's two class rankings (STD and JWW) are added together then divided by two, and the resulting averaged rank is used to determine each Whippet's final agility ranking (see examples below).

- d. Prior to the agility trial, the Versatility Chair will inform the agility judge that some Whippets entered in the trial may also be participating in the Versatility Competition and will require a score (whether qualifying or non-qualifying) if possible at the end of their run.

An example of the scoring and agility class ranking for Whippets follows:

STANDARD						JWW					
Entry #	Level	R/P	Score	Q/NQ	Rank	Entry #	Level	R/P	Score	Q/NQ	Rank
5	Master	R	100	Q	#1	7	Excellent	P	100	Q	#1
1	Excellent	R	100	Q	#2	9	Open	R	100	Q	#2
7	Excellent	P	100	Q	#2	10	Open	R	95	Q	#3
10	Open	R	97	Q	#4	2	Novice A	R	100	Q	#4
3	Open	R	95	Q	#5	5	Master	R	85	NQ	#5
2	Novice A	R	100	Q	#6	1	Master	R	80	NQ	#6
6	Master	R	85	NQ	#7	6	Excellent	R	75	NQ	#7
4	Open	P	70	NQ	#8	3	Open	R	60	NQ	#8
9	Open	R	60	NQ	#9	8	Novice B	R	60	NQ	#9
8	Novice B	R	65	NQ	#10	4	Novice B	P	55	NQ	#10

A matching calculation of the final agility ranking for Whippets follows:

Entry #	Standard Ranking	JWW Ranking	Total Ranking Divided By 2	Combined Averaged Ranking	Final Ranking
1	#2	#6	8 / 2	4	4
2	#6	#4	10 / 2	5	5
3	#5	#8	13 / 2	6.5	7
4	#8	#10	18 / 2	9	9
5	#1	#5	6 / 2	3	2
6	#7	#7	14 / 2	7	8
7	#2	#1	3 / 2	1.5	1
8	#10	#9	19 / 2	9.5	10
9	#9	#2	11 / 2	5.5	6
10	#4	#3	7 / 2	3.5	3

TIES

For lure coursing, conformation, rally and agility, Whippets receiving the same score 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, rally and agility will be added together and then divided by 4 to calculate the Whippet's average and that average is used to determine the overall final rank and placement in the Versatility Competition. For ties in final rankings, lure coursing scores (not rankings) will determine final rankings. If the tie continues because the Whippets earned equal scores in coursing, then scores (not rankings) in conformation will determine final rankings. If the tie continues, agility scores (not rankings) will be the tiebreaker. The last determination if the tie continues will be made based on rally scores (not rankings).

AWC VERSATILITY CHAIR

The Local National Specialty Chair will appoint an AWC Versatility 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 Versatility 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 Versatility, the BOD, National and Local Show Chairs, etc. upon request at any time during or after the Versatility.
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 transfers for rally trials (in coordination with the relevant trial secretary).
8. Create an AWC Versatility board, if one is not available from the prior year, and board tags for each Whippet entered in the Versatility. 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 Versatility board as soon as possible after each Versatility 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 Versatility 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 Versatility award presentation and ensure the show photographer is available for the award ceremony.

14. Announce and make award presentations for the top 10 Versatility placements and assist with win photos as requested by the photographer and exhibitors.