



UK SIGHTHOUND SPORT
Special General Meeting Minutes
Sun 28 Nov 21 – 10:00
Zoom Video Conference

Meeting opened 10:06

Sarah Meadham ran through options outlined in proposal for measurements and groups, and said she preferred Option B:

Option A: Remove measurements

- This will bring equality between whippets/IGs and other breeds
- Less admin required by registrar and secretary

Option B: Retain 'Standard'/ 'Sprinter' classes (Remove max height for Sprinters)

- As both 'Standards' and 'Sprinters' are already able to achieve UK Champion title there is no advantage to changing the current system.
- Running all sizes together poses a danger, especially in mixed sex classes where the difference can be vast. There is a much increased risk of serious injury if there is a collision during the course in the 'take zone'

Option C: Retain the present rules

Sarah Meadham ran through options outlined in proposal for Division of CSS/CACIL classes and advised that this only affected those wishing to participate in Europe.

All countries can run to their own rules re heights in whippets and Italian greyhounds. We could extend the height by removing the height limit and they could all run together.

Individuals over the height limit can achieve a licence so they are eligible to run abroad if we go with Option C, but they could not run at UKSS events.

Current Sprinter height is generous. It would be more benefit for the Italian greyhounds if the height limit was lifted as there have been a number oversized that have expressed an interest in competing but they can't currently.

No other breeds have exclusions. TC reminded this is because only whippets and Italians have height referenced in their breed standards

Gay Robertson stated that there are whippets over 24" that want to run and if we allow this we will lay ourselves open to dog's pedigrees that don't stand scrutiny and will be forced to have bigger dogs running with much smaller ones.

Catriona Ryan said we should keep as we are, keep the upper height limit. She would not want to see a dog like Trilby running with a smaller dog. Also, in Europe Fig got knocked by a slightly bigger dog and that was bad enough

If we do not go with Option C then we could have a 19" bitch running with a 23" dog

Gay Robertson said if it's not broken, why need fixing? Sharon Dagleish said the same

Di Webber said we could lift just for Italians and not for whippets but it was agreed the change should be applied to both if it was happening.

Kate Bent suggested an oversize class in addition to the normal classes.

Di Webber said she had never seen that many really big whippets of 24", a number of people said they were definitely around

Natasha Hamilton advised that there was also a height deviation in salukis where they have dogs and bitches running together and there is not height group so can have 24-28" running together.

TC said this was easier to manage with other breeds as they do not run the same as whippets and Italians who compete absolutely flat out and risk of collision is higher and also damage would be much worse when running at full speed. The other breeds we run do not have the same level of focus. Whilst it's amazing to watch the whippets run it is also a reminder that if the different sizes and sexes were running together then there is a risk of increase of accidents

Sharon Dagleish reminded everyone that safety must be our top priority

Liz Hales said that when in Europe, running with oversized whippets will scare the life out of her and removing the height limit is encouraging people to breed bigger and wouldn't want to remove it. If dogs can still get a licence to run in Europe and other places then that is good. Liz also said that if she was drawn against a much bigger or smaller dog then she would withdraw.

Catriona Ryan also agreed with this.

What we want in our country is to make running as safe as possible

So from the three options we are asking for members to vote by midnight on Mon 29 Nov 21 by email, and the results will be announced on Tue 30 Nov 21

Liz Hales thanked the committee for allowing there to be a vote, it means a lot

Natasha Hamilton thanked the committee for their first thought being safety, and for the explanation which had been very interesting.

Meeting closed 10:32