

“East Coast long Distance Racing Combine”

Race centre protocols, procedures, Clock and Race rules

- a) Each bird entered in a contest conducted by the ECLDRC or any affiliated Clubs must be the bona fide property of the person in whose name it is entered and must be rung with a perfect and intact recognised Homing Pigeon Club or Federation life ring by which the bird will be identified on any entry form for that particular contest.
- b) The Committee or responsible officials of the ECLDRC or the Clubs may refuse the entry of any bird which in their opinion is suffering from a contagious disease, carrying any vermin or which they believe should not be sent as applied to the physical condition of the pigeon.
- c) All birds to be accepted by the ECLDRC and the Club entirely at the owner's risk once they leave the owner's hands.
- d) MASTER SHEETS AND RACE FORMS: a. The ECLDRC will prior to racing, supply each Club/Basketing centre with master sheets (summary of individual race entry sheets) and race entry forms (for individuals) which will be the only authorised forms recognised for the race involved.
- e) Care should be taken in compiling these sheets as follows: - Master Sheets. Individual flyers names are to be entered in the space provided by Club Secretaries, together with (i) the number of birds entered and cost. (ii) Number of birds and cost for each type of pool, nomination or loft. (iii) The total cost only for each competitor in the final column. Entries in each column are then totalled and cross balanced i.e. sum of columns should agree with final total in bottom right hand corner.
- f) Race Entry Forms. Manual Clocks Entries: (i) Details of each pigeon entered under colour, sex, club initials, year and ring number (it is not necessary to include the century or the 000 preceding the actual number) shall be recorded together with type of pools, nominations or lofts for which each bird is competing. The serial number of the rubber ring placed on each bird's leg shall be entered in the space provided.
- g) Race entry forms when compiled must be signed by the competitor and submitted to the Secretary for acceptance prior to the basketing of their birds.
- h) Electronic Clock Entries: (ii) Electronic entry printout shall contain the following: - Club initials, sex, year, ring number and the assigned electronic ring number.
- i) Race Entry Forms from all competitors shall contain the following wording: “I hereby enter my birds in this race, and I agree to accept the decision of the controlling body in any matter relating to the race as final and binding”.
- j) **Race entry forms must be in triplicate** with details entered in ink on the original. 1 for the flyer, 1 for the Basket Centre and 1 sent to the Race Secretary with the Master Sheet.

- k) **The Master Sheet, individual entry forms and entry fees are counted and checked by the Basketing Centre Coordinator.**
- l) A copy of the master sheet and all monies received, are to be **placed in a sealed envelope addressed to the ECLDRC Treasure.**
- m) **The original Master Sheet and the original individual signed race sheet are to be placed in a second envelope, addressed to the Race Secretary.**
- n) Both envelopes are to be given to the Driver who will pass them on the Race Secretary and Treasurer at the last basketing centre.
- o) The commencing time and closing time of basketing shall be fixed by the ECLDRC Committee.
- p) All baskets shall be in good order and approved by the Management Committee. All baskets to be identified by Club initials on the end and side doors.
- q) All doors on each basket shall be sealed with an approved seal before leaving Club Room. Approved seals are – lead seals, finger seals, electrical seals, thick cable ties.
- r) There must be four members of a club competing and present in an ordinary club race to enable any member of that club to have his combine race birds rung and basketed in their respective club.
- s) Should there not be four members of a club competing in a club race; a member of that club must take his combine race birds to the nearest club/basketing centre for ringing and basketing.
- t) There must be four members in a club competing with continuous running clocks or ETS before any member can have his clock set or checked in their respective clubroom to compete in any race controlled by the ECLDRC.
- u) No member shall be permitted to handle their own birds whilst being race rung and basketed to compete in any race.
- v) That all members' birds be evenly distributed in the baskets.
- w) That all birds in the race baskets to be either rubber race rung or be rung with an approved electronic timing ring. Any person found tampering with race rubbers or electronic timing rings or removing them from a pigeon will be disqualified.
- x) All Clubs conveying birds to the ECLDRC nominated Basketing Centres on basketing night which are competing in a race must have at least one (1) assistant with and in the same vehicle as the driver at all times between the loading of the vehicle at the Club and arrival at the ECLDRC Basketing Centre.

- y) In the case of one club carting birds for another club, at no stage between the sealing of baskets and arrival at the Basketing Centre shall any basket not be accompanied by at least two (2) persons.
- z) Wire inserts to be used in all race baskets. Absorbent material to be used under the wire inserts in the baskets. Printed newspaper is not permitted.

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF INSTALLATION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC BAND SCANNING SYSTEMS (EBSS)

Use of EBS Systems

1. The use of EBSS is approved in principal by the East Long-Distance Racing Combine Inc (ECLDRC) for use in all races conducted by the ECLDRC. The approved EBSS are – Bricon, Benzing, Tipes, TOPigeon and Unikon.

1a. EBS SYSTEMS Available at Basket Centres

- NCF – Benzing, Bricon, TOPigeon
- Central Coast – Benzing, Bricon
- Dural – Benzing, Bricon, Unikon
- Blacktown – Benzing, Bricon
- Liverpool – Benzing, Bricon
- South Coast - Benzing, Bricon, TOPigeon, Tipes

2. In the event that the ECLDRC Committee determines that an EBSS or a system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the ECLDRC may disapprove the use of that system. The disapproval of any system will be effective immediately upon resolution of the ECLDRC Committee and the disapproval will be advised to members as soon as reasonably possible.

(a) The ECLDRC reserves the right to withdraw the approval of any EBSS at any time, if a lack of security occurs within a particular system.

(a) If any Race Secretary or race official determines that a lack of security exists within any individual unit, they must notify the ECLDRC Committee and seek an immediate statement as to the validity of the continued system use. The Race Secretary or race official must provide a written statement of the reason for concern to the system owner and the ECLDRC Committee.

(b) Issues of potential or actual adequacy or otherwise of security will be a matter for determination by the ECLDRC Committee within its absolute discretion.

3. An ECLDRC affiliated club shall not make use of EBSS mandatory, or prohibit the use of EBSS.

Particular EBS Systems

4. A member is free to purchase any EBSS they choose. A member is responsible for ensuring the system (hardware / software) is compatible with other systems used by ECLDRC or the members ECLDRC affiliated club. The ECLDRC or the club shall have no responsibilities for any system incompatibility.

5. It would be advisable for any member, prior to purchasing an EBSS, to check with the ECLDRC as to what systems are already in use
Use of EBS Systems by members.

6. Installation of the EBSS in a members loft must be inspected and approved by a member of the ECLDRC executive before being accepted for competitive use within the ECLDRC. The inspector must not be from the same affiliated club as the member installing the system. Approval will be notified in writing.

7. Every EBSS sensor antenna must be installed wholly within the confines of the competitor's loft. The sensors / antennas of an EBSS must be within the entrance of the loft. (This includes an entry into the face wall of the loft, as long as it is considered the entrance).

8. Every sensor / antenna must be sealed as a fixture at point of entry.

9. The maximum distance on a unilateral plane of multiple sensors / antennas connected to the EBSS in any competitor's loft is three (3) metres inclusive measured from the furthest point on any of one sensor / antenna ("the first sensor") to the furthest point on any part of the furthest sensor / antenna to the first sensor / antenna. Multiple entries are permissible, as long as they are contained within the maximum inclusive three (3) metres unilateral plane.

9a. Where the distance between sensors / antennas exceeds the three (3) Metres as referred to in rule 11 and within and not exceeding 16 metres, the race distance shall be calculated to the closest sensor / antenna to the race point.

10.No sensor / antenna shall be employed or placed at the loft of another competitor or moved to any other position of the competitor's loft without prior application to, and written approval provided by ECLDRC.

Racing Requirements

11.System control modules or system keys and software used in EBSS shall be purchased or procured by the system owner.

12.Users of EBSS must

- a. Use an EBSS that has a re-programmable electronic band.
- b. Use electronic bands that have read / write chips.
- c. Use only EBSS bands approved or supplied by a recognised manufacturer.

- d. Combination Life Rings/ETS Chips are acceptable for use in the ECLDRC.

13.The Race Secretary of each ECLDRC affiliated club shall secure all individual system control modules or system keys during competitive events. The use and operation of these security controls shall only be permitted by the individuals specifically authorized by the ECLDRC affiliated club or the ECLDRC during competitive events.

14.The ECLDRC requires that the Race Secretary or Club Secretary or members of the Race Committee affix or attach each electronic band to a pigeon in order to ensure that the band's locking mechanism is securely engaged. (All bands must be totally secured on the second click). This process may be performed at the first basketing or earlier as required by the Club or ECLDRC. The ECLDRC or Club may allow a competitor to affix or attach electronic bands to a pigeon, subject to verification by the Race Secretary or a Race Committee member, that the band's locking mechanism is securely engaged.

15.Electronic banded pigeons shall not be handled by the competitor or their representative during the race entry logging or basketing process. The process used will be the same as birds entered in races utilizing race rubbers.

16.During the logging process all band data must be reviewed to ensure band data accuracy by the race secretary or race committee member.

17.After all race birds have been entered on the EBSS, the race secretary shall print a list of all the competitors entries for that race as verification of all birds entered. The printout shall be signed by the competitor, race secretary or committee member.

18.The printout serves as a race entry sheet and a copy is printed for the competitor.

19.In the case where the electronic clock race sheet shows a tie the bird listed first will receive the highest ranking.

20.Each member using the EBSS shall have the right to register a dummy ring. (E.g. ECLDRC 06 ACW0001) into their list of birds recorded on the EBBS.

(a) On basketing night this dummy ring is recorded along with the competitor's entries for the race. Once this ring is recorded it is kept in a safe place by the race secretary or race committee member.

(b) The flyer cannot have access to this ring as till such time it is required to record an acceptable time of a pigeon timed in while the main clocking system was absent from the loft.

(c) The dummy ring, if taken by a flyer from the club must be scanned into

their EBSS on arrival home.

(d) The dummy ring must be returned by the flyer on the next ring off night for that particular race.

(e) Any time recorded on an EBSS whilst the main clocking system was absent from the loft and the flyer did not avail themselves to the use of the dummy ring, the recorded time will not be accepted in any race conducted by the ECLDRC.

24. If the data contained in an EBSS becomes defective, erases or becomes corrupted between race entry and the ring off for that particular race. All entries for that competitor will be disqualified. The race secretary will verify system failure.

25. (a) In the event of a malfunction of an EBSS and it being sent for repair, proof of repair must be produced before the EBSS can be used for competition again.

(b) In the event of removal of the sensors/antenna for any reason, the reinstallation must be approved by the ECLDRC before the EBSS can be used for competition again.

26. If any competitor intentionally attempts to corrupt, interfere with or destroy the electronic data of their EBSS or the EBSS of another competitor, then at the discretion of the ECLDRC committee their entire entry can be disqualified.

27. When closing the race, the race secretary or other designate shall print out all data prior to transferring data from the EBSS to the computer. The printout will serve as a back-up document for later reference. All data should be stored in the event reconstruction becomes necessary. The ECLDRC has no liability for any act or omission including, without limitation, loss or corruption of any data. Use of an EBSS is the sole risk of the member or competitor using it.

28. (a) Should the EBSS display (after a race entry or race) show the complete set, but be not able to generate a print-out, the race secretary or race committee member shall view the display data and report it manually.

(b) In the event of a ECLDRC controlled race and a printout cannot be generated from the member's timer. Then the timer must be presented for a manual reading by the ECLDRC race secretary by the first Wednesday after the race day. Failure to present the timer within the designated time will result in disqualification.

General

29. The ECLDRC committee reserve the right at any time, without prior notice to inspect the installation and operation of any EBSS being used by a

competitor within the ECLDRC or races conducted by the ECLDRC.

30. Any application form adopted by the ECLDRC from time to time forms part of these rules and conditions.

31. The ECLDRC committee may from time to time amend these rules and conditions as it thinks fit and within its absolute discretion.

32. These rules and conditions are supplementary to and must be read in conjunction with the current ECLDRC racing and clock rules. In the event of any inconsistency, the latter shall prevail.

33. Headings are inserted for convenience and ease of reading and are not intended to assist interpretation.

34. Any ECLDRC member found using electronic bands sourced from stray pigeons shall be disqualified from competing in all ECLDRC conducted races. The duration of the disqualification shall be at the discretion of the ECLDRC executive.

CLOCK RULES

1. CLOCKS

a) All birds homing from races must be timed in with a continuously running, printing clock unless an approved Electronic Banding Scanning System (EBSS) is used. Refer separate rules for EBSS.

b) All types, models and brands of Clocks must be approved by the Management Committee before being eligible for use in Federation controlled races.

c) All approved clocks must be fitted with an anti acceleration device.

d) Dolometer allowances are 4mm on Benzing Clocks and 5 points on STB Clocks. Any other type of Clock must be referred to the Committee for a ruling on its allowance. Any clock showing more than the designated allowance will be disqualified.

e) All Clocks must be examined by a Clock Committee prior to that clock being used in competition.

2. SETTING OF CLOCKS

a) No member shall set, sign or seal his/her own Clock.

b) Clocks must be set within the confines of an affiliated Clubroom and in the presence of at least 4 financial members of the NCF.

c) The members name, race point and date of race are to be written or stamped on each clock tape and the tape is to be signed by an approved member. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

d) Clocks must be started by rapping, at the appointed time against a master timer or the telephone Time Service (Telstra phone number 1194). If Master Timers are used, they must be synchronised against the Telephone prior to use.

e) All clocks must be rapped and check rapped within the confines of an affiliated clubroom in the presence of at least 4 financial members of the NCF.

f) As soon as practicable after the start rap, clocks must be check rapped against the Master Timer or Telephone. Any variation between the start rap and the check rap must be taken into account when calculating the flying time.

g) Clocks must be tied with string and sealed with an approved type of seal before being returned to the owner. If lead seals are used, a sealer with a distinctive design must be used to clamp the seal. If numbered seals are used, the number of each seal and name of member whose clock it was used on must be recorded and these records kept confidential.

h) Should it become necessary to reopen a clock before it leaves the club, the clock setter must resign the tape at the point of reopening before the clock is resealed.

i) It is the responsibility of the clock owner/user to ensure the correctness of the clock settings, sealing and that all raps have taken place before the clock leaves the confines of the clubroom.

3. TIMING IN OF PIGEONS

a) An approved clock having been set as above, shall be used to time in the arrival of race birds.

b) The rubber race ring must be removed from the birds leg and placed into the receptacle if that clock is approved for use without thimbles. The rubber ring must be fully enclosed within the receptacle or that bird is disqualified.

c) If the clock being used requires thimbles;

- * the rubber ring must be placed in the thimble and the thimble then placed in the receptacle.

- * the thimble must be of a type approved by the manufacturer

- * any other type of thimble must be approved by the Committee before use

- * thimbles consisting of two parts must be fully closed and contain the rubber ring

- * open ended thimbles must be inserted into the clock with the open end downwards

If a clock is presented where the rubber ring is not wholly within the thimble, or with the open end of the thimble facing upwards, or a two part thimble is not fully closed - then that particular bird is disqualified.

d) If a member times in a wrong pigeon, that print will be disregarded. The member should notify the Clock Committee of this upon returning to the clubrooms for rap off and clock opening.

e) Any number of pigeons can be timed into one clock. More than one rubber can be inserted into each bucket or thimble and more than one member can time into the same clock.

4. AFTER TIMING IN

a) All clocks will have a loss/gain check rap within the confines of the Clubrooms at the nominated time against a Master Timer or the Telephone (number 1194).

b) All clocks must be opened by authorised members who will examine each seal first. Only one clock is to be dealt with at a time.

c) The clock opener/examiner will remove the tape and pass the tape to the authorised tape reader.

d) Tape readers will examine signatures and punch marks to verify that the clock has not been opened since leaving the club. Punch marks should appear only at the commencement and termination of prints. Any other punch marks must bear the signature of the clock setter or the clock will be disqualified. If such disqualification occurs, the member must show cause to the Federation Management Committee as to why that member should not be further penalised, suspended or expelled. The extent of the penalty is at the discretion of the Management Committee.

e) The clock opener/examiner will examine all buckets in the clock. Should any bucket not contain a race rubber, then the corresponding print on the tape to the empty bucket will not be considered and should be crossed out.

f) The clock opener/examiner will remove race rubbers in sequence ensuring that rule 3 above is complied with. The rubber ring from each bucket or thimble will be checked against the tab and the race sheet prior to the next race rubber being removed from the clock.

g) The life band number, rubber race ring number and pigeon details must be recorded on the tape next to the corresponding print.

h) After all buckets have been checked, the clock is to be reassembled (but is not required to be sealed) before returning to its owner/user.

i) The tape reader is responsible for checking and recording the reasons for each print on the tape.

j) Any loss or gain variations on the check print shall be noted and adjustments made to the final reading of the prints.

k) Should the clock stamp between seconds, the time shall be taken forward to the next second.

l) The time as read shall be recorded next to the corresponding print and the member is entitled to inspect his tape should they be dissatisfied with the reading as given.

5. CALCULATING VELOCITIES

- a) The velocity is to be calculated to one (1) decimal point.
- b) In the event of two members' velocities indicating that they are within one (1) second of each other, it shall be deemed that they have equal velocities.

6. ALLOWABLE LOSSES AND GAINS

- a) If a clock loses or gains at a rate of more than 5 minutes in 24 hours, that clock shall be disqualified from that race.
- b) If a clock gains at a rate of more than one and a half seconds per hour, then the gain in excess of one and a half seconds per hour will be regarded as a penalty and not deducted when calculating the corrected flying time.
- c) If a clock loses at a rate of more than one and a half seconds per hour, the extra variation above one and a half seconds per hour will be doubled and added to the flying time.
- d) Any variations less than one and a half seconds per hour will be added or deducted from the corrected flying time in the usual pro rata manner.

7. CLOCKS STOPPING

- a) In the event that a members clock stops before he has timed in, he may:
 - * take the clock to an authorised clock setter for resetting notwithstanding that less than 5 financial members may be present. This event should be reported to the Federation Race Secretary who may decide to take further action if it is a regular occurrence.
 - * use a spare clock which has been set, sealed and rapped in the authorised manner.
 - * time into another members correctly set, sealed and rapped clock.
- b) In the event of a members clock stopping after he has timed in, the member can go to a Federation or Club Committee member to have the seal broken, rubber ring (and thimble if relevant) removed and placed into another members correctly set, rapped and sealed clock. The time shown on this second clock is the one that will be recognised for race purposes.
- c) If in the opinion of the Management Committee, the reason for the clock stopping was that it was insufficiently wound, that member can have their entry fees refunded less expenses. This rule does not apply of course, to battery operated clocks.

8. GENERAL

- a) Any competitor has the right to view another competitor's clock at any time during the progress of a race - provided this does not interfere with the competitor timing in a pigeon.

b) Any competitor taking their clock to a place other than their nominated loft to time in (and thus gaining an unfair advantage) shall be disqualified and must then show the Management Committee due cause as to why they should not be further penalised, suspended or expelled.

c) All mechanical Clocks (i.e. wind up clocks) must not run for more than 96 hours after being set for a race. If holdovers occur or birds aren't timed in within this period, the clocks must be taken to the clubhouse at the designated time and reset. EBSS and Quartz clocks are exempt from this rule.

d) The Management Committee have the right to detain for examination any clock that they consider questionable.

e) A competitor is fully responsible for any clock lent or rented to them by their Club or Federation and must make good any damage incurred whilst the clock is in their possession.

g) If the Management Committee believes a clock needs repairs or attention, it shall have the power to require such service and/or repairs to be carried out, at the member's expense before the clock can be used again.

h) Any clock that is repaired during the racing season must be rechecked by the Clock Committee before being used in any further races.

i) Although not to be encouraged, a member may be allowed to take 2 clocks home PROVIDED that he or she must nominate the clock to be used for the specific race. The second clock is only to be used a spare in an emergency. If the nominated clock is not used FOR ANY REASON, both clocks must be brought back to the club for reading and the reason for not using the nominated clock explained to the clock committee (e.g. the nominated clock stopped or jammed, etc).

j) All race birds shall home unaided in their flight to the surveyed loft of the competitor.

a. Any prizewinning pigeons shall, on request be shown alive to a Committee member within 24 hours of timing in.

b. Any member on application to a Committee member of the ECLDRC shall have the pigeon tossed within 100 metres of the loft which they are supposed to represent. In the event of a tossed bird not homing to the loft the competitor will be disqualified for such race. Tossing shall be within 24 hours of clock checking. Any competitor refusing to comply with this rule will be disqualified from that race.

**ANY MATTER OR QUESTION NOT COVERED OR DEALT WITH IN THESE RULES
SHALL BE DECIDED BY THE FEDERATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THEIR
DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.**