

NEWCASTLE & COALFIELDS RACING PIGEON FEDERATION INC.

CLOCK RULES

Adopted 11/7/2006

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 clocksetter 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 1 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 (ie 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 as 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 (eg the nominated clock stopped or jammed, etc). (*refer management committee minutes dated 6/7/10*).

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.

Amended 5/12/10.