



Transportation & Liberation Guidelines

The Trademarked name of the association shall be the North Road Combine Incorporated hereafter referred to as NRC.

The following sound practices shall be known as North Road Combine (NRC) Incorporated Transportation and Liberation Guidelines. "These guidelines are an attempt to ensure that our birds have every opportunity to navigate home successfully and set parameters within which the Liberation Committee and Liberator are required to operate, in order to avoid foreseeable and therefore preventable losses from occurring."

The practices shall govern the conduct of all persons associated with the NRC. In particular, it shall apply to;

- 1) NRC Club Members and Affiliated Combine Members
- 2) Persons acting for and on behalf of the NRC
- 3) Persons participating in NRC organised events.

If you do not understand your obligations under the Transport and Liberation Guidelines, seek advice from the NRC Management Committee.

1) THE BASIC AIMS OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE:

- 1) To ensure the birds are given every opportunity to return
- 2) To minimise stress on the birds during racing and transportation
- 3) To ensure birds get ample rest prior to liberation
- 4) To ensure birds are not released in unfavourable weather conditions

2) FLYER'S COMMITMENT (Oct 2017):

As part of the NRC Guidelines all NRC Club Members, Affiliated Combine Members and persons participating in NRC organised events are asked to make the following commitment to their own Racing pigeons:

- 1) I will only send fit, healthy, of an appropriate age and well educated birds capable of flying the race distance on the NRC transporter.
- 2) If there is any doubt to the health and fitness of any bird I will leave it at home to recover and be raced another day.
- 3) Time will be taken to teach young birds to eat and drink in baskets prior to racing.
- 4) I will arrive as early as possible (within the set times) basketing night to facilitate the transporter departing at an appropriate time.



3) LIBERATION COMMITTEE COMMITMENT:

Each member of the Liberation Committee makes the following commitment to all NRC Club members, Affiliated Combine members and persons participating in NRC organised events and their pigeons:

- 1) We will investigate prior to the release of birds as far as practicable the forecast weather conditions for the full distance to be covered.
- 2) Communicate with each other and in consultation with the Liberator shall oversee all liberations conducted by the NRC.
- 3) In the event of (unsuitable) inclement weather either at the race point or en-route to Brisbane, shall determine a release time other than the scheduled release time to avoid adverse conditions.
- 4) We will defer release times if conditions improve sufficiently for a release as per the following race distances and times:
 - a) Up to 300km no later than 12.00 Midday
 - b) Up to 500km no later than 10.00 a.m.
 - c) Over 500km no later than 11.00 a.m.
- 5) Should the scheduled release time/s continue to be unsuitable due to inclement weather we shall hold the birds at the race point for a maximum of three (3) days, provided sufficient feed & water is available.
- 6) Will bring the birds back to a shorter release point if adverse conditions (such as strong head winds) are forecast to persist.
- 7) I will make an informed decision aimed at maximising returns.

4) RACE COMMITTEE'S COMMITMENT (Oct 2017):

Each Race / Health Committee of either the NRC Club or NRC Combine Affiliates makes the following commitment to all NRC Club members, Affiliated Combine members and persons participating in NRC organised events and their pigeons:

- 8) We will check and ensure that birds sent to races are fit to fly the distance.
- 9) When under a Club Controlled / Sanctioned Toss; Trainers will be checked to ensure they are fit to be sent to the release point.
- 10) In the event of a dispute as to fitness, the matter will be referred to the Race or Health Committee / Secretary in charge of that basketing centre who shall determine if the bird is fit to be sent.

5) CONVEYOR'S COMMITMENT (Oct 2017):

Each Conveyor / Driver makes the following commitment to all NRC Club members, Affiliated Combine members and persons participating in NRC organised events and their pigeons:

- 1) In all races / tosses, shall provide water for all race birds when under their charge.
- 2) In all races of two (2) days or over (Thur / Wed / Tues night basketing) shall provide food for all race birds when under their responsibility.



6) TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES (Oct 2017):

- 1) All race birds are to have the opportunity to drink after arrival at the racepoint until at least one (1) hour prior to release.
- 2) Members, Clubs and Affiliates are required to observe the maximum limits for birds in NRC crates (for health and welfare reasons), including trainers as set out below:
 - a) Overnight 26 hens or 24 cocks per crate
 - b) Two Nights or More 22 hens or 20 cocks per crate
 - c) Mixed Overnight 25 birds per crate
 - d) Mixed Two Nights or More Not permitted
- 3) The transporter is to arrive at the racepoint in sufficient time to allow at least one hours standing for every 100km travelled by the transporter in positioning to the race point;
 - Liberation and basketing times are to be set so this can be achieved
 - The purpose of this guideline is to allow ample time for the birds to rest prior to their release.
- 4) When birds are basketed for two (2) or more nights before the scheduled release, the transporter is to arrive at the racepoint no later than 3pm on the day prior to release.
 - This is to allow the birds to be fed and watered during daylight
 - Be able to have a full nights rest before liberation
 - Basketing and departure times are to be set so that the transporter can achieve arrival at the release point by 3pm the day before scheduled release.
- 5) Ventilation Aids (exhaust fans & ducting from air vents are to be in good working order)
 - The temperature within the transporter is to be monitored at all times (LED reading in driver's cabin) by the conveyor on route to the race point and while at rest and shall be recorded on the Liberation Report.

7) LIBERATION GUIDELINES (Oct 2017):

The Liberation Committee shall make every effort to avoid clashes with other federations (where possible) by taking into consideration factors such as forecasted weather conditions, liberation times and liberation locations.

- 1) The liberation committee will use Bureau of Meteorology weather reports for all regions to be covered during the race bird's journey home.
 - a) These reports can be accessed via the internet
 - b) These internet reports will be distributed to / accessed by the members of the Liberation Committee the day before



each race so that anticipated weather conditions for the scheduled race day can be anticipated.

- 2) The committee will also access whatever other sources of weather information that they deem appropriate.
- 3) The Committee members are required to pay attention to any forecasts of bad weather, storms systems etc. that are likely to move through the path of our race birds on their journey home.
- 4) Weather checks will be conducted on the morning of the race with:
 - The Liberator/s at the release point
 - The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology)
 - With any known contacts at intermediate locations on the anticipated line of flight between S/E QLD and the release point.
- 5) A telephone conference call between members of the Liberation Committee will be conducted to discuss relevant information that has been gathered before any decision to liberate is to be made.
- 6) Weather reports are to be retained and used as a future reference source.
- 7) In the event of lower than expected returns, the weather forecasts can be reviewed for the purpose of lessons learned to prevent / minimise repeat.
- 8) If at the release point other transporters are releasing prior to NRC's scheduled release the doors and sides of the NRC transporter are to be closed while the other liberations are occurring. This is to keep our birds calm. If they can see the other release they will become agitated and try to get out with the other pigeons and thereby suffer undue stress.
- 9) The Liberation Committee is to be made up of experienced personnel.
- 10) The Liberator/s are to ensure the liberation site is to be left in a clean state.
- 11) The Liberator/s are to complete a liberation report at the end of each race for future reference.

The Liberation Committee shall not liberate the pigeons for any race unless all Committee members agree to do so. The final say on liberation belongs with the Conveyor / Liberator. If, in the opinion of the Liberator at the release point it is felt that the conditions at the race point are unsuitable for a satisfactory liberation then the birds shall be held over (or moved).

Race point/s will only be moved for logistical reasons e.g. roads are flooded or closed, significant headwinds expected (with no change in prognosis within a fair period) or no safe (clear of overhead wires etc.) location can be found within a reasonable timeframe. The welfare of the birds is of the utmost importance. If a race point is to be moved, preference is for as close to on the line of flight as reasonably practicable.



8) NOT TO BE RELEASED (Oct 2017):

The following are conditions that are recommended for pigeons not to be released:

- 1) While it is raining
- 2) Forecast of heavy rain / thunderstorms on the line of flight during the anticipated time on course.
- 3) Totally overcast conditions with low cloud cover and the sun not visible behind the clouds at the release point. I.e. no visible shadow on the ground.
- 4) Wind or gusts in any direction (with the exception of tail winds) from any direction in excess of 40kph.
- 5) Where fog is experienced at the release point or is forecast / known to exist at critical locations on the line of flight.
- 6) When unexpected delays have caused the transporter to arrive at the racepoint late and this does not allow enough rest time to meet the scheduled liberation time or the liberation time is not able to be delayed sufficiently to allow the bird to return prior to hour of darkness (Note* it is acknowledged that the scheduled Early as Possible (EAP) release on the longer race/s will not meet the hours of darkness requirement)
- 7) Where the forecast temperature during the day along the line of flight are anticipated to exceed 35 degrees.

9) INTERPRETATION (Oct 2017)

- 1) The NRC Race Committee in matters of dispute or where these Guidelines are silent shall interpret the meaning and intention of the Guideline in the best interests of the Race birds.
- 2) The Guidelines are designed to ensure that in all Club, Combine and / or Invitation races each bird has a reasonable and equal chance of returning.
- 3) The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

10) ALTERATION (Oct 2017)

- 1) Members or Affiliates may submit a request to the NRC Committee to alter these guidelines.
- 2) Requests must state the existing clause to be amended or deleted or if a new clause is to be added. Reasons for the change, addition or deletion must also be given.
- 3) The committee may call a General Meeting or conduct a (phone) ballot or questionnaire of the Members to gauge their feelings.
- 4) Each guideline shall show the year it was inserted or last amended.
- 5) The Members at each AGM shall ratify the Guidelines for the forthcoming racing year.

