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## **PART 2 - RACING RULES**

### **1. RACING SCHEDULES**

1. The start date of any race schedule will be influenced by a number of factors including route, arrangements made with neighbouring Racing Pigeon Federations to transport race birds of the SERPC INC. to any race point etc.
2. All flying members accumulate points as races are conducted and places achieved. Points shall be allocated as follows; 1<sup>st</sup> place = 1 point, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 3 points and so on. Clock malfunctions, not trapping in race time and non-participation for any scheduled race means the flying member will occupy last position and accumulate maximum points.
3. The schedule should, when possible, have an even number of sprint races (up to 350kms) and distance races (from 400kms) measured from the loft deemed to be

central to all current financial flying members of the **SERPC**. Deciding the central loft will be a simple matter of line of flight distances from proposed racing points.

4. The racing schedule sprint races are an important education tool for young racing pigeons. At a minimum there will be at least 2 races conducted from each race point in succession before moving on to the next race point.
5. All races that are postponed for any reason whatsoever will only be conducted again if the majority of the flying membership votes in favour of conducting the postponed race before continuing with the current racing schedule **BUT** only if the conduct of that postponed race does not place into jeopardy the remainder of the current racing schedule.
6. If there are any changes to the racing schedule during the racing season the minimum notice of change is by **4 pm the night before scheduled basketing**.

## **2. RACING FEES**

1. All race fees and bird limits will be decided by majority vote of eligible flying members at the AGM conducted immediately prior to the commencement of the racing schedule/season.
2. Flying members must nominate by the conduct of the season's first scheduled race if they are flying both the sprint and long series races or only one of the series scheduled.
3. Race fees for the current racing season must be paid in full on or before basketing night of the first scheduled race for the season.

## **3. SURPLUS BASKETS & BIRD LIMITS (updated from AGM April 2025)**

1. The bird limit for any race conducted by the South East Racing Pigeon Combine Inc. shall be 45.
2. Surplus birds will be permitted. Surplus liberation will be at least 30 minutes before or after the race birds have been liberated. Before or after will be at the discretion of the Liberator on that day. There will be no costs incurred by members who send surplus birds.
3. Toss birds will be permitted from the second race point onwards. The location of that liberation will be the first race point of the schedule for that year. Toss birds will be liberated on the return trip after race and surplus birds have been liberated. There will be no costs for members who send toss birds.
4. Numbers of surplus and toss birds will be determined by space availability in accordance with the recommendations made by the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board for the transport of racing pigeons.

## **4. DETERMINING VELOCITIES**

1. The lofts of all competitors shall be surveyed and measured by the GPS, carried out by an official of the SERPC INC. or his/her nominated officer.
2. All races shall be flown under the velocity system that is, the actual flying time (after making allowances for clock variations as per clock rules) divided into the distance for that particular race point with the result expressed as a rate of metres per minute.
3. The racing pigeon flying the highest velocity shall be declared the winner.
4. All velocities are to be calculated to the third decimal point.

5. The velocity of a bird homing from a race is determined by dividing the corrected flying time of that pigeon into the distance for that particular loft. The correct portion of the loss or gain to be added or subtracted is provided by the electronic clock at time of evaluation.
6. Two-Bird velocities shall be determined by doubling the appropriate distance and dividing it by the sum of the corrected flying times of the two birds.
7. Should any competitor have made such a velocity that the financial membership of the SERPC INC. considers on the balance of probabilities unlikely for the race, then the financial members of the SERPC INC. by majority vote shall have absolute power to disqualify the bird in the said race, although there may be no evidence to suggest or support fraudulent practice of the competitor or any other person responsible for the marking or despatching of the birds to or at the race point.
8. Protests as to the published result of any race shall be lodged with the Race Secretary within seven (7) days of publication of such results.

## **5. OWNERSHIP**

1. Each bird entered in a contest conducted by the SERPC INC. 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 SERPC INC. life ring by which the bird will be identified on any entry form for that particular contest.
2. Any member/s or intending member/s who make purchases at any Squeaker Sales, Ring Sales etc. at any of the Affiliated Clubs of the SERPC INC. and defaults payment by the due date as prescribed by that affiliated Club that person's shall be deemed unfinancial and not entitled to the usual privileges of a financial member of the SERPC INC. until that debt is paid in full.

## **6. LIFE RINGS**

1. The life rings must bear a recognised SERPC INC., Association or Club prefix, year of issue and number.
2. An additional centralized stray contact phone number shall be allowed on these rings.
3. These rings shall not be issued to fliers before the 1st June each year to be eligible for the SERPC INC. Young Bird Derby.
4. Life rings must be ordered by the SERPC INC. Ring Secretary in sufficient time to allow the issue of life rings to SERPC INC. members from the 1<sup>st</sup> June of each year.
5. Date of issue of life rings shall not be before the 1st June each year.
6. All pigeons shall be rung with a life ring at the age of 5 – 12 days. Any pigeon rung with a current year ring and in the opinion of the Management Committee is not a yearling is to be presented to a Veterinary Surgeon approved by the SERPC INC. for assessment and clarification and his/hers decision shall be binding on the SERPC INC. and owner.
7. The cost of such action shall be covered by the owner only if it is found that the bird is not of the age indicated by the bird's life ring. In all other circumstances the SERPC INC. will be responsible for the cost of such action.
8. Birds double rung with life rings are not eligible to compete in any races conducted by the SERPC INC...

9. Birds whose life ring is not intact are not eligible to be entered into any race conducted by or participated in by the SERPC INC...

#### Foreign Rings;

1. A list of all foreign rings regardless of age signed and dated by the member shall be handed to the Club Ring Secretary before the commencement of the race programme.

### **7. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP**

1. A member shall be required to produce within 48 hours from the date of demand, providing that the demand is made prior to the payment of prize money, a certificate and/or receipt from the Secretary of the Club which issued the ring, to the effect that the competitor is the rightful owner of the ring or if the ring has been transferred from one person to another, a certificate to that effect.
2. Failure to produce a certificate and/or receipt in the required time shall render the bird carrying the ring ineligible for competition and any prize money will be forfeited.
3. Any member reported and found guilty of racing a stray pigeon a two (2) week suspension from all SERPC INC. races shall apply.
4. All race birds shall home unaided in their flight to the surveyed loft of the competitor.
5. Any prizewinning pigeons shall, on request be shown alive to an Office Bearer of the SERPC INC. within 24 hours of timing in.
6. Any member on application to an Office Bearer of the SERPC INC. shall have the relevant prizewinning 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.
7. Tossing shall be within 24 hours of clock checking. Any competitor refusing to comply with this rule will be disqualified from that race.

### **8. MASTER SHEETS AND RACE FORMS:**

The SERPC INC. will prior to racing, supply each Club 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. Care should be taken in compiling these sheets as follows;

#### Master Sheets;

1. Individual flyers names are to be entered in the space provided by Race Secretaries, together with the number of birds entered and cost.
2. Number of birds and cost for each type of pool, nomination or loft.
3. 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.

#### Race Entry Forms;

#### Electronic Clock Entries;

1. Electronic entry printout shall contain the following: - Club initials, sex, year, ring number and the assigned electronic ring number.
2. 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".

#### **9. SERPC INC. CONDUCTED RACES:**

1. Properly compiled sheets as per racing rules, together with total flying costs shall be in the hands of the SERPC INC. Race Secretary at the times specified below. No late entries after these times shall be accepted.
2. Any feature race such as the Young Bird Derby will have a 5 Bird Limit.

#### **10. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:**

1. Approved scanning systems are Benzing.
2. Any competitor wishing to compete in the SERPC INC. All Age Derby shall compete in at least six previous scheduled races of the current schedule and be a fully paid financial flying member for the entire season with the SERPC INC...

#### **11. MARKING OF BIRDS:**

1. All birds entered in competition shall carry a rubber race ring of an approved type bearing at least one number and one other symbol except when fitted with an Electronic Scanning Band.
2. Plain marking rings are acceptable on birds entered for competition in all SERPC INC. conducted races.
3. Three (3) financial SERPC INC. members shall be present before any birds are accepted for competition.
4. Competitor or their partner is not allowed to handle their pigeons whilst being scanned on an EBSS prior to the dispatch of birds.

#### **12. BASKETING:**

All birds shall be basketed in the club room or at another centre approved by the SERPC INC.

#### **13. ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL OF ENTRIES:**

1. The Race Secretary of the SERPC INC. 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.
2. All birds to be accepted by the SERPC INC. are entirely at the owner's risk once they leave the owner's hands.
3. That all members' birds are vaccinated against PMV1 prior to that member racing in the SERPC INC.

#### **14. PERMISSIBLE FLYING TIME:**

Birds flying in a race;

1. Not exceeding 221 Kilometres shall be home within 24 hours of liberation.

2. 221 kilometres and not exceeding 616 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on second day.
3. 616 kilometres and not exceeding 966 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on third day.
4. 966 kilometres and not exceeding 1126 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on fourth day.
5. One day extra for each extra 160 kilometres over the 1126 kilometres.
6. The distance to the longest competitor in the race is to be taken.
7. The duration of a day shall mean the period of time from 60 minutes before sunrise to 60 minutes after sunset, sunrise and sunset to be regarded as occurring as supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
8. The period of time between 60 minutes after sunset to 60 minutes before sunrise shall be termed HOURS OF DARKNESS, and are to be omitted in calculation of velocities.
9. In the event of a bird or birds homing in the hours of darkness, when the race is of more than one day's duration, then position or positions of such bird or birds in race shall be calculated by velocity system on actual flying time, taking into account the hours of darkness up to timing in.
10. Birds homing on that day or during that day's hour of darkness cannot be beaten by any bird or birds homing on any subsequent day.
11. In the event of birds homing in the hours of darkness, the competitor may notify a SERPC INC. Office Bearer and if possible, the competitor to have their clock rung off on the hour after timing in by a SERPC INC. Office Bearer (not related to the flyer).

## **15. LIBERATION:**

1. The liberating of the birds on a race day is in the hands of the liberator.
2. All liberations should not occur before 8 am until the long series races commence. Once the long series races commence liberation will occur as scheduled.
3. In the event of a disagreement between the Liberator and any current flying member of the SERPC INC., the Liberator shall contact the SERPC INC. President and explain the position and the reason for the disagreement by one of the SERPC INC. members.
4. The President after examining the situation shall have the power to overrule the dissenting member, providing the decision is made in accordance with liberation protocols.
5. Should the birds go to the race point and the weather is unfavourable for liberation on the day specified, birds shall be held over, fed and watered.
6. The birds shall be liberated the next day (weather permitting) not earlier than 8.00 am except when stipulated earlier as per schedule.
7. Liberations can be made up to 2 hours later than time scheduled for Friday night basketing only.
8. If birds cannot be liberated within the scheduled time on the Sunday, birds shall be returned and a "no race" be declared.
9. In the event of a "no race" birds will be returned to the SERPC INC. club rooms or a place appointed by the SERPC INC., where they must be picked up by their respective owners on the day of return.

10. Wednesday and Thursday night basketing, where possible birds can remain at a liberation point for a maximum of four days from and including the scheduled liberation day.

#### **16. TEAMS OF BIRDS:**

1. Each competitor in the SERPC INC. shall be restricted to race one team of birds from the one postal address.
2. Where two or more competitors are flying from the one postal address, the competitors must make application to the SERPC INC. to fly separate teams, and the decision of the SERPC INC. membership (by majority) is final and binding on all competitors and no further appeal shall be made against the decision.
3. In any such case of two or more competitors receiving permission to fly separate teams from the one postal address, each competitor shall be required to supply a complete list of their individual birds, prior to the commencement of the race program each season, to the Race Secretary of the SERPC INC...
4. Where two or more competitors are flying from the one postal address, those competitors are only entitled to one joint vote as flying members of the SERPC INC... They are not entitled to an individual vote.

#### **17. DISQUALIFICATION:**

1. EBSS chip code must correspond on entry and result printouts and must be checked for correctness. Any discrepancies that particular entry shall be disqualified.

#### **18. DEFINITION OF A RACE:**

A pigeon race must:

1. Involve more than one (1) competitor and.
2. Be at least sixty kms from any competitor's loft.

Should any competitor not be at least 60 kms from any race point they are not entitled to participate in the actual race BUT are still able to send surplus pigeons.

If this instance does occur the South East Racing Pigeon Combine Incorporated (SERPC Inc.) point score will not commence until all competitors are at least 60 kms from any given race point.

The distance from any race point to any competitors loft is measured in a straight line of flight.

#### **19. RACE DAYS**

1. The South East Racing Pigeon Combine Incorporated (SERPC Inc.) will conduct its scheduled races on Saturdays.
2. Should any scheduled race not be able to be conducted on Saturday due to established liberation protocols not being able to be met then that scheduled race will be conducted the next day being Sunday.
3. Should that scheduled race not be able to be conducted on the next day being Sunday due to established liberation protocols not being able to be met then that scheduled race will be conducted on the Friday immediately before or the Monday

immediately after dependant on established liberation protocols being met AND the availability of a liberator.

4. If the scheduled race cannot be conducted due to established liberation protocols not being able to be met OR the unavailability of a liberator, then that scheduled race will be cancelled.
5. Whether or not that cancelled race is conducted in the future will be determined by already established protocols.

#### **20. RACE DAYS (changed from AGM April 2025)**

1. The rule concerning the release of any birds by members of the SERPC Inc on race day and whilst the race is still current is abolished, instead relying on members common sense and a gentlemen's agreement not to release birds from any location where that release could impact the return of SERPC Inc race birds to their home lofts.

#### **21. MEMORIAL RACES (introduced from AGM April, 2025)**

1. All memorial races conducted by the SERPC Inc. will have a life span of 10 consecutive race seasons. Once the 10<sup>th</sup> race season has passed formal arrangements made to have the trophy for that memorial race presented to surviving family members of the flyer for whom the memorial race is conducted.