

## **RACE RULES OF THE SHOALHAVEN PIGEON FEDERATION INC 2014**

1. The route to be flown by the Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation, is the same route as the South Coast Pigeon Federation fly.

2. **BOUNDARY**

The boundary of the Federation shall be the boundaries of the City of Shoalhaven and the Parish of Broughton Municipality of Kiama. The northern boundary of the Parish of Broughton is located approximately at the Water Reservoir, Princes Highway, MT Pleasant Ridge. These boundaries take in the three (3) clubs now affiliated with the SPF and their club members Lofts situated within this boundary are located within the Federation boundary.

3. **DETERMINING VELOCITIES**

- a) The distance of all competitors shall be surveyed by the GPS System by a person/s nominated by the Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation for all races. A Photostat copy of each competitor's distance shall be supplied to the Federation using the protocol of:- take GPS coordinates of the loft at each flyers residence , check using Google Earth program for accuracy and if correct, insert the flyers coordinates into the pigeonresults.com program to generate distances from each liberation point.
- b) All races shall be flown under the velocity system, that is, the actual flying time after making allowances for clock variation divided into the distance for that particular race point as provided in Rule 3a, with the result expressed at a rate of meters per minute. The bird flying the highest velocity shall be declared the winner.
- c) Should any competitor be credited by the Race Secretary with having made such a velocity that the Committee considers impossible on the day, then the Committee 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 dispatching of the birds to or at the race point.
- d) Protest to a published result of any race must be lodged with the Race Secretary within seven (7) days of publication of such results.
- e) In the event of a dead-heat still remaining after the velocities have been calculated to second decimal, the velocities shall be worked to the third decimal. If a dead heat still remains prize money to be divided.

4. **OWNERSHIP**

Each bird entered in a contest conducted by the Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation or the Clubs must be the bonifide property of the person in whose name it is entered and must be rung with a perfect and intact recognized Homing Pigeon Club or Federation life ring by which the bird will be identified on any entry form for that particular contest.

## 5. **LIFE RINGS**

- a) As of the 1992 racing season all life rings are to be plastic covered type as approved by Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation and bear only the SPF prefix, Year of issue, ring number and the contact phone number of the ring secretary.
- b) Squeakers purchased from flyers outside of the Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation, which use their Federation approved ring, will be acceptable on proof of clearance.
- c) Date of issue of life rings shall not be before the 1 of June each year.
- d) Yearlings shall be rung with a life ring at the age of 5-12 days. Any bird that in the opinion of the Committee is not a yearling is to be presented to a Veterinary Surgeon approved by the Federation for clarification and the decision of which shall be binding on the Federation and owner. The payment of such action shall be determined by the Federation, failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the bird or the competitor depending on the circumstances.

## 6. **PROOF OF OWNERSHIP**

- a) Any competitor may be required to produce within twenty four (24) hours from the date of demand, proof of ownership of the bird they have entered into competition, providing that the demand is made prior to the seven (7) day limit allowed for protests to be heard. A SPF proof of ownership form is available on the pigeonrace.net web site for downloading. Failure to produce proof of ownership in the time allowed will render the bird carrying the ring in question ineligible for competition and any prize money will be forfeited.
- b) All birds must home to the surveyed loft of the competitor. All prize winners, on request are to be shown alive to a Committee person of the Federation within twenty four (24) hours of timing in. Any competitor on application to a Committee person of the federation shall have the pigeon tossed within hundred (100) metres of the loft 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.

## 7. **MASTER SHEETS AND RACE ENTRY FORMS**

- a) **MASTER SHEETS:** Individual flyers names are to be entered in the space provided by the Club Secretaries, together with (1) the number of birds entered and cost; (2) number of birds and cost for each type of pool, nomination of loft; (3) the total cost only for each competitor in the final column. Entries in each column are then totaled and cross balanced, i.e. sum of columns should agree with final total in bottom right hand corner. Consequently this balanced amount is the correct amount to be forwarded to the Federation Race Secretary and must be paid upon lodgement of the master sheet.

- b) **RACE ENTRY FORMS** Detail for each pigeon entered under color, sex, club initials, year and ring 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 will be entered in the space provided. Race entry forms when complete must be signed by the competitor and submitted to the Race Secretary prior to the acceptance of his/her's birds. Race entry forms must be in duplicate. One entry form shall be retained by the Club for verification purposes and the other entry form must be forwarded to the Federation Race Secretary. Race entry forms must be written in ink, excluding Electronic Timing Systems which use a duplicate printout.
- c) All flyers competing in combines can mark their birds entered in a particular combine by marking their race entry sheet clearly, whether it be hand written or a print out copy.

## 8 **CLOSE OF ENTRIES**

Properly compiled sheets as per rule 7b and 7c, together with total flying cost must be in hands of Federation Race Secretary at the times specified. No late or unpaid entries after these times will be accepted.

## 9. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

- a) Any club with members wishing to compete in a Federation combine must have four competitors competing in the Club race to be eligible to basket in their own Club room. Clubs with less than four competitors must basket, set clocks and ring off at their nearest neighboring club or approved basketing centre. Four competitors must be present at all times during the ringing and dispatching of the birds.
- b) When the South route is flown, the SPF applies to the SCF to find out how much it would cost to transport the SPF birds on the SCF transporter to access whether it would be financially viable for the SPF to go on the SCF transporter and from which race point the SCF would take our birds.
- c) When the Northern route is flown, the SPF applies to the SCF to find out how much it would cost to transport the SPF birds on the SCF transporter to access whether it would be financially viable for the SPF to go on the SCF transporter and from which race point the SCF would take our birds.
- d) Half Season: An individual financial flying member is entitled to fly a half season. At a Pro Rata fee set by the SPF Management Committee, while our birds are being transported on the SPF transporter only.
- e) A flyer, who nominates not to fly a full season, will not be eligible to continue in the second half of season. Nominations for half or full season must be in the hands of the Secretary at the Management Committee Meeting in April.

10. **MARKING OF BIRDS**

- a) All birds entered in competition will carry a rubber race ring of an approved type bearing at least one number and one other secret number. **This does not include ETS systems.**
- b) Marking rings will be allowed on birds entered for contest.
- c) Upon production of the race sheet and the birds, the sheet will be handed to a clerk who will endorse the number of the rubber ring allotted to each pigeon in the space provided on the race sheet for such particulars. When all entries from that competitor have been recorded the clerk will sign the race sheet as evidence that all birds recorded herein have been accounted for.
- d) A clerk will not partly complete a race sheet as to rubber ring numbers and leave it for another person to complete. Once started, the clerk will be required to complete the race sheet or sheets for that competitor.
- e) No competitor or partner shall endorse the rubber ring numbers on his own race sheet.
- f) Race sheets when signed by the clerk will be placed together with the tabs of the rubber rings in a receptacle for each competitor. Such receptacles are to be sealed in master container for the duration of the race.
- g) The master container shall not be opened except in the presence of at least three officers of the Federation or the Club.
- h) At least four competitors must be present before and birds are accepted for competition.
- i) No competitor or partner shall handle his pigeons whilst being fitted or after being fitted with rubber rings prior to the dispatch of birds.

11. **BASKETING**

- a) All birds must be basketed in the club room or at another basketing centre approved by the Federation.
- b) The commencing time and closing time of basketing shall be fixed by the Clubs in consultation with the Federation Race Secretary to meet transportation pick up restraints.
- c) All baskets shall be in good order and approved by the Federation Committee.
- d) All doors on each basket shall be sealed with twine or cable ties before leaving club rooms.
- e) All clubs conveying birds to the Federation loading point on basketing night and are competing in a Federation combine 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 Federation loading point.

12. **ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL OF ENTRIES**

- a) The committee or responsible officials of the Federation 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.
- b) All birds to be accepted by the Federation and the Club entirely at the owners risk once they leave the owners hands.

13. **PERMISSIBLE FLYING TIME**

- a) Birds flying in a race:
  - 1) Up to and including 220 kilometers shall be home within twenty four (24) hours of liberation
  - 2) 221 Kilometers to 615 kilometres shall be home by 1 hour after sunset on the second day
  - 3) 616 kilometres to 965 kilometres shall be home by 1 hour after sunset on the third day
  - 4) 966 kilometres to 1125 kilometres shall be home by 1 hour after sunset of the fourth day
- b) The distance to the longest competitor in the race to be taken.
- c) The duration of the 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 stated in Sydney Morning Herald or issued by the Australian Pigeon Fancier Association or the Bureau of Meteorology.
- d) The period of time between 60 minutes after sunset to 60 minutes before sunrise shall be termed THE HOURS OF DARKNESS; and are to be omitted in calculation of velocities. 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 i.e. taking into account the hours of darkness up to timing in.
- e) Birds homing on that day or during the day's hours of darkness cannot be beaten by any bird or birds homing on any subsequent day.
- f) In the event of birds homing in the hours of darkness, the competitor shall notify a Federation or Club official. If possible the competitor to have his clock rung off on the hour after timing in by the Federation or Club official.

14. **LIBERATION**

- a) Each club/Society shall appoint a Contact Officer to receive/obtain the liberation information from the liberation committee or they can view the liberation information on the pigeonrace.net web site.
- b) Should the birds go to the race point and the weather is unfavorable for liberation on the day specified, birds shall be held over, fed and watered. The birds shall be liberated the next day (weather permitting) at 8:00am except when stipulated earlier as per schedule. Liberation can be made up to two hours later than the time scheduled. E.A.P is half (1/2) hour after local sunrise.
- c) Friday night basketing only- if the birds cannot be liberated within the scheduled time on the Sunday, birds shall be returned and a "no race" be declared. In the event of a "no race" birds will be returned to each club where they must be picked up by their respective members on the day of return.

**NEW RULES.**

**SOUTH ROUTE.** The SPF liberate on their own following the SCF up to the first Eden and then liberate with the SCF from the second Eden and each race thereafter for the season.

**NORTH ROUTE.** The SPF liberate on their own following the SCF up to the first race point up to 200 klms after this race point the SPF liberate our birds alongside the SCF with them.

15. **TEAMS OF BIRDS**

- a) Each competitor in the Federation shall be restricted to race one team of birds from the one postal address. Where two or more competitors are flying from separate lofts at the one postal address, competitors must make application to the Federation to fly separate teams and the decision of the Federation Committee is final and binding on all competitors and no further appeal shall be made against the decision.
- b) If two flyers flying from one postal address if one flyer buys rings for both flyers then two lists of rings must be submitted but if they buy individual rings no list of pigeons need not be submitted.

16. **PRIZES**

- a) In all races conducted by the Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation prizes will be one prize in every six (6) competitors with a maximum of five (5) prizes. Prize money shall be divided on a percentage basis, the percentages are.

**PERCENTAGES ARE**

Three (3) prizes    1<sup>st</sup> = 50%    2<sup>nd</sup> = 30%    3<sup>rd</sup> = 20%

Four (4) prizes    1<sup>st</sup> = 48%    2<sup>nd</sup> = 28%    3<sup>rd</sup> = 18%    4<sup>th</sup> = 6%

Five (5) prizes    1<sup>st</sup> = 46%    2<sup>nd</sup> = 26%    3<sup>rd</sup> = 16%    4<sup>th</sup> = 7%    5<sup>th</sup> = 5%

- b) In the event of there being insufficient birds to fill the places in race time, the birds home shall take all monies that they are entered for and any balance shall be divided between the birds in the same manner as the allocation of the prizes.
- c) Each competitor shall be allowed only one prize in any race unless determined otherwise before hand and one prize in the pools in which all places are filled.
- d) In the event of no birds homing before the close of the race, prize money shall be returned to the clubs on a pro-rata basis after expenses have been deducted.

17. **DISQUALIFICATION**

- a) Should a rubber ring number not correspond with the number as stated on the race entry sheet or with the tab retained by the federation or club for that entrant, the pigeon credited with that number shall be disqualified from that particular race.
- b) Should a bird home without a rubber ring it will be barred from taking any position in that race.
- EBSS chip code must correspond on entry and result printouts and must be checked for correctness. Any discrepancies and that particular entry shall be disqualified.

**OPEN POOLS**

One (1) prize only in all open pools.

18. **LIST OF COMPEITORS**

Each affiliated club shall supply a complete list of competitor's names and addresses to the Secretary of the Federation prior to the first race.

19. **FEDERATION IMMUNITY**

- a) The Federation shall not be responsible for the loss or damage of any Club or Individuals property during the race season. Clubs are responsible for all allocated Federation race baskets while in their possession both during and after the race season.