

The following tossing and race protocols are recommended during the COVID 19 pandemic. These regulations apply irrespective of the more relaxed protocols currently in place. The purpose of this system is to protect the fanciers from COVID infection and to minimise contact with the public and other fanciers. This system offers the gold standard of protection without severely disrupting the enjoyment of the sport of racing pigeons. This protocol may be amended based upon state regulations.

Tossing Protocol

Members must comply with state health regulations regarding social distancing and any other directive.

- There must be no interaction between fanciers at a toss point. Therefore, if a fancier arrives at a toss point and sees another person tossing, then he must not enter that area until the other person has left.
- Unless an immediate family member from the same household, there must be no accompanying people in the car whilst transporting the birds. This applies during lockdown and may be relaxed as social distancing regulations ease.
- There must be no interaction with members of the public at the release point and the fancier must vacate the area within 5 minutes of arrival.

Racing Protocol

Members must comply with state health regulations regarding social distancing and any other directive. At all times members must comply with social distancing regulations and hygiene as detailed below. Each club must have a health officer to demonstrate the requirements to all club members. A copy of this protocol should be given to each member and it should always be kept in their car when transporting the pigeons.

- Social distancing must be practiced when basketing and registering pigeons for a race. Our recommendation is that there should be no more than 3 people in a club room at a given time.
 - One person works on the clock, another directs the sex and cage number of where the pigeons go and the other takes the pigeons to the basket.
 - Each of these people must wear disposable gloves and change and wash hands in between each fancier and after the basket and clock has been returned to the front door. A dedicated rubbish bin for used gloves must be used.
 - A 1.5 metre distance between each person must always be strictly enforced .
 - Each fancier is to bring his basket and clock to the club door to be processed by the members within the club and then wait in his car until he is called to collect the baskets and clock.
 - There must be no interaction of pigeon fanciers in the car park. For this reason, it is best to make a roster of basketing time for each fancier.
- Transporting the baskets from the clubhouse to the federation truck must also follow social distancing rules. This means the baskets must be carried with a fancier at each end of the basket to comply with social distancing rules.
- There should be only 1 person in the vehicle transporting the pigeon baskets at the one time unless an immediate family member. If another person must attend the federation truck, then they must travel in a separate car.
- At the federation truck we recommend that the baskets be left near the truck for loading by dedicated employees of the federation and that the club members do not interact with this process. Similarly, when the empty baskets are to be picked up, there is no interaction between club and federation persons.
- Heat treatment of empty baskets by gurney spray after each race is recommended to kill potential coronavirus contamination during the handling process on and off the transporter.
- **Clocking protocol** should limit interaction between club members. It is recommended that this process be on the same basis as basketing.
- All surfaces of the club house should be disinfected at the conclusion of basketing in readiness for the next basket night.

All members will be asked to sign a copy of this protocol prior to being permitted to fly.