

APPENDIX 'A' (See Rule 171)

Performance enhancing drugs/substances

1. These rules are drawn up by the VPU Committee under the powers granted by virtue of Rule 171.

2(a) The use in pigeons of the following are strictly forbidden:

ANABOLIC STEROIDS, BETA AGONISTS, CORTICOSTEROIDS, ANTI-INFLAMMATORY, NON-STEROIDS, OPIATES, ANALGESICS, PERFORMANCE ENHANCING STIMULANTS, SYNTHETIC HORMONES, AND ANY DRUG FOUND TO BE PERFORMANCE ENHANCING PLUS ANY SUBSTANCE WHICH MAY BE USED IN AN ATTEMPT TO MASK THE ABOVE.

When products of which the composition is not specified are administered, we advise members to ask for an attestation from their pharmacist or vet stating that the product does not contain forbidden substances.

2(b) It is illegal to import any enhancing drugs/substances contained in 2(a) in accordance with Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulation 1956 amended 27th October 2018. This includes any overseas pigeon vaccines.

Any member found to have contravened the importation regulation and found guilty by the VPU Committee shall be expelled from the VPU for life. The evidence gathered shall be forwarded to the relevant authorities for their legal process against that member in accordance with the law.

3(a) In order to detect the above banned substances, the VPU is authorised to take immediate steps, namely for taking of samples before, during or after the race, from the lofts or pigeons of its members.

3(b) A random sample may also be taken from the baskets used to transport the pigeons from the member's loft to the basketing rooms. It is in the interest of every member to ensure that the basket and its contents is free from any trace of the substances listed in paragraph 2 of Appendix A. It is the member's responsibility to ensure that their baskets are not tampered with, infected, contaminated or in any way handled by other members.

4. Only a suitably trained person, authorised by the VPU in the presence of a witness is to collect samples. At no time shall the owner/member or representative take part in the collection of faeces. The collection of samples will be carried out by persons authorised by the VPU on behalf of the organisation requiring the test.

5. A sample may be taken from a member's loft or pigeons as laid down in paragraph 3(b). Two samples, A & B will be taken for testing. The sample/s will be sealed and labelled in the presence of the affiliated member or his/her nominee. The sample/s will be sent to the Laboratory P.O. box contained on the sample packaging and the documentation labelled. F1 will be returned to the VPU by the official referred to in paragraph 4 together with the

appropriate fee. Only the laboratory authorised by the VPU can carry out testing of sample A. In the event of a positive test, sample B will be retained by the VPU authorised Laboratory until notified in writing by the VPU President that the sample may be destroyed.

6. Any tests that are referred back to the VPU as being incorrectly taken may be subject to charge (please ensure all written instructions within the testing kit provided are fully completed).

7. Upon receipt of the result, the President shall forward the details in confidence to the affiliated member or his/her nominee, the race Committee and the member's Club concerned. Whilst waiting for a test result, the owner/member of the suspected pigeon(s) shall not have any claim to any prize or title which any of his/her/her pigeons may have achieved. If the resulting test is negative this/her restriction will be lifted immediately.

8. If the result is positive, notification would be by registered mail. The information will also be conveyed in confidence to the VPU Committee.

9. In the case of a clearly positive result of a test, including those of the first analysis, all costs shall be borne by the offender.

10. Medical treatment may not be used as justification should the result prove positive. Pigeons undergoing medical treatment with substances containing those listed in paragraph 2 cannot take part in races and must not be in a part of the loft dedicated to racing. In the seven days following the closure of a race in which they have taken part, the pigeons may not be treated with any substance listed in paragraph 2.

11. A member of the VPU who is guilty of breaking these rules will, in the case of a positive analysis, be suspended with immediate effect, subject to appeal direct to the VPU. Such appeal must be lodged with the President within 5 days of a positive result. A non-refundable appeal fee of \$200 must be paid within the same time frame. His/her fee will include the full sample analysis report provided by the testing laboratory. The appellant will have the opportunity for the second sample (sample B) to be tested by a laboratory of their choice. The appellant shall give notice in writing to the President within 21 days of notification of a positive test result stating the grounds for appeal. Where the test of sample B has been requested the appellant has to disclose the result to the VPU prior to the Appeal Hearing. Whilst under appeal the member may continue to compete but any winnings must be withheld and will follow the final result of the appeal. The Committee may delegate the hearing of the appeal to a performance enhancing drugs appeal committee and its decision will be final. If found guilty under VPU Rule 171, the penalties are as laid down; a minimum period of **three years** suspension or expulsion from the VPU. Any prize(s) won in the 7 day period prior to the test will be forfeited.

12. If the owner or his/her nominee refuses or impedes the collection of samples, they will lay themselves open to the penalties as laid down in VPU Rule 171 as though they had been found guilty of using a substance as laid down in paragraph 2.

13. The owner/member or his/her/her nominee may demand proof of identity and sight of the authorization of persons (minimum of two) who take the samples.

14. Details of how to collect samples are included with the kit supplied by the President. All charges involved will be given on application to the Committee.

15. Any member of the VPU who is found to have aided and abetted any other person, either actively or passively, in the administration of performance enhancing drugs, or attempts to disguise their administration shall be deemed guilty and will be dealt with under Rule 171.

16. It will be the President's prerogative to nominate who will be randomly tested and under what criteria.