

MEMBERS HANDBOOK

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PART 1 - CONSTITUTION

1. **OBJECTS:**

The principal objects of the Federation ("CCF") are:

1.1 To foster, develop, encourage and promote the sport of homing pigeon racing.

1.2 To manage and conduct competition within the sport of homing pigeon racing.

1.3 Protection and advancement of the interests of its Members in all matters connected with the sport.

1.4 The establishment and operation of a system of transportation and liberation of pigeons and to supply reliable liberators to attend the birds in liberation at different race points.

1.5 To be committed to creating a sustainable future for Pigeon Racing in NSW. To encourage fair play and an open friendly environment for all Pigeon Flyers. At all times to fully support the health and welfare of our Racing Pigeons!

1.6 Any other activities which the Management Committee deems appropriate.

2. **AFFILIATIONS:**

2.1 The CCF may enter into any arrangements for reciprocal concessions or affiliation with any Association or Federation with like aims and objectives to it and for the benefits of its members.

3. **EMPLOYEES:**

3.1 (a) Secretary/Treasurer (Salaried)
(b) Liberator (Casual)
(c) Transport Driver (Casual)
(d) Four Loaders (Casual)

3.2 **OFFICE BEARERS:**

(a) President
(b) Senior Vice-President
(c) Junior Vice-President
(d) Assistant Secretary
(e) Nine elected members to formulate the CCF Management Committee. (Adopted AGM 16/02/2015)

3.3 **Duties:**

(a) **President.**
Shall be Chairperson at all meetings and shall be an ex-officio member of any Committee formed by the CCF. The President shall conduct all meetings in accordance with the Constitution, shall have the casting vote at all meetings chaired, shall ensure all office bearers carry out their duties in accordance with the Constitution and generally oversee the management of the CCF.

(b) **Secretary/Treasurer. ("Secretary")**
Shall attend to the general business of the CCF, maintain minutes of all CCF meetings, attend to all correspondence, keep a record of all members, and keep a record of all attendances at meetings. The Secretary **shall** receive all monies, give official receipts therefore, deposit all monies with the Bank handling the CCF finances, have charge and maintain all proper books of account, cheque and receipt books and Bank accounts, pay all accounts properly incurred by the CCF and prepare a financial statement to be audited and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

(c) **Vice-President.**
Shall in the absence of the President possess all the powers of the President and shall in such cases act as chairperson of the CCF.

(d) **Assistant Secretary.**
Shall be responsible for the recording of all minutes of all meetings of the CCF and the transcription of those minutes and attend to any business of the CCF as may be delegated by the Secretary.

3.4 All office bearers as per 3.2 must be flying members of an affiliated Club of the CCF or Life Members of the CCF. The President shall not be a delegate from an affiliated Club. (Passed Annual General Meeting 14th February 2011)

4. **MANAGEMENT:**

4.1 The running of the CCF shall be vested in a Management Committee, which shall comprise of the Secretary and all the office bearers of the CCF referred to in paragraph 3.2

4.2 The Management Committee shall meet first and third Monday of each month, or at such other times as it may consider appropriate from time to time. Minimum of seven (7) members of the Management Committee are required to form a quorum.

4.3 An Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Senior Vice-President, shall have the power to make interim decisions on behalf of the CCF, such decisions to be ratified at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

4.4 The Management Committee shall be responsible for the running of the Road Transport operations in a profitable and businesslike manner.

5. **GENERAL MEETING:**

5.1 The meetings of the CCF shall be deemed to be general meetings of the CCF, unless resolved otherwise by the Management Committee at the preceding Management Committee meeting.

5.2 General meetings of the CCF shall be held every first and third Monday of each month, unless otherwise decided on at a CCF general meeting.

6. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the CCF shall be held on the 3rd Monday in February each year.

6.2 At the Annual General Meeting the Secretary shall ensure an Annual Report of the CCF activities and accounts for the preceding year is presented.

6.3 At the Annual General Meeting all office bearers shall retire.

6.4 Election of officers:

(a) Nominations for the positions of – President, Assistant Secretary, plus nine (9) members on the Management Committee shall be called for in the month of July each year.

(b) Nominations shall be open for a minimum of six weeks with a closing date.

(c) Nominations shall be on an official nomination form as supplied by the CCF.

(d) Only one member from any affiliated club can be elected to the Federation Management Committee if all nominations are filled by the closing date.

(e) If the required number of nominations is not received by the required date, the balance to fill the vacant positions shall be called for on the night of the Annual General Meeting. The vacant position/s can be filled by a Club member of an existing nominated member.

(f) If the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall be held prior to the night of the Annual General Meeting to determine the elected member or members.

(g) At the Annual General Meeting the Vice-Presidents of the Federation shall be elected from the members who have nominated for the Management Committee.

(h) All office bearers and members of the Management Committee shall be confirmed on the night of the Annual General Meeting.

(i) All office bearers as per paragraph 4 must be flying members of an affiliated Club of the CCF or a Life Member of the CCF. (Adopted AGM 16/02/2015)

6.5 Only financial flying members of the CCF who have competed in the previous season races shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and each member shall be entitled to have one vote only.

7. **CASUAL VACANCIES:**

7.1 The CCF delegates shall have the power to appoint members to fill any casual vacancies of any office, and those appointed shall hold that office until they resign or retire or until the next Annual General Meeting.

8. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING:**

8.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary or upon requisition in writing signed by not less than 12 delegates representing 6 Clubs and at such meeting the matters discussed shall be only those specified in the requisition. In the event of an extra ordinary General Meeting being requisitioned the Secretary shall notify all members of such meeting a minimum of 14 days before the date upon which such meeting is called. Notices shall be served in the manner prescribed in Rule 18.1

9. **MEETING PROCEDURE:**

9.1 Minutes of the proceedings of meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be open for inspection by any member of the CCF.

9.2 At least seven (7) days prior to each general meeting of the CCF, each Club shall be circulated with the minutes of the immediate preceding general meeting, such minutes to contain all resolutions to be put before the (next) general meeting of the CCF.

9.3 The President or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall act as Chairperson at all meetings of the CCF. In the absence of both those officers, the meeting shall elect a member to act as chairperson.

9.4 The Chairperson shall have a casting vote only.

9.5 Each Club/Society (Club) affiliated with the CCF shall nominate two (2) delegates who shall attend each meeting of the CCF and who shall be the only persons entitled to vote and speak for or against any motion.

9.6 Quorum – Representation from six (6) different Clubs irrespective of the number of delegates attending shall form a quorum at any convened general meeting of the CCF. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of scheduled starting time, the meeting shall stand adjourned until the date of a new meeting is determined by the Management Committee.

9.7 Delegates are entitled to vote, move and second minor motions and resolutions at a general meeting. Also, they are entitled to receive and adopt Executive/Management Committee reports.

9.8 Notices of motion that are moved by one Club and seconded by another Club received at a general meeting shall be forwarded back to all Clubs to be voted on by the full membership of the CCF. Ensuring fourteen (14) days written notice to the Club's (refer Rule 18.1)

9.9 Each Club shall discuss the proposed notice of motion/motions and shall as a Club conduct a ballot thereon.

9.10 Voting on any notice of motion/motions shall be by an individual member supplied voting sheet or on a Club individual member voting sheet. All voting sheets issued to the Clubs to be accompanied by a member register form.

9.11 The Delegates shall at the general meeting produce to the Secretary of the CCF the register form of the Clubs voting and voting sheets, signed, dated and stamped by the Club Secretary and Chairperson.

9.12 All resolutions shall be determined by calculating the total votes supporting and the total votes opposing and shall be passed by a simple majority of those votes.

9.13 Delegates shall be entitled to move amendments to resolutions, provided such proposed amendments are certified in writing by the proposing Club's Secretary. The Chairperson shall then have the power to determine whether the amended resolution should be placed before the meeting or whether it should be returned to the Clubs for further discussion.

9.14 Any Management Committee member who fails without leave of absence to attend three subsequent Committee meetings, shall cease to be a member thereof.

9.15 The Secretary shall ensure fourteen (14) days' notice is given to all member clubs of the Annual General Meeting. Such notice shall include any motion/s to be submitted to the meeting. Notices shall be served in the manner prescribed in clause 18.1.

9.16 Any resolution passed at a general meeting of the CCF shall be binding on all Clubs whether they are present at such meeting or not and irrespective of that Club's vote. Decisions of Management Committee meetings, however, shall not be binding unless approved by the delegates at a general meeting.

9.17 No intoxicating liquor shall be allowed at CCF meetings without the permission of the Management Committee.

10. **MEMBERSHIP:**

10.1 **CLUB MEMBERSHIP:**

(a) Club membership of the CCF shall be open to Clubs having a majority of its members flying to loft positions within the CCF boundaries.

(b) All Clubs affiliating with the CCF shall pay an annual subscription to be determined from time to time by the Management Committee. Such fee shall be payable at the Annual Meeting or on admission of the Club to the CCF.

(c) Clubs making application to join the CCF shall be nominated by an affiliated Club and seconded by another affiliated Club.

(d) A simple majority vote of the full membership is required to accept a Clubs application for membership.

(e) A Club joining the CCF shall be required to post a $500.00 bond with the CCF, which shall be refunded to such Club after competing with the CCF for four consecutive flying seasons. Clubs not completing the four consecutive years shall forfeit their bond.

(f) Deleted 12th May 2020 Committee Meeting.

(g) A Club on rejoining will be required to lodge a $500.00 bond as per 10.1(e).(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)

10.2 **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:**

(a) Individual membership is only available to those members of an affiliated Club who intend competing in that season's race program.

(b) Only a person whose flying loft is within the boundaries of the CCF as defined from time to time shall be entitled to become an individual member.

(c) A member residing outside the CCF boundaries and is a member of an affiliated Club can apply for liberation only through their Club.

(d) All intending members of each Club shall pay an annual membership subscription to be determined from time to time by the Management Committee. Such subscription shall be payable at the Annual General Meeting or at such time the member or members wish to become individual members.

(e) Upon the payment of the membership subscription by the Club, accompanied by a list of the names and address of the intending members, then the members shall be deemed to be members of the CCF.

(f) Any individual member who pays their membership subscription and does not compete for one reason or another, forfeits their membership and voting rights as of the basketing night of the first scheduled race of the CCF season.

(g) There shall be no refunds on membership subscriptions.

(h) Only individual members of the Club, on payment of their annual subscription shall be entitled to vote on any CCF matter.

(i) Deleted 12th May 2020 Committee Meeting.

(j) All individual members of the Club shall pay to the CCF a sum of fees which shall be set year to year by the Management Committee. Clubs to which the members belong shall be liable to ensure same is paid.

10.3 A Club by affiliating with the CCF and its members who pay their membership subscription to the CCF have by doing so agreed to abide by the Constitution and all Rules of the CCF.

10.4 The Management Committee shall further determine that a portion of the affiliation fees shall be paid to a nominated Charity, such amount to be determined from time to time by the Management Committee.

10.5 The Management Committee shall have the power at any time to call on affiliated Clubs to levy their members to cover any loss which the CCF may incur at any time.

10.6 The CCF may elect to Life Membership of the CCF any person who has rendered outstanding service to the CCF, such election to be made following the submission of a Notice of Motion by an affiliated Club and presented to a general meeting for discussion. The unanimous vote of all delegates present at the annual meeting is required before the person so nominated shall be granted Life Membership.

10.7 Any Club or individual member withdrawing from or being expelled from the CCF shall cease to have an interest in or a claim against the assets of the CCF but shall be liable for any outstanding payments due to the CCF as at the date of withdrawing or expulsion**.(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)**

11. **DISCIPLINE:**

11.1 Any Club or any member of any Club affiliated with the CCF whom the Management Committee believes not to have acted in the best interest of the CCF and who has breached any provision of the By-Laws/or/ Rules of the CCF or any affiliated Club or dissents from a decision of the CCF or its officers, may be called to appear before the full Management Committee to show cause why they should not be suspended or expelled from the CCF.

11.2 The Management Committee shall consider written reports relative to discipline of any Club or member thereof or hear any evidence from any person.

11.3 If the Management Committee so decides, it shall cite the executive of any Club or a member of such Club in writing to appear before it at the next available meeting, having given the member not less than fourteen (14) day's written notice of the meeting.

11.4 At that meeting, consideration shall be given to all facts available from all parties, and thereafter a decision shall be passed by a two/thirds (2/3) majority of the Management Committee present. In the hearing the Management Committee shall adhere to the tenets of natural justice.

11.5 Any Club or member found guilty on any matter by the Management Committee shall have the right to lodge an appeal for a further hearing. A committee of seven members elected from the delegates present at a general meeting shall be formed to hear this appeal. Their decision is final on this matter.

11.6 In disciplining any member the CCF may elect to suspend or disqualify any Club or member thereof from the CCF or from participating in its activities and/or fine such Club and/or member in such sum as it may consider appropriate in the circumstances.

11.7 Any person or persons carrying on any fraudulent practice in any matter connected with the sport of pigeon racing may be fined and/or suspended and/or disqualified from the CCF for a period nominated by the CCF. Any fine imposed shall be paid within twenty eight (28) days of imposition thereof.

(a) Any fine imposed by the CCF on any Affiliated Club and/or Member shall be deemed to be a liquidated debt owed to the CCF, which shall have the power to recover same in any Court of competent jurisdiction. Any Club and/or Member shall be deemed to be suspended until the payment in full of any penalty imposed.

11.8 Any Club disqualifying and/or suspending a member for any reason must report same to the CCF in writing within seven (7) days of the disqualification and/or suspension occurring.

11.9 Any member of any Club affiliated with the CCF being disciplined by the Club may appeal by notice in writing to the Secretary of the CCF who shall thereupon obtain from the Club a written report in respect of the penalty imposed by it on

its member and shall thereafter submit a report to the Management Committee which may then determine that the disciplined member shall have the right to appear before the Management Committee to present to it evidence in relation to the incident resulting the discipline. The Management Committee shall have the power to confirm or overrule the decision of the Club in which case the finding of the CCF shall be binding on both the member and the Club and no further right of appeal shall exist.

11.10 No club shall be admitted to or remain affiliated with the CCF who has amongst its members any person who has been disqualified for life by either the Club or the CCF.

12. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:**

12.1 The income and property of the CCF shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the CCF'S objectives and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the members of the CCF, except where such member is or becomes an employee of the CCF.

12.2 A list of payment made by the CCF Secretary between each general meeting shall be endorsed by the delegates at the next CCF general meeting.

12.3 All cheques issued by the CCF shall be signed by any two of the following:
President, Secretary and one nominated Management Committee member.

12.4 The Secretary shall keep all books of account as may be determined by the Management Committee. The books shall be subject to annual audit as per the Incorporation Act.

12.5 The CCF shall appoint an auditor who shall audit the CCF books of account annually and prepare a report thereon for presentation by the Secretary to the Annual General Meeting.

12.6 The financial year of the CCF shall end on 31st December in each year.

12.7 Any Sub-Committee or subsidiary group shall keep such books of account as may be specified by the Secretary and shall at any time upon demand present those books to the Secretary for audit.

12.8 The President, Vice-Presidents and Committee persons shall be and act in an honorary capacity.

12.9 Assistant Secretary, Auditor and Liberation Committee persons shall be entitled to reimbursements for their services, as determined by the CCF from time to time.

13. **BY-LAWS:**

13.1 The Management Committee shall have the power to make and promulgate by-laws to ensure the satisfactory management of other divisions or committees of the CCF.

13.2 Any by-laws may be amended, varied, added to or repealed in part or in whole only at a general meeting of the CCF. Notice of amendment shall be communicated to CCF members at least fourteen (14) day's prior to the general meeting. Notices shall be served in the manner prescribed in Rule 18.1.

14. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:**

14.1 All the foregoing Constitution Rules of the CCF shall stand until the Annual General Meeting of each Year.

14.2 Notices of motion of any alterations to the Constitution Rules to be brought up at the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing prior to liberation of the last scheduled race of the year. Such notices shall be moved by one Club and seconded by another Club.

14.3 Any amendment/s to such motion/s shall be given in writing within four (4) weeks after the last race of the year. Such amendment/s shall be move by one Club and seconded by another Club.

14.4 All notices of motion and/or amendment/s shall be submitted to all Clubs in writing one month prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

14.5 At the Annual General Meeting amendments to the Constitution Rules shall be passed by a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

14.6 In an extreme situation an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Management Committee to amend any of the Constitution Rules.

14.7 In the even of an Extraordinary General Meeting being called, all members of the CCF through their Secretary shall be invited to attend the meeting. (venue to be advised).

14.8 To amend the Constitution Rules at an Extraordinary General Meeting a simple majority vote of the CCF members present at that meeting. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

15. **WINDING UP:**

15.1 The CCF may be dissolved and wound up at any time by way of a resolution to that effect passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting specifically called for that purpose. Notice of the resolution shall be given to all members as specified in these rules, (Rule 18.1) and if passed by a majority of not less than 75% of the members of the CCF, the CCF shall be deemed to be dissolved and wound up.

15.2 At the meeting the members shall resolve as to how to distribute the assets and funds of the CCF (after making of provision for the payment of all debts), provided that such assets and funds shall be distributed only to a non/profit organization having like or similar aims to the CCF, and in no event are the funds to be distributed to the Clubs and/or members of the CCF.

16. **CCF BOUNDARIES:**

16.1 The boundaries of the CCF shall be fixed from time to time and shall be confirmed at each Annual General Meeting of the CCF or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

16.2 No person/s whose loft is situated outside the CCF boundaries shall be entitled to compete in races and competitions conducted by the CCF, PROVIDED THAT nothing in the clause shall be deemed to preclude such person/s in races or competitions conducted by an affiliated Club.

17. **CCF RACING & CLOCK RULES ETC:**

17.1 The CCF Racing, Clock, EBSS Rules and the Liberation Protocol shall be confirmed at each Annual General Meeting of the CCF.

18. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

18.1 All notices required shall be served to members by prepaid post to the address of the member shown in the CCF'S records, or by notifying in writing individual Club secretaries.

18.2 The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees to deal with any matter of the CCF activities as it considers appropriate. The President and Secretary shall each be ex-officio member of any sub-committee so formed.

18.3 **The CCF** shall effect public liability insurance in a sum not less than that prescribed by the Associations Incorporation Act and shall ensure that such insurance is maintained.

18.4 Any interpretation of these rules in a matter of a dispute arising shall be made by the Management Committee, the decision of which shall be final.

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PART 2 - RACING RULES

1. ROUTES:

a. Commencing with the 2006 season the CCF shall convey and liberate one year on each route for the next five years from the following routes? North, North West, West, South West and South respectively. After the completion of the fifth year, a vote shall be taken and if a majority of the members are in favour the routes shall be changed. (Adopted 4th May 2015)

b. At the completion of the 5th year of the current racing cycle and in determining future cycles, the Federation shall adopt a windscreen wiper system. (Adopted 6th February 2012)

2. SCHEDULES:

a. Starting with the 2020 race season, the season shall start 2 weeks after the third Saturday in May or on the first (1st) Saturday in June. (Adopted 18/09/2019)

b. Proposed schedules for the coming season shall be lodged with the CCF at least eight weeks prior to the current season All Age Derby.

c. The Federation Committee determine the schedule and race points on the agreed route of the year. (Adopted 17th February 2014)

d. Race points over 300 Kilometres to be where practical at least 100 kilometres apart.

e. The Federation to conduct a 500 and 600 mile from each route unless there are conditions that would prevail not to have these races. (Adopted AGM 16/02/2015)

3. BOUNDARY:

Commencing at the junction of the Princes Highway and Heathcote Railway Station, a direct line is drawn to the coastline, then the coastline north to the Hawkesbury River. The Hawkesbury River is followed through Wiseman's Ferry to the junction of Sackville Road and West Portland Road at Sackville. Then along West Portland Road to Bull Ridge Road, which is followed to Singleton (Putty) Road, and then to East Kurrajong Road, to Comleroy Road, which is followed to Bells Line of Road. Continue along Bells Line of Road to Old Bells Line of Road, then to Grose Vale Road, along to Grose Wold Road to Grose River Road to Ashtons Road to Grose River to the Nepean River which is then followed through Penrith to Warragamba River to the Warragamba Dam. Then along the eastern boundary to the Lake Burragorang until it joins Little River. Then follows Little River until Little River intersects with Wollondilly Shire Council Boundary. The boundary to follow the Wollondilly Shire Council Boundary until it meets the Hume Highway. Then follow the Hume Highway through to Wilton. Follow Wilton Road to Appin. The Wollongong Road is then followed to the Princes Highway. North along the Princes Highway to the starting point of the junction of the Princes Highway and Heathcote Railway Station. Addition to Boundary 1970 to take in the whole of the Parish of Strathdon plus portion 30 of the Parish of Coomassie. When travelling from the commencing point in a northerly direction as listed, the centre of the road or river listed is to be taken as the boundary of the CCF. Lofts situated within this boundary are located within the CCF. That is all lofts to the left of the boundary line when it is travelled as described above.

4. DETERMINING VELOCITIES:

a. The lofts of all competitors shall be surveyed and measured by the GPS, carried out by the Secretary of the CCF or his/her nominated officer.

b. 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 8.2, 8.3, 8.4. and 9) divided into the distance for that particular race point as provided in rule 4a with the result expressed as a rate of metres per minute. Bird flying the highest velocity shall be declared the winner except as provided under racing rule 15d. All velocities to be calculated to the third decimal point. In the event of a dead-heat on the third decimal point prize money is to be divided.

c. 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. To obtain corrected flying time, starting check print to be checked for correctness as per clock rule 8.2 The correct portion of the loss or gain to be added or subtracted is calculated by obtaining the short run (which is the actual time taken from setting time until the time on the tape of each bird timed in after making any adjustments as per clock rule 8.2.). This time is then multiplied by the loss or gain as showing on the tape after making any adjustments as per clock rule 8.2. The result of this multiplication is then divided by the long run time (which is the time between setting time and ring off time plus or minus loss or gain). This will then give the proportion of the loss or gain taken to at least the fourth decimal point, which is to be added or subtracted from each bird's flying time to obtain its correct flying time.

d. 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.

e. Should any competitor be credited by the Secretary with having made such a velocity that the Management Committee considers on the balance of probabilities unlikely for the race, then the Management 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 despatching of the birds to or at the race point.

f. Protests as to the published result of any race shall be lodged with the Secretary within ten (10) working days of publication of such results.

5. OWNERSHIP:

a. Each bird entered in a contest conducted by the CCF 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 Federation life ring by which the bird will be identified on any entry form for that particular contest.

b. 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 Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc. and defaults payment by the due date as prescribed by that Club, that person's name, address and Club if known, shall be supplied to the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc. notifying of their unfinancial position with that Club. (Adopted 2007 Season).

c. Any member/s or intending member/s of any affiliated Club of the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc. being reported as unfinancial by any affiliated Club, shall be denied membership of the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc. until such time as their outstanding debt has been finalised. (Adopted 2007 Season)

6. LIFE RINGS:

a. The life rings must bear a recognised Federation, Association or Club prefix, year of issue and number. An additional centralized stray contact phone number shall be allowed on these rings. These rings shall not be issued to fliers before the 1st June each year to be eligible for the CCF Young Bird Derby.(Moved 18th April 2011)

b. As of the 2011 breeding season, all rings issued to Clubs affiliated with the CCF or Federation's own "CCF" rings shall have a 1300 centralized stray contact phone number and a secret symbol. They shall be of a plastic covered or fully plastic type, 8mm internal diameter with a minimum length of 10.5 mm as approved by the CCF.(Moved 18th April 2011)

c. All affiliated Clubs must purchase their life rings through the CCF. Date of issue of life rings shall not be before the 1st June each year.

d. 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 CCF for assessment and clarification and his/hers decision shall be binding on the CCF and owner. The cost of such action shall be covered by the owner; failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the bird or the competitor depending on the circumstances.

e. Birds double rung with life rings are not eligible to compete in all races conducted by the CCF.

7. FOREIGN RINGS:

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

8. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP:

a. 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. 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 and a penalty of $100.00 and a three week suspension from all CCF and Club organised races shall apply.

b. Any member reported and found guilty of racing a stray pigeon, a penalty of $100.00 and a three week suspension from all CCF and Club organised races shall apply.

c. All race birds shall home unaided in their flight to the surveyed loft of the competitor.

d. Any prizewinning pigeons shall, on request be shown alive to a Committee member within 24 hours of timing in. Any member on application to a Committee member of the CCF shall have the 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. Tossing shall be within 24 hours of clock checking. Any competitor refusing to comply with this rule will be disqualified from that race.

9. MASTER SHEETS AND RACE FORMS:

a. The CCF 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:-

b. **Master Sheets.** Individual flyers names are to be entered in the space provided by Club Secretaries, together with (i) the number of birds entered and cost. (ii) Number of birds and cost for each type of pool, nomination or loft. (iii) 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.

c. **Race Entry Forms.**

Manual Clocks Entries:

(i) Details of each pigeon entered under colour, sex, club initials, year and ring number (it is not necessary to include the century or the 000 preceding the actual 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 shall be entered in the space provided. Race entry forms when compiled must be signed by the competitor and submitted to the Secretary for acceptance prior to the basketing of their birds. Race entry forms must be in duplicate with details entered in ink on the original.

Electronic Clock Entries:

(ii) Electronic entry printout shall contain the following: - Club initials, sex, year, ring number and the assigned electronic ring number.

d. 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".

10. CCF CONDUCTED RACES:

a. Properly compiled sheets as per racing rule 9a and 9b, together with total flying costs shall be in the hands of the CCF Secretary at the times specified below. No late entries after these times shall be accepted.

(i) Domestic Combines – Limit to be set each year. Master entry sheet on night of basketing.

(ii) Young Bird Derby – 5 Bird Limit. CCF race entry sheet in triplicate on the night of basketing.

(iii) All Age Derby – 5 Bird Limit. Entries to be paid in nominated calls. CCF race entry sheet in triplicate on the night of basketing.

(iv) Ring Race and Sponsored 5 Bird Nomination Race – Master entry sheet on night of basketing.

11. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

a. Acceptance for the use of Electronic Band Scanning Systems (EBSS) as approved by the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Incorporated (CCF) for use in all races conducted by the CCF, including the Young Bird and All Age Derby.

b. Approved scanning systems are Bricon, Tipes, Benzing and Unikon.

c. Each Electronic system must use the electronic rings designed and manufactured for that system.

d. For clarification of all the EBSS Rules refer to Part 4 of these Rules.

e. **All Age Derby** –

(i) Any competitor wishing to compete in the CCF All Age Derby shall compete in at least six previous scheduled races of the current schedule and be a fully paid financial member of the entire season with an affiliated Club. Notification of this condition shall be endorsed on the CCF race schedule.

(ii) Entries are paid by calls as determined by the Management Committee.

(iii) Pools and basket fee charges will be compiled by the secretary from the individual's race entry sheet on night of basketing.

(iv) All Clubs shall be invoiced for all the costs incurred by their members.

f. **Domestic Combines** – **(On Hold from 2010 Season – 19thApril 2010)**

(i) Any Club with members wishing to compete in a CCF domestic combine must have six financial CCF members present in the Club to be eligible to basket in their own club room.

(ii) Clubs with less than six members competing in the Club race, the six financial CCF members present shall sign the CCF master entry sheet, verifying their presence during the basketing procedure.

(iii) Clubs supplying a master entry sheet with less than six competitors and not being signed by the six financial CCF members shall be automatically disqualified from that combine.

(iv) Clubs with less than six financial CCF members present shall combine with a neighbouring Club or Clubs at a mutually agreed location, providing the combined number of competitors is at least six, to basket, set clocks and ring off,

(v) Any member basketing at another centre to comply with rule 11f (iv) must also have his/her clock set and rung off and tape read in the centre where the birds were basketed.

(vi) A minimum of six financial CCF members shall be present at all times during the ringing and the dispatching of the birds.

(vii) This shall apply to all Domestic Combines conducted by the CCF.

g. **Ring Race** – Conditions of entry, the number of sections or overall only and the number of prizes to be paid, shall be determined by the Management Committee on a seasonal basis.

h. The Management Committee may from time to time make arrangements to run extra special races in addition to the normal domestic combines, derbies, ring race and nomination races. Conditions of entry, the number of sections or overall only and the number of prizes to be paid, shall be determined by the Management Committee for these extra races.

12. MARKING OF BIRDS:

a. 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 (see separate conditions relating to the use of Electronic Banding Scanning Systems).

b. Plain marking rings are acceptable on birds entered for competition in all CCF conducted races.

c. Upon production of the race sheet and the birds, the sheet will be handed to a member (penciller) who will endorse the numbers 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 therein have been accounted for.

d. A member (penciller) shall not partly complete a race sheet as to rubber ring numbers and leave it for another person to complete. Once started the member (penciller) shall be required to complete the race sheet or sheets for that competitor.

e. No competitor or their partner shall endorse the rubber ring numbers on their own race sheet.

f. Race sheets when signed by the member (penciller) will be placed together with the tabs of the rubber rings in a receptacle for each competitor. Such receptacles are to be sealed in a 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 CCF or the Club.

h. Six financial CCF members shall be present before any birds are accepted for competition.

i. No competitor or their partner shall handle their pigeons whilst being fitted or after being fitted with rubber rings and/or being scanned on an EBSS prior to the dispatch of birds.

13. BASKET ALLOCATION.

a. Each year the basket allocation to be done in three stages. (First stage Friday basketing. second stage Thursday basketing and third stage Wednesday basketing).

b. Basket allocation formula, total number of members divided into the total number of basket spaces. E.g.: 334 spaces divided by 405 members = 0.825 basket space per member. E.g.: 0.825 multiply by 17 members = 14 baskets.

c. Two weeks prior to the upcoming season each year Clubs must supply to the Federation their membership numbers for the first stage of the season. (Short series).

d. Final membership numbers by basketing night of the first race of the season.

e. These numbers will be the basis the Clubs basket allocation is worked on.

f. On receiving their Clubs basket allocation for stage one and two and if required each Club should as soon as possible apply to the Federation for an adjustment to their basket allocation.

g. Clubs wishing to up or down grade shall make application in writing to the Federation Secretary.

h. The Federation can only make an up or down grade a Clubs basket allocation if another Club is willing to up or down grade their basket allocation.

i. If the Federation cannot organize an up or down grade of a Clubs basket allocation. The allocated basket number remains with the Club.

j. If the applications for an upgrade exceed the number of downgrades, applicants will go into a lucky draw for the available baskets.

k. Clubs cannot transfer baskets between themselves.

l. Clubs receiving extra baskets are liable for full payment and are at liberty to use the extra basket/s as they wish as long as they abide by the following:-

(i) Loading of each basket must not exceed the bird numbers as recommended by the Federation.

(ii) When applicable bird numbers must not exceed the Federation limit. E.g.: Domestic Combines.

(iii) Birds sent over the recommended Federation limit are not eligible to compete for the Federation point score

(iv) All birds in all baskets carried on the Federation transporter must carry a rubber race ring and/or an electronic band. (Except strays being returned).

(v) Baskets must not contain a mixture of hens and cocks.

13.1 BASKETING:

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

b. I) Basketing: Clubs with less than 10 members competing in either Derbies shall basket and set clocks in a Club Room where there are 10 members competing even if that Club is made up of 2 Club's or more e.g. 4 HD, 3 KPS, 5 SH.

2) Clubs are to advise the Federation Secretary with less than 10 members participating, which Club they will be basketing in at least 2 weeks prior to basketing for either Derby.

3) Ring off in sections current rules apply. (Adopted 20th June 2011)

c. The commencing time and closing time of basketing shall be fixed by the Clubs for domestic combines. Basketing time for the CCF Derbies shall be fixed by the CCF.

d. All Clubs when required shall notify the CCF between 7.30pm and 8.00pm on night of basketing of the number of baskets they are sending. Failure to notify could result in the Club being liable to a penalty not exceeding $25.

e. All baskets shall be in good order and approved by the Management Committee. All baskets to be identified by Club initials on the end and side doors.

f. All doors on each basket shall be sealed with an approved seal before leaving Club Room.

g. Approved seals are – lead seals, finger seals, electrical seals, thick cable ties.

h. All Clubs conveying birds to the CCF loading point on basketing night which are competing in a CCF 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 CCF loading point. In the case of one club carting birds for another club, at no stage between the sealing of baskets and arrival at the loading point shall any basket not be accompanied by at least two (2) persons.

i. Each Club's birds shall be at the loading point by 9.30pm each basketing night.

j. Wire inserts to be used in all race baskets. Absorbent material to be used under the wire inserts in the baskets. Printed newspaper is not permitted. All baskets are to be cleaned each week by the Clubs.

k. In all races transported and conducted by the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc. the only baskets to be carried on the CCF transporter are Club allocated baskets and baskets used for the Federation derbies. At no time are surplus baskets allowed. (Except baskets being used for the returning of strays).

14. ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL OF ENTRIES:

a. The Committee or responsible officials of the CCF 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 CCF and the Club entirely at the owner's risk once they leave the owner's hands.

c. That all members' birds (including stock birds) are vaccinated against PMV1 prior to that member racing in the CCF. **(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)**

15. PERMISSIBLE FLYING TIME:

a. Birds flying in a race

(i) Not exceeding 221 Kilometres shall be home within 24 hours of liberation.

(ii) 221 kilometres and not exceeding 616 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on second day.

(iii) 616 kilometres and not exceeding 966 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on third day.

(iv) 966 kilometres and not exceeding 1126 kilometres shall be home 1 hour after sunset on fourth day.

(v) One day extra for each extra 160 kilometres over the 1126 kilometres.

(vi) The distance to the longest competitor in the race is to be taken.

b. 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 and issued by the CCF Secretary.

c. 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. 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.

d. 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.

e. In the event of birds homing in the hours of darkness, the competitor may notify a CCF or Club official and if possible, the competitor to have their clock rung off on the hour after timing in by a CCF or Club official.

16. LIBERATION:

a. The liberating of the birds on a race day is in the hands of the Liberation Committee and in conjunction with the liberator.

b. A senior member of the Liberation Committee shall be elected by the Liberation Committee to act as a spokesperson.

i. Who shall be in contact with the liberator prior to any liberation?

ii. If and when necessary contact the President on any disagreement between the members of the liberation Committee regarding a liberation.

c. In the event of a disagreement between one of the Liberation Committee and the Liberator in releasing the birds, the Liberation Spokesperson shall contact the Federation President and explain the position and the reason for the disagreement by one of the Liberation Committee members.

d. The President after examining the situation shall have the power to overrule the dissenting member.

e. Liberation information from the CCF Liberation Committee in made available to members on the liberation information phone line. Phone 9294.0295

f. 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. The birds shall be liberated the next day (weather permitting) at 8.00 am except when stipulated earlier as per schedule. Liberations can be made up to 2 hours later than time scheduled.

g. Friday night basketing only. If 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 Fairfield Showground or a place appointed by the CCF, where they must be picked up by their respective Clubs on the day of return.

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

i. All liberations to be mass liberations.

j. All birds on the transporters to be fed a mixture of 40% Corn/Pop Corn, 40% wheat, 10% milo, 5% peas and 5% safflower. (Adopted 16th May 2011)

k. For the welfare of the pigeons and to assist the members in educating their birds, surplus birds are permitted to be liberated with the race birds in all races, except the two Federation Derbies. (Adopted AGM 18th February 2020)

c.

17. TEAMS OF BIRDS:

a. Each competitor in the CCF shall be restricted to race one team of birds from the one postal address. Where two or more competitors are flying from the one postal address, the competitors must make application to the Management Committee to fly separate teams, and the decision of the Management Committee is final and binding on all competitors and no further appeal shall be made against the decision.

b. 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 Secretary of the CCF. A duplicate copy of each list is to be supplied to the Secretary of their respective Club or Clubs, and such list shall not be added to during the season. Ring numbers cannot be duplicated on the lists.

18. PRIZES:

a. In all CCF domestic combines, derbies and nomination races, the CCF shall be divided into six sections and these shall remain as is for the full cycle which commenced with 2008 West Route. Members in one section shall not overlap members in another section.

(i) Each section as near as possible to be equal in numbers.
(ii) All sectional entry money shall remain in its own section for prize money.
(iii) Provision shall be made for an additional entry fee for the overall prize money.
(iv) Prize money shall be divided on a percentage basis as determined by the Secretary.
(v) The number of cash prizes in the sections and overall shall be determined on the basis of one (1) prize for every eight (8) competitors with a maximum of 25 prizes per section, except as per rule 11.h.
(vi) The number of merit cards issued to each section and overall shall be left to the discretion of the Management Committee each year.
(vii) The sectional pools to consist of the following: $5, $10 open entry and a $5, $10, $20 Loft Pool. (Adopted AGM 16/02/2015)
(viii) The overall pools to consist of the following: $20, $50 and $100 one nomination only and a $50 loft nomination.
(ix) There shall be one prize only in all sectional and overall pools and loft pools.
(x) A merit card will be issued to the second bird timed in the same bucket and/or on the same second on an EBSS printout as a prize taking bird.

b. In the event of there being insufficient birds to fill the places in race time, 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 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.

e. A full official result containing all the details as required by the CCF from the Clubs when submitting their results for a Combine or Derby be compiled and supplied to all Clubs within fourteen (14) of such Combine and/or Derby. The results must allow Clubs a period of not less than ten (10) days after receiving the results to lodge a protest on such results.

19. DISQUALIFICATION:

a. Should a rubber ring number not correspond with the number as stated on the race sheet or with the tab retained by the CCF 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?

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

20. LIST OF COMPETITORS:

a. Each affiliated Club shall supply a complete list of competitor names and addresses to the Secretary of the CCF prior to the first race.

21. CCF IMMUNITY:

a. The **CCF** shall affect an insurance policy covering the conveyance of wire baskets whilst in transit in the CCF Road Transporters. In future years the total value insured should be comparable to that for season 1986, which is the maximum amount allowable for the conditions of the appropriate type of policy.

b. The CCF shall not be responsible for the loss or damage of any Club or individual property, other than the Club baskets during the race season.

d. Each Club shall indemnify the CCF against any such loss or damage in the event of any claim being made against the CCF.

e. Each Club must have Voluntary Workers Insurance cover for their members.

22. AMENDMENTS TO THE RACING RULES:

a. All the foregoing Racing Rules shall stand until the Annual General Meeting of each year and can only be altered at this meeting by a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

b. (i) Notices of any alterations to the Racing Rules to be brought up at the Annual General Meeting, must be given in writing prior to the last schedule race of the year. Any amendments to such notices must be given in writing within four (4) weeks after the last schedule race of the year.

(ii) Notice of motions received between the last race of the season and the forthcoming Annual General Meeting will not be accepted.

c. All notice of motions shall be moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. The proposed alterations submitted along with any amendments to such notice shall be forwarded to the Clubs for an individual member vote and the voting sheet to be returned to the Annual General Meeting.

d. If it is so desired to amend, rescind or add to any of these rules after the holding of the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season, such can only be done by a notice of motion moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. On receipt of such a notice of motion and/or motions at a general meeting, Clubs will be advised by mail with a copy of the submitted notice of motion and/or motions and shall have until the next general meeting to lodge any amendments to such notice of motion and/or motions. (Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)

e. Voting on any notice of motions between the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season be an individual member vote and shall require a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

PART 3 - CLOCK RULES

1. APPROVED CLOCKS.

1.1 Only continuous running stamping clocks approved by the CCF shall be used in all CCF Derbies and Domestic Combines, except as per rule 1.2 and 1.3

1.2 Electronic Scanning Band Systems are acceptable for use in all Domestic Combines and Derbies. (See separate conditions relating to the use of Electronic Band Scanning Systems).

1.3 The Benzing Computer Clock shall be acceptable for competition in all CCF Domestic Combines and Derbies, subject to the following conditions:

a. The clock shall be used in conjunction with the Benzing Printer.
b. More than one clock can use the same printer under the supervision of the Clock Committee.
c. The security code number shall be printed out by the printer prior to leaving the checking station. This printout, with the competitor name written on the back, shall be retained by the CCF or Club.

1.4 The standard Junior Racing Pigeon Timer is not accepted for competition in all races conducted by the CCF.

1.5 The CCF shall have the power to inspect and disqualify, without penalty, the use of any clock at any time, provided written reason therefore is given to the owner.

1.6 All clocks used in CCF Combines and Derbies shall contain a day hand or the equivalent. Day hand shall print on all kicks clearly defining day of print, A.M. or P.M.

2. CLOCK CHECKING.

2.1 Each timing clock shall be thoroughly checked by the Club Clock Committees and certified fit for use one week prior to racing.

2.2 Competitors are not permitted to have clocks in their possession after being checked unless sealed prior to racing.

3. CLOCK SETTING.

3.1 Each clock shall be set in the flyer's own Club room for CCF races. Tapes shall be stamped with Club stamp and signatures of two (2) members of the clock committee and the name of the competitor shall be included with the date of setting, race point and distance in metres. No member shall set, sign or seal their own clock. Tapes with only one signature will be accepted and the Club will be fined a sum of $50 for each offence.

3.2 All manually operated clocks to be set, where possible, by giving them a one minute run to the starting kick. E.g.: (7.54p.m. to 7.55p.m.)

3.3 All manually operated clocks where possible shall be set to bring up number one bucket at the first print.

3.4 All manually operated clocks used in the CCF Domestic Combines shall be started by a master timer, which shall be the third pip of the time signal off the telephone.

a. **Friday night basketing Combines.** Clocks to be preset for a 7.55p.m. start and a check print at the 8.00p.m. time signal.
b. **Thursday night basketing Combines.**
   (i) Manual quartz and windup clocks to be preset for a 7.55p.m. start and a check kick at the 8.00 p.m. time signal on the Thursday night.
c. **Wednesday night basketing Combines.**
   (ii) Manual quartz clocks to be preset for a 7.55p.m. start and a check kick at the 8.00p.m. time signal on the Wednesday night.
   (iii) Manual windup clocks to be preset for a 7.55p.m. start and a check kick at the 8.00p.m. time signal on the Friday night.
d. Any clock missing the original kick at the preset time, these clocks can be started by the master timer on the next quarter hour and the CCF Secretary to be advised prior to the liberation time.
e. Should any variation in excess of fifteen seconds appear on any clock at the check kick reading, such clocks must be reset. Failure to reset will mean such clocks are out of competition.
f. In all CCF Domestic Combines Electronic Timing Systems shall be started by a master time on basketing night. (Master timer to be the third pip of the telephone time signal).

3.5 a. In all races conducted by the CCF each clock using tapes shall have one tape only.
b. Each clock used in Domestic Combines is to be sealed with twine and an approved type seal, and shall be returned with the seal intact.

c. In the event of the seal becoming detached it shall be re-sealed by two members of the clock committee prior to timing in, as long as they are satisfied that the clock has not been tampered with. In the event of a clock being returned without the seal or the seal not being squeezed, that clock shall be disqualified.
d. Unsealed clocks shall be retained by the clock committee for further inspection and shall be reported to the CCF Secretary.

3.6 Clocks designed and supplied with thimbles, thimbles must be used. Open end thimbles must be used upside down and must contain the rubber ring of the bird timed in. The rubber ring to conform and correspond with the tab, any infringement of the rule will entail disqualification. No thimble shall be recognized if damaged or mutilated in any way and the thimbles used shall be the same type and size as supplied with clock.

3.7 A clock fitted with a drum containing buckets having spring loaded lids and/or designed to be used without thimbles may be used in competition in CCF races. The rubber ring shall be inserted and contained wholly within the bucket and should any part of the ring be exposed, that ring shall be disqualified.

4. YOUNG BIRD AND ALL AGE DERBIES.

4.1
a. The master timer to set and start all clocking systems in the CCF Young Bird Derby and the All Age Derby shall be preset and started by a master timer at a predetermined time as set by the Management Committee from time to time.
b. The master timer shall be preset to the third pip taken off the time signal on the telephone.
c. All Electronic Banding Systems (except the Tipes) to be started from the original master timer. Tipes to commence utilising the GPS navigation system.
d. All manually operated clocks to be started at the predetermined time and then a check kick at a five minute interval to the master timer.
e. Should any variation in excess of fifteen seconds appear on any clock on the check kick, such clock shall be reset on the quarter hour. Failure to reset shall mean such clocks are out of competition.
f. Clocks failing to start on the starting kick shall be reset on the quarter hour.

4.2 Each clock used in the CCF Young Bird Derby and the All Age Derby shall be sealed with twine and two approved seals, where possible top seal shall be squeezed by the club clock committee prior to the clock leaving the club room. Each clock shall be brought to the CCF clock centre one (1) hour prior to the specified ring off time. Each clock shall be checked by the CCF for correctness of setting, dolometers to be checked. The second seal where possible shall then be squeezed with the CCF pliers and a symbol shall be issued to be inserted into the empty bucket when the clocks are kicked at the specified time.

4.3 Any competitor failing to have their clock at the checking station by the specified time may be fined $10. Clocks later than twenty minutes shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

5. DOLOMETERS and ANTI/ ACCELERATION DEVICES.

5.1 All clocks approved by the CCF for use in Combines and Derbies, shall have anti-fraud features and devices of a standard equal to the STB and Benzing clocks.
a. Anti-fraud devices shall be in the correct position or the clock shall be disqualified.
b. All dolometers shall be set on zero.
c. Allowances: Only 3/16 of an inch on a Benzing, 3 points on a STB clock dolometers.
d. Any clock showing more than the amounts allotted shall be disqualified.
e. Should such a clock stop during competition and the device indicate that it is responsible for the stoppage by the plunger being raised, that clock shall be disqualified for that race?
f. If the word STOP can be seen when the Benzing Computer clock is presented for checking against the master timer, the clock shall be disqualified.
g. Any other clock shall be shown to the Management Committee before an allowance is given.

6. SECRET SYMBOLS.

Manually operated Clocks.

6.1 No competitor shall insert the secret symbols in their own clock at any time.

6.2 Young Bird and All Age Derbies. Symbols shall be inserted in all buckets turned away by the starting and checking kicks.

6.3 CCF Derbies and Domestic Combines: A secret symbol must be inserted in the clocks and the clock rung off after the predetermined setting kick and prior to the clocks leaving the club room. Another secret symbol to be inserted

in the clocks and clock rung off in the club room prior to the five minute run up to the predetermined ring off time on the checking night.

6.4 Clocks with secret symbols inserted in the five minute run up to the ring off hour, to be fined at the rate of $10.

6.5 Failure to abide by clock rule 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 shall mean such clocks are out of competition.

6.6 Each clock shall be checked prior to the clock leaving the checking station as to seal and correctness of paper tape, final symbol shall be inserted by the clock committee and the clock rung off.

6.7 Each clock shall be checked on return to the checking station. The seal, tape and buckets shall be checked, a secret symbol to be inserted and the clock rung off ensuring that the symbol is carried away in the bucket. A further symbol shall then be inserted ready for the checking ring off against the master timer at the pre-arranged time.

6.8 Each competitor shall be responsible for the correctness of their own clock, as to the seal, secret symbols and the position of the dolometers before leaving the checking station. Any irregularities shall be recorded by the CCF or Club official.

7. CLOCK OPENING.

7.1 In all races conducted by the CCF, no competitor shall be allowed to be within two (2) metres of their clock whilst their clock is in the process of being opened and checked.

7.2 In all domestic combines ring off time shall be –

a. 7.00 pm. on day of liberation in all races not exceeding 601 klms.

b. Races 601 klms and over 8.00 pm.

c. The distance of the shortest competitor in the race to be taken.

d. In the event of the race being of more than one day's duration, ring off time shall be 7.00 pm. each subsequent day.

e. Any competitor failing to have their clock at the club room by the specified ring off time, clock shall be rung off on the next quarter hour. Tape shall be addressed by the Management Committee and if accepted a standing fine of $20 to be imposed on the competitor.

f. In the event of the ring off time being missed by a clock or clocks present in the club room such clock or clocks shall be rung off on the next quarter hour on the third pip of the telephone time signal and the CCF Secretary is to be notified as soon as possible.

g. Failure to abide by this rule shall mean such clocks are out of competition.

7.3 Each competitor in the CCF Young Bird Derby and the all Age Derby shall have their respective clock in the CCF ring off centre on the night of ring off five (5) minutes prior to ring off time.

a. Clocks arriving between the 5 minutes and the ring off time shall be imposed with a fine at the rate of $10.

b. Clocks arriving after the set ring off time shall be fined the $10 plus $2 per minute, for each minute after the set ring off time, if the competitor wishes to have their clock read.

7.4 Each clock shall be given a check kick on the night of timing in if the birds are timed in before the official sunset time on the day of liberation, otherwise it shall be disqualified.

a. Clocks with birds timed in after the official sunset time may be given a check kick on that night.

b. In the event of two scheduled races on the same day it is not necessary to have a check kick on the night of timing in, if both races are not timed in before the official sunset time on the day of liberation.

7.5 If in the opinion of the CCF Committee or the Club clock committee there are insufficient clocks to open on the first night of checking, all clocks shall be given a check kick at the specified ring off time. Opening and checking to take place at the specified ring off time the next evening.

a. No clock shall be opened prior to the closing of the race time or until the Management Committee or the Club Committee is satisfied that all race and pool prizes shall be filled.

b. If it is found that certain prizes have not been filled and a clock or clocks has been opened, the Management Committee or Club Committee has the right to reconnect the tape to an opened clock. The tape shall be signed by two Committee members and dated. Clock or clocks shall be resealed and a secret symbol inserted and the clock or clocks kicked. This is to allow members to time in to fill outstanding prizes.

c. This rule also applies in the event of a Two Bird race, where there is only one bird homed on the day.

d. If any model clock cannot be opened without the clock being stopped, that competitor may have access to an unused Club spare clock.

e. This rule does not apply to the computer clocks or Electronic Timers as a reading is obtainable without opening or closing off the race in the systems.

7.6 Each clock shall be opened in the presence of at least two members of the clock Committee who shall prior to opening, examine each seal/seals and dolometers. The seal/seals after examination shall be cut from the clock and retained with that clock. Only one clock shall be dealt with at a time.

7.7 The clock tapes shall be removed and the clock examiner shall examine all buckets in the clock, rotate the drum and mark the tape corresponding to each bucket before removing any symbols or rubbers.

a. Should any buckets be empty, the corresponding print shall be deleted from the tape.

b. The clock tape from the Benzing computer clock printer shall be removed and signed by two members of the clock committee. The two printouts to be attached together.

7.8 The tape reader shall examine signatures, punch and anti-fraud print marks on the tape. Punch marks should only appear at the commencement and termination of prints. Other punch marks shall bear signatures. Should punch or print marks indicate unauthorised opening or starting of the clock, the clock shall be disqualified and the competitor shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

7.9 Clock examiner shall remove thimbles and/or rubbers in sequence. The rubber ring from each thimble or bucket will be checked against the tab and the race sheet prior to the succeeding thimble or bucket being opened. Life ring number, rubber ring number and the pools as appearing on the race sheet shall be stated and marked on the tape against its corresponding print.

7.10 The major prize taking clock in the CCF Derbies may be checked by the Management Committee before leaving the checking station on the night of ring off.

7.11 Each clock shall be reassembled and resealed before being returned to the competitor.

8. READING OF TAPES.

8.1 Clock tapes shall be handed to the tape reader, who shall be responsible for checking the stamping print at the starting of the clock, the checking print, secret symbol prints, prints of all the pigeons timed in, the secret symbol print coming in and the ringing off print.

8.2 Should an imprint from the checking print at starting of the clock be found to be inaccurate, such inaccuracy shall be noted on the tape and allowance made for the same when reading the following prints.

8.3 Should the clock read fast/slow at the checking print, the amount of the gain or loss shall be deducted/added to all subsequent prints, including the loss or gain print.

8.4 Should the clock stamp in between seconds on any print, the time shall be taken to the next second, so that you are reading against the clock.

8.5 The time as read shall be endorsed on the tape against each print and the competitor shall be entitled to inspect same should they be dissatisfied with the reading as given.

8.6 The time as read shall be published on the notice board provided for that purpose.

8.7 In all combine races distinct from the CCF Derbies, clock tapes together with master checking sheets shall be produced before 8.00 pm. on the Monday night following the race or as directed by the CCF Secretary.

a. Race rubbers and tabs and competitor entry sheets shall accompany the tapes. The master sheets shall contain the pigeon's particulars - times, colour, sex, ring no., clock set and clock checking times, distances and velocities.

b. Failure to comply with the above rule shall result in non-acceptance of the master sheet and tapes etc.

8.8 Race sheets and clock tapes shall be retained by the CCF after all domestic combines and derbies for a period of two years.

9. CLOCK VARIATIONS.

9.1 In the event of a clock gaining over 24 seconds in 24 hours, the time registered shall be taken as the time of arrival.

9.2 In event of a clock losing at a rate of over 24 seconds in 24 hours, double the variation shall be added to the registered time.

9.3 When the variation is within the 24 seconds margin, it shall be added or deducted in the usual manner.

9.4 Any clock that loses or gains at a rate greater than 2 minutes in 24 hours shall be disqualified until rectified.

10. CLOCK STOPPING.

10.1 Should a competitor's clock stop before timing in, such clock shall be taken to the clocking centre:

a. To have the clock reset;

b. To exchange it for another clock;

c. The competitor may, with permission, time into another competitor's clock of the same club. If a competitor times into another competitor's clock such occurrence shall be reported to a CCF or Club official before ring off time.

10.2 In the event of a competitor's clock stopping after the bird is timed in, they shall be empowered to go to an official member of the Club Clock Committee with their clock intact to have the seal broken and the rubber ring removed and placed in a second clock. The time shown on the second clock shall be the time recognised. Any stopped clocks shall be held by a Club official and presented to the Management Committee for inspection.

10.3 Should a clock stop during competition and the competitor does not avail themselves of the provision of rule 10.1. or 10.2. the matter shall be dealt with by the Management Committee, with the view of allowing a refund of the money paid by the competitor. The decision of the Management Committee shall be final and binding.

10.4 In the event of a competitor being issued with a clock which in the opinion of the Management Committee was insufficiently wound, they may be refunded all entry fees paid less expenses on a pro/rata basis for that race.

11. IRREGULAR CLOCK STAMPS.

11.1 In the event of a competitor timing in a wrong pigeon in the first bucket, they shall be allowed to time in into the next bucket and in this event the competitor shall notify the clock Committee of same. Any number of birds may be timed into one clock. This rule allows two competitors of the same club to time into one bucket and one clock. If a competitor times into another competitors clock such occurrence shall be reported to a CCF or Club Official before ring off time.

11.2 In the event of a competitor double kicking their clock at any time, such occurrence shall be reported to the Management Committee or Club Clock Committee. Failure to do so may mean disqualification.

11.3 Should a competitor overturn a bucket, so that a thimble or rubber cannot be inserted, they shall place a piece of paper in that bucket, turn it away and time in to the following bucket.

11.4 In the event of a rubber being timed and the print on the tape is unable to be read due to ink distortion or too faint then the following will apply:

a. Place a symbol in the next bucket and kick it again.

b. The second print (time) providing it is legible will be accepted in place of the previous unreadable print.

c. All other prints that indicate that the clock was started on time, check kicks and ring off kicks are required to be legible or the clock shall be disqualified from competition.

12. VIEWING CLOCKS.

12.1 Any two Management Committee persons or appointed persons shall have the right to inspect a competitor's clock at any time during the progress of the race.

12.2 Any competitor not presenting their clock for inspection when asked to do so shall be disqualified from that race.

12.3 Any competitor taking their clock to another place to time in, whereby they may gain an unfair advantage, shall be disqualified and dealt with by the Management Committee.

13. RESETS.

13.1 In the event of birds not being liberated, EBS systems and quartz clocks do not have to be reset. Manual wind-up clocks must be reset after 48 hrs

13.2 Clocks shall not be reset, other than stopped clocks once the race is in progress.

14. SPARE CLOCKS.

14.1 Each Club shall have sufficient spare clocks for use in case of an emergency.

14.2 No competitor shall have access to more than one clock at any given time.

15. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLOCK RULES.

a. All the foregoing Clock Rules shall stand until the Annual General Meeting of each year and can only be altered at this meeting by a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

b. (i) Notices of any alterations to the Racing Rules to be brought up at the Annual General Meeting, must be given in writing prior to the last schedule race of the year. Any amendments to such notices must be given in writing within four (4) weeks after the last schedule race of the year.

Notice of motions received between the last race of the season and the forthcoming Annual General Meeting will not be accepted.

c. All notice of motions shall be moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. The proposed alterations submitted along with any amendments to such notice shall be forwarded to the Clubs for an individual member vote and the voting sheet to be returned to the Annual General Meeting.

d. If it is so desired to amend, rescind or add to any of these rules after the holding of the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season, such can only be done by a notice of motion moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. On receipt of such a notice of motion and/or motions at a general meeting, Clubs will be advised by mail with a copy of the submitted notice of motion and/or motions and shall have until the next general meeting to lodge any amendments to such notice of motion and/or motions. **(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)**

e. Voting on any notice of motions between the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season be an individual member vote and shall require a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

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PART 4 - ELECTRONIC BAND SCANNING SYSTEMS

1. (a) The use of Electronic Band Scanning Systems ("EBSS") as approved by the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Incorporated ("CCF") for use in all races conducted by the CCF.

   (b) The approved EBSS are – Bricon, Benzing, Tipes and Unikon.

2. (a) In the event that the Management Committee determines that an EBSS or a system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the CCF may disapprove the use of that system.

   (b) The disapproval of any system shall be effective immediately upon resolution of the Management Committee and the disapproval shall be advised to members as soon as reasonably possible either by written notice or in the CCF magazine.

   (c) The CCF reserves the right to withdraw the approval of any EBSS at any time, if a lack of security occurs with any particular system.

   (d) If any Race Secretary or race official determines that a lack of security exists with any individual unit, they shall notify the Management Committee and seek an immediate statement as to the validity of the continued system use. The Race Secretary or race official shall provide a written statement of the reason for concern to the system owner and to the Management Committee.

   (e) Issues of the potential or actual adequacy or otherwise of security shall be a matter for determination by the Management Committee within its absolute discretion.

3. Use of an EBSS by an individual CCF member shall be authorised in writing by not only Management Committee but also the member's respective CCF affiliated Club.

4. A CCF affiliated Club shall not make the use of an EBSS mandatory.

Particular EBS Systems.

5. A member is free to purchase any CCF approved EBSS they choose. The member shall be responsible for ensuring the system (hardware/software) is compatible with other systems used by CCF or the member's CCF affiliated Club. The CCF or the Club shall take no responsibility for any system incompatibility.

6. It shall be advisable for any member, prior to purchasing an EBS System, to check with the CCF as to what systems are already in use.

Use of EBS Systems by Members.

7. The serial number of each EBSS clock and where practical**,** the serial number of each antenna shall be approved by and registered with the CCF prior to use.

8. The installation of the sensor antenna shall be inspected by the Club Secretary and one (1) other Club Committee Member and sealed with an appropriate seal in order that the sensor cannot be relocated. A diagram and/or photograph shall be supplied to the Federation Secretary with the appropriate documentation.

9. Every EBSS sensor antenna shall be installed wholly within the confines of the competitor's loft. The sensors/antennas of an EBSS shall be within the entrance of the loft (this includes an entry into the face wall of the loft, as long it is considered the entrance).

10. Every sensor/antenna shall be sealed as a fixture at point of entry. Point of fixture shall be documented.

11. The maximum distance on a unilateral plane of multiple sensors/antennas connected to an EBSS in any competitor's loft is three (3) metres inclusive measured from the furthest point on any part of one sensor/antenna ("the first sensor") to the furthest point on any part of the furthest sensor/antenna to the first sensor. Multiple entries are permissible, as long as they are contained within the maximum inclusive 3 metre unilateral plane.

    (a) Where the distance between sensors/antennas exceeds the 3 metres as referred to in Rule 11 and within or not exceeding 16 metres, the race distance shall be calculated to the closest sensor/antenna to the race point.

12. No sensor/antenna may be employed or placed at the loft of another competitor or moved to any other position of the competitor's loft without prior application to, and approval by the Management Committee.

Racing Requirements.

13. System control modules or system keys and software used in EBS systems shall be purchased or procured by the system owner.

14. Users of EBSS shall:

    (a) Use an electronic band scanning system that has a re-programmable electronic band as approved by the manufacturer.

    (b) Use electronic bands that have read/write chips. Currently the use of 64/128 bit chips are approved for use.

15. The Race Secretary of each competing CCF affiliated Club shall secure all individual system control modules or system keys during competitive events. The use and operation of these security controls shall only be permitted by the individuals specifically authorised by the CCF affiliated Club or the CCF during competitive events.

16. Electronic banded pigeons shall not be handled by the competitor or a representative of the competitor during the race entry logging or basketing process. During the logging process, all band data shall be reviewed to ensure band data accuracy by the Race Secretary or a Race Committee member.

17. After all race birds have been entered in an EBSS the Race Secretary shall print a list of the competitor's entries as verification of all birds entered. The printout shall be signed by the Race Secretary or other designate and the competitor.

    (a) The race entry sheet (basketing list) shall have printed on it the following:
    "I wish to 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."

18. The printout serves as a race entry sheet. An additional copy shall be printed for the competitor.

    (a) The race entry sheet (basketing list) electronic band numbers and life ring numbers shall correspond with the clocking list on ring off night. Should there by any discrepancy the competitor shall be disqualified from the race.

    (b) Should a race entry (basketing list) printout contain only one signature on ring-off night all entries for that competitor shall be disqualified from any race result.

19. In the case where an electronic clock race sheet shows a tie, the first bird listed shall receive the highest ranking of the tied birds and so forth, down the list.

20. Each member using the EBSS has the right to register a dummy ring (e.g. AU-00-ACW001) into his/her list of birds recorded in the EBSS.

    (a) On each basketing night this dummy ring is recorded along with the flyer's entries for the race. Once this ring is recorded on the flyer's entry sheet, the ring is then handed back to the Race Secretary and is kept in a safe place.

    (b) The flyer cannot have access to this ring until such time as it is required by the flyer to record an acceptable time of a pigeon/s timed in while the main clocking system was absent from the loft.

    (c) The dummy ring, if taken by a flyer from the Club, shall be scanned into his/her EBSS by the flyer on arrival home.

    (d) The dummy ring shall be returned by the flyer on the next ring off night for that particular race.

    (e) Any time recorded on an EBSS while the main clocking system was absent from the loft and the flyer did not avail himself/herself of the use of a dummy ring, the recorded time shall not be accepted in any race conducted by the CCF.

21. If the data contained in an EBSS becomes defective, erases, or corrupted between race entry and the return of pigeons to the competitor's loft, all entries for that competitor shall be disqualified from any race results. The Race Secretary shall verify the system failure.

22. (a) In the event of a malfunction of an EBSS and it being sent for repair, proof of repair shall be produced before the EBSS can be used for competition again.

    (b) In the event of the removal of the sensor/antenna for any reason, the sensor/antenna reinstallation shall be inspected and sealed as per Rule 8.

23. If any competitor intentionally attempts to corrupt, interfere with or destroy the electronic data of any EBSS, that competitor shall be called before the Management Committee for disciplinary action.

24. (a) Should the EBSS display (after a race entry or race) show the complete set, but NOT be able to generate a printout, the Club Race Secretary or Race Committee member shall view the display data and report it manually. The manual report shall be used for calculating race results.

(b) In the event of it being a CCF controlled race and a printout cannot be generated from the member's timer/recorder, the timer/recorder shall be produced for a manual reading by the CCF on the first Monday night after the race day. Failure to produce the timer/recorder shall result in non acceptance of the member's result.

25. The Management Committee or its designate reserves the right at any time, without prior notice, to inspect the installation and operation of any EBSS being used by a competitor within the CCF.

26. Any application form adopted by the Management Committee from time to time forms part of these rules and conditions.

27. These rules and conditions are supplementary to and shall be read in conjunction with the current CCF racing and clock rules. To the extent of any inconsistency, the latter shall prevail.

28. Headings are inserted for convenience only and are not intended to assist interpretation.

29. **AMENDMENTS TO THE EBSS RULES and CONDITIONS.**

a. All the foregoing Rules shall stand until the Annual General Meeting of each year and can only be altered at this meeting by a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

b. (i) Notices of any alterations to the Racing Rules to be brought up at the Annual General Meeting, must be given in writing prior to the last schedule race of the year. Any amendments to such notices must be given in writing within four (4) weeks after the last schedule race of the year.

Notice of motions received between the last race of the season and the forthcoming Annual General Meeting will not be accepted.

c. All notice of motions shall be moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. The proposed alterations submitted along with any amendments to such notice shall be forwarded to the Clubs for an individual member vote and the voting sheet to be returned to the Annual General Meeting.

d. If it is so desired to amend, rescind or add to any of these rules after the holding of the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season, such can only be done by a notice of motion moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. On receipt of such a notice of motion and/or motions at a general meeting, Clubs will be advised by mail with a copy of the submitted notice of motion and/or motions and shall have until the next general meeting to lodge any amendments to such notice of motion and/or motions. **(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)**

e. Voting on any notice of motions between the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season be an individual member vote and shall require a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

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PART 5 - GENERAL RULES.

1. Any matter not specified in the above racing and clock rules shall be decided by the delegates at a CCF meeting, whose decision shall be binding until the Annual General Meeting.

1.1 Any matter likely to cause dissension in the Clubs shall be referred back to its members, at Club level for a discussion before being decided on by a full CCF membership vote.

1.2 Any minutes passed during the year only remain active for that current season.

1.3 Any minutes passed during that current season can be added to either the racing or clock rules by:

a. A notice of motion/s to that effect shall be lodged by one Club and seconded by another Club prior to the liberation time of the last race of the season and shall be voted on by the full flying membership at the next upcoming Annual General Meeting.

b. A simple majority vote is required.

2. Anything appertaining to the good government and well being of the CCF not specified in the racing and clock rules can be dealt with by a full CCF membership vote at any time and their decision shall be final and binding on all Clubs and their members.

3. **PENALTIES.**

3.1 Any member of any Club, a member of the CCF or any Club being a member of the CCF, may be disciplined by:

a. Exoneration.

b. Warning.

c. Fine up to $4500.

d. Suspension or disqualification for any period.

3.2 The penalty shall be imposed by the Management Committee of the CCF after hearing all the evidence, including that from a member or Club involved, and the finding of the Management Committee shall be final and binding.

3.3 In the event of imposition of a fine, then the member and/or Club shall be deemed to be suspended until payment of such fine in full.

3.4 Any fine imposed shall be deemed to be a liquidated debt owed to the CCF, which shall have the power to recover same in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

3.5 Without otherwise limiting the provisions of Rule 3 of the General Rules and in the absence of any specified penalty as stated within the Rules, the Management Committee may disqualify the Club and/or Member or impose a maximum fine of $100 on the Club and/or Member for non-compliance of any of the above Racing Rules.

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PART 6 - LIBERATION PROTOCOL

1. **Objectives.**
   - 1.1. To optimize race returns by the use of best practices within our control.
   - 1.2. To identify and avoid liberating the birds in conditions that could jeopardize their chance of returning home safely.
   - 1.3. To set parameters within which the Liberation Committee and liberator are required to operate, in order to avoid foreseeable and therefore preventable losses from occurring.
2. **Liberation Guidelines.**
   - 2.1 The Liberation Committee shall consist of three members who shall communicate with each other and in consultation with the liberator shall oversee all liberations conducted by the Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc.
   - 2.2 The Liberation Committee shall, prior to the release of birds, examine the current and forecasted weather conditions which are considered to be along the expected line of flight during the flight time.
   - 2.3 The use of current weather reports and forecasts are to be obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology and Weather Zone and are to be used in conjunction with the liberators observations at the liberation site.
   - 2.4 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.
   - 2.5 Confirm weather conditions on the ground by seeking advice from local contacts along the flight path.
   - 2.6 The Liberation Committee shall then determine whether liberation will be undertaken based on the "Application of Liberation Guidelines".
   - 2.7 The Liberation Committee shall not liberate the pigeons for any race unless all Committee Members agree to do so.
   - 2.8 The Liberation Committee shall complete the attached form (A), detailing the conditions of liberation, for future reference.
3. **Interpretation of Liberation Protocols.**
   - 3.1 The birds shall be liberated or held over based on a set of defined parameters which come under the umbrella of a "Green Light, Amber Light and Red Light" system.
   - 3.2 **"Green Light"** is defined as a high certainty in the liberation of the birds.
   - 3.3 Weather conditions, defined under "Favourable or Neutral Weather Conditions" which satisfy the conditions set out in rule 6.1 to 6.9 inclusive, allowing for the liberation of the birds.
   - 3.4 **"Amber Light"** is defined as lesser certainty in the liberation of the birds, with a high degree of caution to be exercised by the Liberation Committee.
   - 3.5 Weather conditions which do not satisfy rule 6.1 to 6.9 in every respect, but are reasonably close to satisfying the required conditions for liberation.
   - 3.6 The birds will not be liberated unless and confirm ground observations along the flight path indicate that the forecast conditions are incorrect or the weather conditions are moderating quicker than forecasted.
   - 3.7 Extreme caution shall also be exercised if the defined temperature conditions in Item 6.9 are satisfied and a head wind or side wind is blowing.
   - 3.8 Examples as follows:
     a. Fog at liberation point or fog along the line of flight. Delay the liberation time by up to 2 hours to allow fog to clear.
     b. Rain or low and heavy overcast at race point or along flight path clearing. Delay liberation time by up to 2 hours to reach Green Light conditions.
     c. Where clearing rain is forecast along the flight path, birds may be liberated provided that the rain(s) encountered are light and of a sufficiently short duration that shall not impede the progress of the birds.
     d. Provided rule 6.6, 6.7, 6.8 are satisfied at the liberation point, wind conditions which slightly exceed the defined limits for a short distance or duration over the flight path may be acceptable for liberation.
     e. Temperature conditions which are slightly outside the limits of rule 6.9 with a tail wind condition.
   - 3.9 "**Red Light"** is defined as a very low certainty in the Liberation of the birds, under this indicator the birds will automatically be held over. Refer to "4 Operational Procedures" below. Red Light conditions are defined in rule 7.1 to 7.11 inclusive.
   - 3.10 A head wind or side wind even of moderate strength in combination with a low or high temperature could result in a bad race and is considered as detrimental to the birds.

4. **Operational Procedures.**

4.1 Where circumstances prevail and **GREEN LIGHT** parameters are satisfied other than one (1) parameter which falls within the AMBER LIGHT zone, then the Liberation Committee shall, within its discretion, liberate the birds provided the Liberation Committee is satisfied that the pigeons will perform on their merits and not be unduly obstructed on the flight path home.

4.2 Where circumstances prevail and **GREEN LIGHT** parameters are satisfied other than two (2) parameters which fall within the Amber Light zone the liberation committee shall normally hold the birds or exercise extreme caution in its deliberations and further document an objective case for the liberation of the birds.

4.3 Where two or more **AMBER LIGHT** conditions form part of the liberation parameters the birds will be held over.

4.4 Where circumstances prevail and **GREEN LIGHT** parameters are satisfied other than one (1) parameter which falls within the **RED LIGHT** zone, the liberation committee shall exercise extreme caution when deciding to liberate the birds provided it is satisfied that the forecasted **RED LIGHT** parameters are unlikely to eventuate and and/or on the ground sightings do not support the non-forecasted conditions.

4.5 Where circumstances prevail with two or more **RED LIGHT** conditions forming part of the liberation parameters, the birds will be held over**.**

5. **Observation and Analysis of Weather Conditions.**

5.1 The interpretation and analysis of weather conditions will take into account those conditions which may adversely affect the pigeons' ability to successfully navigate their path home, while identifying those conditions which may prove favourable.

5.2 Analysis of weather conditions will take into account the estimated flying time, which is outlined as follows: flying time is the time between liberation and the anticipated arrival home of the majority of the pigeons (this will be calculated by using a velocity of 1200mpm) for races less than 800km.

5.3 **Example:**

a. A race from approximately 300km shall have a flying time of approximately 4 hours and 10 minutes.
b. For all races in excess of 800km the weather for the day after liberation shall also be taken into account before birds are liberated.

6. **Favourable or Neutral Weather Conditions (Green Light/Amber Light).**

6.1 Favourable or neutral weather conditions are defined as: those which are known to be helpful or have no known effect on the pigeon's ability to navigate their way home and will result in the liberation of the pigeons.

6.2 Clear sky: Is defined as a day with no cloud.

6.3 Fine conditions: A combination of sun and cloud cover where the Weather Bureau predicts no rainfall at liberation point or along the expected flight path.

6.4 High cloud cover: Along the flight not associated with rain, and the sun clearly visible from behind it.

6.5 Patchy cloud: Is a day with patchy cloud not associated with rain.

6.6 A tail wind or gusts: Is wind or gusting winds heading in the same direction as the birds and is 49kph (27 knots) or less. (Weather Bureau forecast is a fresh to strong breeze).

6.7 A headwind or gusts: Is wind or gusting winds heading into the expected line of flight which do not exceed 29kph (17knots). (Weather Bureau forecast is moderate to fresh wind strength).

6.8 Wind other than a headwind: Is wind or gusting wind in any direction other than a headwind that is less than 29kph (17 knots) especially as a cross wind on coastal routes (Weather Bureau forecast is a moderate to fresh wind strength).

6.9 Temperature: The temperature at the race point shall not be lower than 4ºC and not exceed 30ºC at ground level at the liberation site at the time of liberation.

6.10 Note: The trailer to be stationary for a minimum of 4 hours prior to any liberation except when the trailer has been moved to an alternate liberation site, in which case the birds shall have at least 1 hour rest for every 2 hours of travel time.

7. **Unfavourable Weather Conditions (Red Light).**

7.1 Unfavourable weather conditions are those conditions which are known to obstruct or affect the ability of the birds to navigate their way home. Should any of the following conditions be detected or be predicted during the flying time the liberation shall be postponed or cancelled.

7.2 Fog, dust storms or smoke haze**:** At the liberation site or in close proximity to the expected line of flight, at any pass or mountain range on the expected line of flight.

7.3 Overcast conditions: With one hundred percent low cloud coverage, poor visibility, no wind and without sun being visible or no shadows cast.

7.4 Poor light: A light meter reading at the liberation site of less than 10 is regarded as poor visibility.

7.5 Poor visibility: A clear line of sight that is less than 5 kilometres.

7.6 Rain: Should it be raining at the liberation site or over moderate stretches on expected line of flight.
7.7 Snow: Should it be snowing at the liberation sight or be predicted to fall on expected line of flight.
7.8 Stormy weather or lightning: Predicted anywhere on or approaching the expected line of flight.
7.9 Temperature: Should temperature along the expected line of flight be predicted lower than 4°C or higher than 30°C at ground level.
7.10 Wind or gusts in any direction: Wind or gusts, with the exception of tail winds, in excess of 29kph (17 knots) from any direction, especially as a cross wind when racing on coastal routes. (Weather Bureau forecast for wind is given as moderate fresh wind strength).
7.11

Unfavourable wind conditions at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport that would make it likely birds returning home would fly at a low altitude over the airport site into a headwind exceeding 15 knots, thus posing a risk to the safety of aircraft and birds. Prevailing wind conditions at Sydney Airport can be determined by phoning airport officials on 0419 278 208.
Should such unfavourable weather conditions at Sydney Airport exist, liberation should be postponed or cancelled. This would only apply when Sydney Airport and its surrounding area are expected to be along the line of flight for the birds returning home. (10/10/2016)

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES of the LIBERATION COMMITTEE

8. **Scheduled liberation times, early as possible (E.A.P) and holdovers.**
8.1 Birds shall not be liberated prior to scheduled liberation time.
8.2 Liberations may be made up to two hours later than the time scheduled.
8.3 Early as possible (E.A.P) is defined as: liberating birds no earlier than 30 minutes after local sunrise.
8.4 Birds held over shall be liberated from 8.00am but can be liberated up to two hours later than scheduled time except when stipulated earlier as per the schedule.
9. **Holdovers**.
9.1 **Friday night basketing:** If liberation is not possible Saturday or Sunday birds will be returned to Sydney for their respective clubs to pick up.
9.2 **Thursday night basketing:** Birds can be held until Tuesday. If birds cannot be liberated by Tuesday they will be returned to Sydney for their respective clubs to pick up.
9.3 **Wednesday night basketing:** Birds can be held until Tuesday. If birds cannot be liberated by Tuesday they will be returned to Sydney for their respective clubs to pick up.
10. **Communication with Liberator, Liberation Committee and Executive Committee. (Amended 19th April 2010)**
10.1 Should a liberation look unlikely because of a locked in weather pattern and where there is only a remote chance of a liberation occurring, the liberation committee shall make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to bring the birds back to a shorter race point on the same route or change to an alternate direction whereby a liberation can be made possible.
10.2 Should liberation look unlikely because of a locked in weather pattern, and where weather predictions show no foreseeable chance of liberation, the Executive Committee on the advice of the Liberation Committee shall have the authority to cancel the race and bring the birds home.
10.3 Should a liberation look unlikely because of a locked in weather pattern and where weather predictions show no foreseeable chance of a liberation, the Executive Committee on the advice of the Liberation Committee shall have the power to abandon and/or reschedule the race prior to basketing, provided such information is advised on the Federation telephone number 9294 0295 by 5.00pm on the night of basketing.

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES of the LIBERATOR

11. **Objectives.**
11.1 It is the liberator's responsibility to care for and maintain the birds whilst they are being loaded, enroute to the race point, at the liberation site and should the need arise to arrange pick up of any lost birds on way home. To identify and avoid liberating birds in conditions that could jeopardize their chance of returning home safely.
11.2 **Note:** Random spot checks may be carried out enroute and at the liberation site by the Management Committee to ensure the birds are being cared for as per the following procedure.
11.3 **Definition:** The use of the word "Full can" referred to hereunder is equal to a measurement of 12 ounces.
12. **Duties.**
12.1 **Loading**. To help supervise loading of baskets onto the truck from bottom to top and to ensure Clubs load in the correct position.

12.2 **Airing**, The trailer taut liner to be opened whenever the truck is stopped for any length of time (minimum 15 minutes) e.g. such as the driver's meal break, sleep, breakdowns etc.
For **Security Purposes** the liberator will remain with the trailer while ever the trailer curtains are open e.g. such as the driver's meal break, sleep, breakdowns etc.

12.3 Both taut liner curtains are to remain open at all times while ever the trailer is stopped, while being loaded with birds, unless unfavourable weather is experienced. Please refer to Rule 15. Care and Maintenance at the Liberation Site.

12.4 **Friday night basketing.** Upon arrival at the liberation site, the trailer to be opened and all birds watered. The water shall be topped up when possible later that morning.

12.5 **Note: The trailer must be stationary for a minimum of 4 hours prior to any liberation**.

12.6 **Thursday night basketing.**

a. Upon arrival at liberation site the trailer is to be opened up and all birds watered. At 12.00 noon the birds to be fed 2 full cans of feed per basket, (using feed cans provided). This is to be done by putting 1 full can of feed per trough allowing birds to feed, then repeat the process and give birds another full can of feed. Feed troughs to be removed at 3.00 pm and any excess feed re-bagged as waste. Water to be checked regularly and topped up as required.

12.7 **Wednesday night basketing.**

a. The truck shall stop at a suitable spot by 12.00 noon Thursday. Upon arrival at this suitable site, the trailer will be opened up and all birds are to be looked after as follows: The birds are to be watered, and then 1 full can of feed to be placed in each feed trough. Feed troughs are then to be checked and should any be empty another can of feed should be added. Feed troughs are to stay on until dark with feed in them and then removed.

b. Water to be topped up regularly and removed after dark.

c. The truck is then to proceed to liberation site. Upon arrival at liberation site Friday, the trailer to be opened and birds are to be watered. At 12.00 noon, the birds are to be fed. This will be done by putting 2 full cans of feed per trough until all birds are fed. Feed troughs are to be checked regularly and should any be empty, more feed **to** be added, as required, up to 3.00pm. all feed troughs are to be removed at 3.00pm. The water to be checked regularly and topped up as required.

13. **Holdovers.**

13.1 **Friday night basketing:** Should the birds be held over they will be fed. This will be done by giving 1 full can of feed per trough until all birds are fed, then go back to start and give birds another full can of feed. Feed troughs to be removed 2 hours after the completion of feeding. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.
Note: Birds are not to be fed prior to 12.00 noon Saturday.

13.2 **Thursday night basketing:**

a. Should the birds be held over Saturday, feeding to be as follows. At 12.00 noon, 2 full cans of feed **to** be put in each trough. Upon completion of feeding all birds, feed troughs are to be checked and if any are empty, another can of feed to be added. Feed troughs are to stay on with feed in them, then be removed at 3.00pm. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed each second (2nd) day.

b. Should the birds be held over Sunday, then the birds are to be fed utilising the above mentioned feeding process. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.

c. Should the birds be held over Monday, then the birds are to be feed utilizing the same process as the previous two days. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.

13.3 **Wednesday night basketing:**

a. Should the birds be held over Saturday, feeding to be as follows: At 12.00 noon, 2 full cans of feed to be put in each trough. Upon completion of feeding all birds, feed troughs are to be checked and if any are empty, another can of feed to be added. Feed troughs are to stay on with feed in them, then be removed at 3.00pm. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.

b. Should the birds be held over Sunday, they are to be fed utilizing the abovementioned feeding process. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.

c. Should the birds be held over further, they are to be fed utilizing the same process as the previous two days. In the event of a holdover the water is to be changed every second (2nd) day.
d. Should any unforseen problems arise the Liberation Committee shall contact the Federation Secretary immediately.
e. Should birds seem extremely quiet and look fluffed up or unhealthy the Liberation Committee shall be contacted immediately by the liberator. At no time are the birds to be liberated in this condition!
f. After the completion of any trip, the liberator shall provide the Federation Secretary with a full written report, using Form (B) attached, of the liberation or holdover and weather on return trip to Sydney or any problems arising on trip.
E.g.: Problems with watering or feeding of birds, the liberation site, or weather conditions etc.

14. **Care and maintenance during transport.**

14.1 When the transporter is stopped for a period of time, e.g. driver's meal break, sleep/rest breaks or breakdowns etc, the following is to apply.

a. Less than fifteen minutes - The taut liner will be unclipped, and the walkways pulled out with the curtain attached to the bottom of the walkway and the two rear trailer doors opened.
b. More than fifteen minutes – in fine weather opening the taut liner on both sides shall be sufficient.
c. Should unfavourable weather, e.g. rain, fog, strong wind or snow be experienced during the trip the birds are to be protected. The taut liner will not be pulled open. Instead the taut liner will be unclipped, and the walkways pulled out with the curtain attached to the bottom of the walkway and the two rear trailer doors opened.

15. **Care and Maintenance at the Liberation Site.**

15.1 On arrival at the liberation site or when feeding or watering pigeons during trip, if weather is adverse and there is a possibility of exposure to strong wind, rain, fog or snow etc: the following procedure will be undertaken.

a. The walkway will be pulled out.
c. The metal pipe racks at the top will be extended out.
c. The liberator shall decide depending on assessment of the weather, if the weather curtains or the taut liner are to be pulled out over the metal racks at the top and extended down and secured to the walkway, creating a protective walkway for the liberator and the pigeons.
d. This will be done on both sides of the transporter.
e. If the weather curtains fail to give birds enough protection the taut liner curtains will be used for added protection. (The liberator shall inform the Liberation Committee should this arise).

16. **Preparing for Liberation.**

16.1 On the day of liberation, the liberator shall take note of the weather. e.g. visibility, light readings, wind direction, approximate wind speed, cloud, fog, overcast conditions, rain, smoke haze, dust, smog, shadows cast etc.

16.2 At least 75 minutes prior to the scheduled liberation time, the liberator will be contacted by the nominated Liberation Committee member, and asked to give a full description of the weather at liberation site as well as any poor weather encountered en route. The nominated Liberation Committee member will provide the liberator with a brief description of the forecast weather for that day.

16.3 Sixty (60) minutes prior to liberation time, the liberator will be contacted by the nominated liberation committee member, who will ask for weather at liberation site again. Weather permitting, the liberator will be told to get ready to liberate. e.g. cut seals and unlock doors and mark the liberation zone with warning cones as provided.

16.4 Ten (10) minutes before liberation, the liberator will again be contacted by the Liberation Committee to confirm liberation.

16.5 Following liberation, the liberator will take note of what birds do. e.g. how many mobs they break into, which direction they head, how long each mob takes to leave or anything else relevant to liberation.

16.6 Twenty (20) minutes after liberation, a nominated member of the Liberation Committee will contact the liberator requesting information regarding the liberation. e.g. How many mobs the birds broke into, which direction they head, how long each mob took to leave or anything else relevant to liberation.

16.7 Note: The liberator must take extreme care when making weather observations at the liberation point, as it is these observations which influence the decision to liberate the birds.

17. **Health and Wellbeing of Birds**.

17.1 The Federation Secretary or his nominated delegate, in conjunction with the liberator, reserves the right to remove from the trailer any pigeon/pigeons or basket of pigeons that appear unhealthy or have any visible sign of injury, disease or parasites; this shall be done to ensure the health and wellbeing of the remaining pigeons.

17.2 The Liberation Committee, after consultation with the Federation Secretary, reserves the right to instruct the liberator to remove from the trailer any pigeon /pigeons or basket of pigeons that appear unhealthy or have any visible sign of injury, disease or parasites; this shall be done to ensure the health and wellbeing of the remaining pigeons.

17.3 All birds shall be accepted by the Federation and the Club entirely at the owners risk once they leave the owners hands.

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES of CLUBS and MEMBERS

18. **Club Requirements. Baskets, security, health and basketing numbers:**

18.1 The race basket ideally should have weldmesh on the long sides one being a weldmesh side door with a small metal door inside the side door, the end door should also be of weldmesh. This will allow for more air flow between baskets and give the pigeons the best access to the water and feed, as the water supply is on the long side of the basket and the feed is supplied on the end door. The basket should measure approximately 1021cm long x 60.5cm wide x 25cm high (4ft x2ft x 9¾in.).

18.2 The short weldmesh end opposite to the release door to have smaller wire covering it to prevent pigeon's heads from becoming jammed during loading.

18.3 The basket should not have broken wires or hinges for security reasons, and be square to fit easily into trailer. Note: Any basket not fitting easily into trailer on loading night will be marked "Not to be used for races".

18.4 The long side door shall be sealed in the top centre or at both ends and the small side door shall also be sealed.

18.5 The end door shall be sealed with one seal only, in the centre top of door.

18.6 The seals should be either: a string with a metal finger seal over knot or an electrical cable tie approved by the Management Committee.

18.7 Every basket is required to have a wire insert and it should fit properly and be in good condition.

18.8 Each basket must have a bottom lining of absorbent material. E.g.: Cardboard, butchers paper etc (not printed newspaper).

18.9 Each basket must have the club initials clearly marked on each side.

18.10 Every basket must be cleaned prior to pigeons being basketed for any race.

18.11 Pigeon numbers per basket are to be adhered to and are as follows: (Amended 19th April 2010)

Friday night basketing:	26 hens per basket or 24 cocks per basket.
Thursday night basketing:	22 hens per basket or 20 cocks per basket.
Wednesday night basketing:	18 hens per basket or 16 cocks per basket.

18.12 No basket is to contain a mixture of hens and cocks.

19. **Members Commitment.**

19.1 It is the responsibility of every flyer within the Federation to make sure the pigeons being basketed in their respective Club(s) or at a Federation race are healthy and free from any visible sign of disease or parasites.

19.2 Should any flyer present a pigeon or pigeons that appear unhealthy, and/or have any visible signs of disease or parasites, the controlling body will be required to refuse entry to such birds.

20. **AMENDMENTS TO THE LIBERATION PROTOCOL.**

a. All the foregoing Rules shall stand until the Annual General Meeting of each year and can only be altered at this meeting by a simple majority vote. (Adopted AGM 20/2/2018)

b. (i) Notices of any alterations to the Racing Rules to be brought up at the Annual General Meeting, must be given in writing prior to the last schedule race of the year. Any amendments to such notices must be given in writing within four (4) weeks after the last schedule race of the year.

Notice of motions received between the last race of the season and the forthcoming Annual General Meeting will not be accepted.

c. All notice of motions shall be moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. The proposed alterations submitted along with any amendments to such notice shall be forwarded to the Clubs for an individual member vote and the voting sheet to be returned to the Annual General Meeting.

d. If it is so desired to amend, rescind or add to any of these rules after the holding of the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season, such can only be done by a notice of motion moved by one Club and seconded by another Club or by a notice of motion put forward by the Management Committee. On receipt of such a notice of motion and/or motions at a general meeting, Clubs will be advised by mail with a copy of the submitted notice of motion and/or motions and shall have until the next general meeting to lodge any amendments to such notice of motion and/or motions.

e. Voting on any notice of motions between the Annual General Meeting and the last race of the current season be an individual member vote and shall require a 75% majority vote of the Federation Membership to alter the current rule. **(Adopted AGM 18/02/2013)**

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Wednesday, 13 May, 2020 2:27:08 PM

CENTRAL CUMBERLAND RACING PIGEON FEDERATION INCORPORATED

LIBERATORS CHECK LIST

Race Point: Date:

Departure Time from Fairfield: Temperature: …….

Conditions en route to Race Point;

1st Stop: Time: Duration of Stop:

2nd Stop: ……. Time: …….. Duration of Stop: ……

3rd Stop: ……. Time: …….. Duration of Stop: ……

Arrival Time at Race Point: 4:55am Temperature: ……...

Thursday Night Basketing;

Conditions During Day: …….

Weather: ……. Temperature: ……..

Conditions at Race Point;

1 Hour Prior to Scheduled Liberation Time;

Temperature: Wind Direction: Wind Chill:

Light Meter Reading:

Visibility: Fair Good Excellent

Conditions: Clear Fog Drizzle Rain _____ Storm _____

Snow _____

Cloud Cover: High Light Patchy Medium Heavy

Liberation;

Time:

Temperature: Wind Direction: Wind Chill:

Light Meter Reading: Wind Direction: Wind Strength:

Visibility: Fair Good Excellent

Conditions: Clear Fog Drizzle _____ Rain _____ Storm _____

Snow _____

Cloud Cover: High Light Patchy Medium Heavy NIL

Liberation Comments:

Return Journey:

Detail any problems encountered on return journey

Signature: ……... Date:

LIBERATION COMMITTEE CHECK LIST

RACE POINT: …… DATE: ……..

Scheduled time of liberation: …… Liberation time: …….

Report From Liberator.

Visibility at Liberation Point – e.g. Fair, Good, Excellent	
Wind Strength and Direction at Liberation Point	
Predicted Wind Strength Experienced on-route	
Internet Weather at Liberation Site and on-route	
Liberation Committee Comments	
Signature:	Date:

PART 7 - CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE KEEPING OF RACING PIGEONS.

This Code is to be read in conjunction with the CCF Constitution, Liberation Protocol and was produced for the welfare of the pigeons. All member Clubs and Affiliates are bound by the requirements of this Code and it must be studied carefully.

The principal effect of this Code of Practice is to ensure that the welfare of the pigeons is the prime consideration in all activities associated with our sport.

The main issues that the Code focuses on are:

- Housing and environmental factors affecting health
- Racing and training practices, especially as they affect the chances of an individual pigeon returning safely to its loft.
- Transport of pigeons to races and training flights.
- Control measures to enhance the ability of a pigeon to return safely to its loft.

A breach of the Code will constitute an offence and may jeopardize your membership.

POLICY

Under the broad umbrella of pigeon welfare, the Federation identifies certain aspects and practices which are inherent to the operation of this Code of Practice.

The Racing Pigeon is a domestic animal and occupies a rightful place within the general community.

Notwithstanding the need for adequate exercise, for the pigeon's welfare, as a domestic animal the Racing Pigeon has to be regulated, sufficient, to ensure its continuity within the community.

On this basis, certain over-riding factors are evident:

a) The Racing Pigeon should be exercised daily, sufficient to ensure its fitness for the purpose intened.

- Other than for pigeons returning from racing and training, free-flight exercise is to be on a planned basis, with duration time typically from 30 to 90 minutes and performed to a maximum of twice daily.
- Free non-flight time, at any time, is to be conducted under close supervision by the owner.
- Other than for planned free flight and non-flight times, all racing pigeons are to be confined within their home "Loft".
- Persistent fielding and or roof sitting habits are prohibited.

b) The Racing Pigeon should be housed within a "Loft", both complying with both the Code of Practice for the Keeping and Racing of Pigeons and the requirements of Local Authorities.

Inherently, all racing pigeon "Lofts" should be constructed in such a manner as to maintain the public dignity and image sought by the Pigeon Racing fraternity.

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1. DUTY OF CARE TO PIGEONS.

1.1 The Pigeon Federation as parent body for its member clubs and affiliates believe that people who own or are responsible for the care of pigeons have a fundamental duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of those pigeons.

1.2 The Federation rules that:

A member, or affiliate, who has the care or charge of a pigeon or pigeons has a duty to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare of that pigeon or pigeons.

2. ILL TREATMENT OF PIGEONS.

2.1 The Federation defines ill treatment of pigeons as wounding, mutilating, abusing, tormenting and torturing, wanton or malicious beating and causing unnecessary pain or suffering. These acts are considered by the Federation as unacceptable treatment of pigeons.

2.2 The Federation rules that:

It shall be an offence to ill treat any pigeon and it may jeopardize your membership.

3. ACCEPTANCE AND INSPECTION OF PIGEONS FOR COMPETITION.

3.1 The Federation acknowledges the depth of expertise for pigeon care available within each member and affiliate club from which can be provided, suitably qualified personnel for the inspection of pigeons submitted for competition.

3.2 **Stewards.** The Federation will select annually from a list of names forwarded by each club to act as Stewards on the Federation's behalf for the inspection of pigeons submitted for competition.

3.3 **Acceptance of Pigeons by Stewards.** All pigeons are accepted by the Stewards on the grounds of sound health and physical fitness to successfully complete the journey set for the event.

3.4 **Steward's Right of Refusal.** The Steward retains the right to refuse an entry without challenge on the grounds of poor health, or physical impairment, or neglect, as to limit its opportunities to return safely; or on the grounds of a contagion hazard to other entries. Such refusals are to be documented for the Federation's action as necessary.

3.5 **Health Examples.** Poor pigeon health can be described as symptoms such as general lassitude from obvious sickness, respiratory disease indicated by wheezing, sneezing, nasal and eye discharge (ie Chlamydia infections), Pigeon Pox and the like.

3.6 **Neglect.** Neglect can be described as the pigeon being presented in a soiled and generally dishevelled condition and or harbouring external parasites.

3.7 **Physical Impairment.** Physical impairment is intended to cover any condition which is likely to diminish the chances of the pigeon to successfully complete the journey.

Examples of impairment are:

(a) Injuries and scaring both old and new which are visible or felt when holding the pigeon.
(b) Insufficient feathering which is likely to inhibit the pigeon from flying, competitively.

4.0 CARRIAGE AND CONVEYANCE OF PIGEONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TOSSING.

4.1 BASKETS.

4.2 **Configuration.** The carriage of pigeons is to be within the recognised rectangular or square basket configuration, allowing for adequate air exchange at both sides and top and for the pigeons to freely view their outside surroundings.

4.3 **Size of Baskets.** The Federation recognises that private pigeon carry baskets are constructed in many sizes to suit or fit individual circumstances, such as vehicle configuration, and it is not intended to interfere with this freedom. Instead, the Federation set minimum space requirements per pigeon as follows:

4.4 **Height Allowance in baskets.** The minimum height for all baskets, whether owned by the Federation or otherwise, is 21cm and is exclusive of all wire and plastic mesh bottom inserts.

4.5 **Space per pigeon in baskets.** The space allowance per pigeon will vary according to the time such confinement is in force, the distance of the race and whether provision has to be made to feed and water the pigeons en route and at the liberation site.

4.6 **Scope of Allowance.** This allowance pertains to pigeons being conveyed in any basket used for private training, Federation training and or racing, or for conveyance of pigeons to the club rooms for entry into competition.

4.7 **Tossing in Rain and Fog.** Rain and Fog at Liberation sites are known to interfere with the pigeons' ability to orientate. Pigeons, therefore, are not to be liberated away from the home lofts, for training or racing, into rain or fog and the liberators are to wait until such conditions abate or abort the exercise.

5. DRUG FREE.

Because of the significant time delay between the entry of pigeons for a race and actual liberation time many performance enhancing drugs illegally used in other contests are rendered ineffectual for pigeon racing. It is, however, policy that pigeon racing remains free of any administered performance enhancing drugs and this has particular reference to the use of any of the anabolic steroids and corticosteroids. Any competitor found to have entered a pigeon injected with any performance enhancing drug will be held responsible and be dealt with by the Federation. Any pigeons found sick or dead within the race baskets at liberation will be sent for analysis. Where an inject able substance is detected the owner/s will be held responsible and be dealt with by the Federation. Pigeons can also be subjected to DNA testing and micro-chipping.

6. THE PIGEON "LOFT".

6.1 Dimensions. The Federation recognises that pigeon "Lofts" are constructed in many sizes to suit or fit individual circumstances, such as available space within a conventional residential block, and it is not intended to interfere with this freedom. Instead, the Federation sets minimum space requirements per pigeon as follows:

6.2 Living Quarters.

6.3 Racing "Loft".

6.3.1 Height. The minimum common average, floor to ceiling height, for all "Lofts" shall be 165cm.

6.3.2 Box Perches. The space occupied by wall mounted box perches with minimum dimensions 24cm (height) x 24cm (width) x 8cm (depth) and the number of box perches exceeds the number of pigeons by a minimum of 10%. The box perch configuration represents the highest density for acceptable and adequate housing method for racing pigeons and is the standard adopted for the Code of Practice. The Code does not preclude other means of perch configuration but all configurations must contain a plus 10% surplus ratio between perch space and pigeon numbers allowable within the living quarters.

6.3.3 Minimum Space per Pigeon. Where all space is occupied by the pigeons, only, and excludes provision for feeding and or owner occupancy and utensils, as otherwise provided by passageways, trapping and feeding centres, the minimum space per pigeon is
92000cm ^{3} or 0.092m^3 or (0.45m)^3. Where feeding is carried out in the occupied space, the minimum space per pigeon is 0.132m$^{3.}$ In calculating minimum dimensions, no side of the living quarters can be more than four times the length of the other.

6.3.4 An example of maximum permissible pigeons and minimum box perches per occupied space in the living quarter is described as follows:

"Loft" dimension 180cm (width) x 210cm (length) x 180cm (height) = 6804000cm^3 divided by 92000cm^3 = maximum 74 pigeons and minimum 81 box perches, where feeding is performed elsewhere and there are no utensils within the living quarters.

For "Lofts" where feeding is performed in the living quarters, the maximum number of pigeons is calculated as 180cm (width) x 210cm (length) x 180cm (height) = 6804000cm^3 divided by 132000cm^3 = maximum 52 pigeons and minimum 57 box perches.

6.3.5 Stock "Loft". The Stock "Loft" is used for housing the breeding pigeons of the "Loft" and because of their value and invariable background of racing from some other inter or intra-state lofts are not able to be freed for exercise. These pigeons require extended space for their good health and well-being.

6.3.6 Living Quarters. The Stock "Loft" shall generally be of similar configuration as the Racing "Loft" except, in the place of box perches, that breeding compartments are provided. Typical dimensions for breeding compartments are 55cm (width) x 45cm (height) x 50cm (depth).

Adequate space to maintain health and well-being of pigeons, within the Breeding "Loft" shall be calculated as two and one held (2.5) times the provision, as minimum space, per pigeon, in Living Quarters where feeding is provided externally, and owner occupancy and utensils are excluded.

The **Maximum allowable** number is calculated from the above example as follows:

"Loft" dimension 180cm (width) x 210cm (length) x 180cm (height) = 6804000cm^3 divided by (92000cm^3 x 2.5) = 30 pigeons (or 15 mated pairs of pigeons) for the space provided.

6.4 The ideal "Loft". The following is provided only as a guide but reasonably reflects the hallmarks of a well organised and well constructed pigeon racing loft.

(a) There are a number of essential elements that make up the building of a "Loft". It needs to be dry and warm over the winter months and therefore needs to be built for that period of time. For the summer heat it also needs to have ventilation modifications, such as flaps and ventilators that can be adjusted and closed off as the winter approaches. It needs to be configured for ease of cleaning and for the comfort of the pigeons and box type perches are most suitable for both. Where practical, it needs to be sited on the lot so that the front of the "Loft" faces away from the prevailing winter winds and rain, whilst taking full advantage of the morning winter sun.

6.5 Ventilation. There needs to be adequate air exchange within a pigeon racing "Loft" without causing drafts. Under and over floor ventilation promotes essential dryness required for a healthy "Loft".

(a) Gabled type roofs are encouraged to cater for adequate air displacement. Where a gabled roof is not provided, an opening at ceiling height at the rear to the outside, of no less than 10cm along the full length of the Loft, is to be

provided. Alternatively, a "Witches Hat" type chimney or similar ventilator should be placed centrally within the roof to effect the required air exchange and to promote good health and comfort for the pigeons.

6.6 **Construction.** The Federation recognises that existing pigeon "Lofts" have been constructed to a number of standards and designs and it is not intended for these "Lofts" to conform to the Code of Practice, while they continue to be utilised in their present configuration. Instead the Federation sets basic standards for all new, changed, extended or upgraded "Lofts" taking place after January 1 1998. It is also recognised that in some municipalities regulations exist for construction of pigeon "Lofts" and where their regulations are in conflict with the Pigeon Keeping and Pigeon Racing Code of Practice, the Federation will make appropriate representation to those authorities, seeking their co-operation and assistance in the interests of conformity of regulations.

6.6.1 **Off-Ground.** All new "Lofts" shall be constructed off-ground with minimum height from ground to floor level of 20cm, allowing for free flow of air under floor. Also concrete slab floors are approved.

6.6.2 **Floor areas** may be either of the following configurations:

(a) Trafficable mesh grating floor, allowing for droppings to pass through for collection from below the floor level.
(b) Trafficable timber floor with suitable moisture absorptive qualities, and for regular ease of scrape Cleaning. eg: chipboard, plywood.
(c) Concrete slab floor.
(d) For the health of the pigeons, external open aviaries and or "sun yards" which are exposed to the elements are to be constructed off ground typically by using trafficable mesh floor for under-floor cleaning, or other suitable floor materials.

6.6.3 **Insulation.** For the welfare and comfort of the pigeons, where external cladding of a "Loft" consists of brick or metal such lofts shall be internally lined with plywood, or chipboard, or other heat retaining materials. For prevention of condensation dampness, all metal type roofs shall be insulated.

7. **LOFT CLEANING.**

7.1 Where above floor compartment droppings remain permanently dry, compacted and unfriable and are of 2cm thickness or less, and are used as part of the pigeon racing incentive, these are not considered a health hazard to either pigeons or humans.

7.1.2 **Deep Litter,** unless of a substance/s approved by the Federation, is not permitted.

7.1.3 "Loft" floors are to be **cleaned** on a minimum basis of once per week.

8. **FEED AND WATER.**

8.1 **Feed.** The Federation recognises that there are many successful methods for feeding of racing pigeons and it is not intended to regulate this activity other than to document normal feeds and feed practice.

(a) Essentially, racing pigeons thrive quite effectively on most grains and legumes, with wheat being the base staple. It is usual to supplement a wheat based diet to varying percentages with field peas, maize, sorghum, oats, rice, barley, certain pellet preparations and other small grains. The normal feed regime for racing pigeons is twice daily and given after exercise.

8.2 **Water.** Clean water in the home "Loft", available at all times, with and without additives is essential. Water is to be changed twice daily and more frequently in summer months especially in the Stock Loft.

9. This code of practice is to be read in conjunction with all the rules of the governing body.

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