

**GREATER MELBOURNE
PIGEON FEDERATION
INCORPORATED**

GENERAL RULES

RACING RULES

CLOCKING RULES

As Printed at Incorporation 9th October 1995

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1.

NAME

The name of the Federation shall be :

"The Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation Incorporated".

The approved abbreviation for the name shall be the "GMPF".

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

The purposes for which the Federation is established are :

- 1. The protection and improvement of racing pigeons.**
- 2. The promotion and encouragement of Federation races.**
- 3. The regulation of the sport of racing and showing racing pigeons.**
- 4. To improve all associated apparatus and appliances applicable to the sport of racing pigeons.**
- 5. To promote ongoing improvement in the management and care of racing pigeons.**
- 6. To offer protection and advancement in the interest of members in all matters associated with the sport of racing pigeons.**

GENERAL RULES

1. Membership :- The Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation Incorporated (GMPF) shall consist of clubs and their affiliated members, who shall be governed by an elected Executive Body and a Delegates Committee.

To form or remain an affiliated club with the GMPF the club must have at least 5 Fed Affiliated members.

2. Boundaries :- The GMPF boundary shall be within a 50 km radius of the Dandenong GPO, to where it meets the coast at Western Port Bay & Port Phillip Bay encompassing all land mass in between (Including Mornington Peninsula).

3. Election of Members :- Any club desirous of becoming affiliated shall make application, in writing, to the GMPF Secretary and shall supply a list of its' members names and addresses on the night of application, together with a complete copy of their rules, regulations and constitution, and the current affiliation fee, which shall be refunded should such a club not be admitted. A ballot shall be taken for their admission at the following Delegates Committee meeting. A vote demonstrating a two thirds majority of delegates present being in favour of the application is required for the application to be accepted. A nomination and a seconder must be obtained before a vote is taken.

4. Expelled Members :- No club, having a member thereof who is an expelled member of another club, shall be eligible for affiliation with the GMPF, and any affiliated club that shall retain an expelled member of the GMPF for four weeks after due notice has been given by the GMPF shall cease to be an affiliated club of the GMPF.

5. Membership Fees :- All clubs are required to pay an entry fee when an application for membership is accepted, and all affiliated clubs are required to pay an annual affiliation fee. All financial members of affiliated clubs are required to pay a joining fee on acceptance of application for GMPF membership, and an annual affiliation fee. Club and members joining and affiliation fees are to be determined at the delegates Committee meeting prior to the AGM each year. All club affiliation fees must be paid prior to the AGM to enable the delegates of each club to take part in the business of the GMPF. Any member belonging to more than one affiliated club may pay only one affiliation fee, and no person can be represented on the GMPF through more than one club.

6. Refusal of Membership :-The GMPF shall have the power to refuse membership without providing any reason for that refusal.

7 Dissolution :-The GMPF shall not be dissolved without the consent, in writing, of three quarters of the affiliated GMPF members. Disposition of surplus assets would be to all member clubs on a proportional basis as determined by the Executive Committee.

8. Clearances :- Any member of any club leaving his club to join a club affiliated with the GMPF must produce a FULL written clearance from his previous club before being admitted. The clearance must show that all dues payable to the previous club have been paid, that the member has been released from his membership and that there is nothing known to that club that would be detrimental to his character as a competing member. No new member can compete in any GMPF approved race until this rule is complied with.

9. General Conduct of Members :- Any club or member of a club affiliated with the GMPF who, in the opinion of the Executive Body, is found to be guilty of misconduct or wilfully breaking GMPF rules shall be ordered to appear before the Executive Body, who shall have the power to fine, suspend or expel such a member.

3.

10. Disputes :- All questions and disputes not provided for in these regulations shall be decided by the Executive Body, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

11. Membership to a Non-Affiliated Club :- An affiliated member of the GMPF shall not seek membership with any other such society, association or club for the purpose of racing pigeons without first gaining the permission of the Executive Body of the GMPF.

12. Life Members :- Any member who has rendered outstanding service to the GMPF may be honoured with Life Membership on a notice of motion signed by a member and presented at Delegates Committee meeting for tabling at the next Annual General Meeting. The unanimous vote of all delegate committee members present at the Annual General Meeting is required before the nominated member shall be honoured with life membership. A life member of the GMPF may attend all meetings of the GMPF and has the right to voice an opinion on any matter concerning the GMPF's well being, providing that the member remains a member of a club affiliated with the GMPF.

13. Registration of Members :-The GMPF Secretary shall maintain a register showing details of all current members of the GMPF.

14. Notices :- Any notices required to be served on a member of an affiliated club shall be deemed to have been sufficiently served if the same is placed in an envelope and placed in a receptacle for the purpose of delivering mail by Australia Post, and such members shall be deemed to have received such notice in the ordinary course of the postal system.

15. Change of Name :-Any club affiliated with the GMPF that should desire to change its' name must submit an application to the Executive Body for approval.

16. Management :- The GMPF shall be managed by an elected Executive Body and a Delegates Committee, these shall consist of :-

(1) The Executive Body...Shall consist of, The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Race Secretary, Ring Secretary, Clock Chairman and two elected members elected at the AGM as reserve executive members.

(2) The Delegates Committee...Shall consist of delegates nominated by the affiliated clubs on the following basis. Affiliated clubs with less than eight financial members shall nominate one delegate, clubs with eight or more financial members shall nominate two delegates.

17. Officers :- The officers of the GMPF shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, a Ring Secretary and a Race Secretary. These officers shall be elected by nomination at the AGM, any person nominated and not present at the AGM must agree to the nomination in writing. All Officers positions will be declared vacant at the AGM, all outgoing Officers will be eligible for re-election.

4.

18. Vacancies :- Where an elected Officer is, for any reason, unable to continue in an elected position that position shall be declared vacant and all member clubs notified of the vacancy. Member clubs can nominate a club Delegate for the vacant position and the vacancy will be filled at the first Delegates meeting after the vacancy occurs. Any Delegates nominated and not present at the Delegates meeting must agree to the nomination in writing. In the instance of a nominated Delegate being unable to continue in the position of club Delegate, the club will inform the GMPF Secretary, in writing, and nominate a replacement. The nomination shall be subject to the acceptance of the Executive Committee.

19. President's Duties :- It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all Delegate Committee meetings and Executive meetings, to preserve order, to give a casting vote upon all questions and motions when required, sign the minutes of the previous meeting when confirmed by a vote, and shall have the power to call Special meetings and sign cheques in conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer. The President shall retain the privileges of a delegate, but may not move a motion.

20. Vice President :- It shall be the duty of the Vice President to render assistance to the President on all occasions and to perform the duties of the President in his stead when he is absent, when he shall be vested with all the powers of the President.

21. Secretary :-It shall be the duty of the Secretary to convene and attend all meetings, except from where he is prevented from attending, and keep an accurate record of all business transacted. The Secretary shall have charge of all property belonging to the GMPF, including the common seal, the use of which will be approved by the executive committee, and will be responsible for the custody of books, documents and securities of the incorporated association.

22. Treasurer :- It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to attend all meetings, except where he is prevented from attending, receive all monies and give receipt for the same. He shall deposit all monies in the bank in the name of the GMPF, and shall sign cheques in conjunction with the President and the Secretary. He shall produce a financial statement at each Delegates Committee meeting , showing details of income and expenditure since the last Delegates Committee meeting, and advise the Delegates of the financial status of the GMPF. He shall also produce, at the Annual General Meeting, a balance sheet signed by the GMPF auditors, and a detailed statement showing clearly the financial position of the GMPF.

23. Assistant Secretary :-It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary to attend all meetings, except where he is prevented from attending, and assist the Secretary in keeping accurate records of all business transacted. The Executive Body will determine when the Assistant Secretary should assist the Secretary in general administration of GMPF business.

24. Ring Secretary :- It shall be the duty of the Ring Secretary to issue closed rings to all affiliated clubs and keep a record of all rings registered by or issued to members of affiliated clubs, and also to maintain a record on each members ring register and record all ring numbers transferred under the Transfer rule. Also to receive from and report to members particulars of lost and found pigeons, and make a check of ring numbers when required under GMPF rules, or at the request of the Executive Body

25. Promotion and Development Officer :- The Delegates committee shall appoint one or more Promotion and Development officer(s) at the Annual General Meeting, whose duty it shall be to represent the federation to intending new members and/or clubs. They shall also seek to develop growth of the federation and promote the federation with the view of gaining new members.

26. Liberation Committee :- The liberation committee shall consist of three members nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting, and will be responsible for assessing racing conditions prior to agreeing to the liberation of racebirds. The liberation committee will be responsible for communicating with the GMPF convoyer and advising GMPF members of liberation details.

27. Income :-The income and property of the GMPF, wheresoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the objectives of the GMPF and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise however by way of profit to the members of the GMPF, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent payment in good faith or remuneration to any officials or servants of the GMPF, or to any members of the GMPF for services actually rendered to the GMPF.

28. General Fund :-The funds of the GMPF shall be derived from affiliation fees, donations, race entry fees, cartage fees, levies, fines, subscriptions and other sources as determined by the Executive Body.

29. Levies :- The Executive Body shall have the power at any time they deem it necessary to make a levy on all members of the GMPF and should any member refuse to pay such a levy or levies within the time specified by the Executive Body, that member shall be judged unfinancial and cease to be a member of the GMPF.

30. Financial Year :- The recognised financial year of the GMPF shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

31. Arrears :-Any affiliated club being one month in arrears shall not participate in any of the privileges of the GMPF until such arrears have been paid.

32. Petty Expenses :-The Executive Body shall have the power to approve payment for all petty expenses incurred in the general running of the GMPF.

33. Forfeiture of Rights (1) :- Any club retiring from the GMPF before the end of the season must waive and forfeit all rights, monies, etc., deposited with the GMPF and will be held liable for an equal part of any deficit or general expense account.

34. Forfeiture of Rights (2) :- Any member found guilty of misconduct and suspended or expelled from the GMPF, or any member withdrawing from the GMPF, forfeits all claims against the GMPF and its', or its' members, assets.

35. Auditors :- The auditors shall prior to each Annual General Meeting, or at any time the Executive Body may direct, audit and examine all books, documents and balance sheets, and if correct, sign and certify the same accordingly. The auditor or auditors shall be appointed at the AGM each year and shall continue as such until the next AGM following such an appointment.

36. Inspection of Books/Documents :- Any member wishing to inspect Federation books, records or documents shall make application to the Secretary, detailing the reason for the request. The Secretary shall present the request to the Executive Committee who shall determine if the requested documents be made available to the member, should such a request be denied the member will be advised as to the reason for that decision.

37. Meetings :-Meetings of the Delegates Committee will be held on the last Tuesday of each month (Except December & January) at 8.00pm at the Dandenong clubrooms. Executive meetings will be held as often as required to ensure the GMPF is effectively funded and managed.

38. Quorum :- A quorum for a Delegates Committee meeting will be the attendance of three quarters of the nominated delegates. A Quorum for an Annual or Special General meeting will be the attendance of three quarters of the nominated Delegates, with an added condition that all member clubs are represented.

39. Proxy Vote :-Where a club delegate is unable to attend a Delegates Committee meeting, an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting the club may send an approved representative to that meeting who shall be allowed a proxy vote on behalf of the delegate, providing there is no objection from any other delegates present at that meeting.

40. Federation Minutes :- Minutes of the GMPF Delegates Committee meetings should be presented by delegates to their respective clubs in order to inform affiliated members of business transacted.

41. Annual General Meeting :- The Annual General Meeting of the GMPF shall be held on the first Sunday in February each year for the purpose of receiving the annual report and balance sheet, election of office bearers and any other business that may be necessary for the ongoing welfare of the GMPF.

42. Special General Meetings :-A special General meeting will be called by the President on written application/requisition, signed by four delegates representing three or more affiliated clubs, specifying the objectives of the same.

43. Notice of Meetings :- Notice of Delegates meetings will be provided at the conclusion of each Delegates meeting, where a date will be set for the next Delegates meeting. A minimum of twenty one days notice shall be provided when forwarding Notice of Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings to the Secretary of each member club. On forwarding advice of Annual or Special General Meetings the GMPF Secretary will also forward notice of motions to be tabled at those meetings.

44. Conduct of Members (Meetings) :- It shall be incumbent on all members of the GMPF to pay due respect to the Chairman and to uphold the dignity of the Chair.

45. Urgent Business :- In the event of urgent business being required to be dealt with at short notice such business will be dealt with by the Executive Body, who shall report details of their actions to the Delegates Committee.

46. Protests and Charges:- Protests and charges of improper conduct shall be dealt with by the Executive Body whose decision shall be final. No protest or charge shall be entertained unless lodged within one week, in writing, of the alleged offence taking place. The protest or charge shall be accompanied by a deposit of twenty dollars which, in the event of the protest or charge being considered frivolous, may be forfeited to the GMPF.

47. Alteration to Rules :- Any member desirous of altering, rescinding or adding any rule, matter or condition effecting the GMPF shall provide, in writing, through their affiliated club, notice of the same to the GMPF Secretary. Such notice shall be tabled at the next A.G.M and a vote of three quarters of Club Delegates present is required to enforce such an alteration. In the case of a split vote then the secretary must record details of all club delegates votes.

48. Alteration to Statement of Purposes :-Any club desirous of altering the statement of purposes shall provide, in writing, details of the proposed alteration to the GMPF Secretary, who shall table the proposal at the next GMPF Delegates Committee meeting. The delegates will ensure the proposal is discussed and voted on at their respective clubs, and will then vote on the proposal at the next Delegates Committee meeting. A unanimous vote of approval is required to enforce the alteration.

1. Federation Regulations :-The Executive Body shall have the power to frame regulations for the conduct of all Federation and Special races and the Federation in all such regulations shall be deemed to be identical with the Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation Incorporated.

2. Race Routes :- It shall be the duty of the Delegates Committee to determine release points on race routes which shall be fixed by 30th September of each year for the following years race programme The Executive Body shall have the power to alter or vary the race schedule should the necessity arise.

3. Race Entries :- All birds entered in Federation events by any competitor must be entered through the club in which the member is represented in the GMPF and all competing members must basket their pigeons and have their clocks set at the centre nominated by their affiliated club.

4. Life Rings :-All birds competing in Federation events must be rung with an intact closed life ring of standard size, not defaced. Only rings bearing the prefix "MELB" will be recognised for competition in races. Rings from another recognised Association or Federation, may be used when application is made to the GMPF for permission to compete with such rings. All GMPF members will purchase "MELB" life rings, other federations rings will only be considered for registration in bulk upon application to the Federation Executive committee. The only exception from this is for first year fliers with the GMPF.

5. Competing Club's Entries :- On dispatch of pigeons to race points club secretaries must supply, to the Federation Treasurer, a **GMPF Transport and Pool sheet**, declaring the club's name, names of competing members and total number of pigeons despatched to the race point. This statement must accompany the transporter on leaving the clubrooms, or approved basketing centre.

6. Federation Entries :- Entries in Federation controlled races must be made, by the competing member, on official GMPF race entry forms and contain details of all marks on life rings and a correct description of the bird entered, approved abbreviations for the description of birds can be used on the entry form. Details of markings on rubber race rings will be included on the entry form at the race marking. (see rule 11)

7. Young Birds Federation Entries :-All young birds rung with the prefix "MELB" are eligible to compete in Young Bird races, and Young Birds rung with VHA, VPU and WPF rings are permitted to compete in Young Bird races providing that these pigeons are transferred into the owners name in the GMPF ring register prior to 1st February. Transfer cards must be received by the GMPF Ring Secretary prior to 1st February. Any GMPF member intending to compete with such rings must submit an official GMPF Ring Registration form containing a list of such rings to the GMPF Ring Secretary. The only exceptions will be new members who shall be required to submit documented proof that rings were purchased after 1st July in the year printed on the ring, and who have gained approval from the Delegates Committee to compete in Young Bird races.

8. Entry Forms and Sealed Packets :-All Federation entry forms shall be under the direct control of the club secretary, and no sealed packets shall be opened for the purpose of checking race markings until the time appointed.

9.

9. Entry Fees :- All entry fees in all Federation races must be paid to the GMPF Treasurer on the night of basketing for each race.

10. Centre Supervisors :- All birds competing in Federation events must be basketed as directed by the Executive Body under the supervision of the Centre Supervisor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Body.

11. Race Marking :-No member shall be permitted to race mark or pencil their own pigeons.

12. Basket and Unit Seals :-All baskets and units are to be sealed using string or wire and the appropriate seal.

13. Mixing of Competing Pigeons :-each affiliated club's competing pigeons in any Federation controlled race are to be mixed on a proportional basis to the number of entries in the units despatched to the race point.

14. Convoyers :- The Executive Body shall have the power of appointing and remunerating the convoyers and making all arrangements and details as to the liberation of the birds, ensuring the convoyer is advised of all such arrangements.

15. Liberation :- Liberation times shall be fixed by the liberation committee who shall notify the convoyer of such times. The convoyer shall have the power to use his discretion to alter the liberation time should weather conditions, or any other unexpected condition, threaten the welfare of the birds, but the birds must not be liberated before the time fixed by the liberation committee.

16. Injured or Diseased Pigeons :-No birds shall be allowed to compete in any Federation race, or a club or Special race controlled by the GMPF, which the Centre Supervisor considers to be in any way injured or suffering from disease.

17. Loft Measurements :- Members flying distances to any course decided upon shall be measured by an official appointed by the Executive Body of the GMPF, and only these measurements shall be accepted. The original measurements shall be held by the GMPF, but a copy of the same shall be supplied to a club secretary upon request. Any objections to the said measurements must be lodged with the GMPF Secretary within seven days of the race. Loft location plans must be in the hands of the GMPF Secretary one month before the first race on the schedule.

18. Lofts :- Only one flyer , partnership or syndicate shall be allowed to compete to any address .

19. Bird Limits :- In all Federation races there shall be a limit of 30 birds per flyer .

10.

20. Verification and Registration :-All birds must fly to a member's loft and be the absolute property of the member in whose names they are registered, and be shown within six days of the close of the race, alive, if required, to the appointed representative of the GMPF who shall

have the power to liberate the birds at the members loft and which must return to the members loft in the presence of the GMPF representative. Any infraction of this rule shall annul all rights to prizes and future competition in Federation races.

21. Stray Pigeons :-Any member of an affiliated club to whose loft a pigeon other than owned by that member may come shall at once give notice to the Federation Ring Secretary that the member has such a pigeon. The Executive Body shall have the power to fine or expel any member who fails to comply with this rule. No member shall be held responsible for any stray pigeon after fourteen days of providing notice to the Federation Ring Secretary, after such time the member shall be entitled to destroy such a bird, but must forward the life ring to the Federation Ring Secretary within seven days after destroying the bird.

22. Failure to Claim Strays :- Any member not claiming a stray pigeon within fourteen days of receiving notice from the Federation Ring Secretary shall be fined ten dollars for the first offence and twenty dollars for each subsequent offence.

23. Extra Transport Expenses :- In the event of any club causing extra expense by delaying the convoyer such club must pay the whole of the extra expense.

24. Federation Verification Books :-Each club whose members compete in Federation events are to be issued with a Federation verification book. It is the responsibility of each club's committee to ensure that these books are kept up to date. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification of that club's leading Federation placings. No member shall be permitted to verify that member's own pigeon. When club results are determined it is the duty of the club's Clock Chairman, on the clocking day, to fill out in full and correctly the details of the club's winning pigeon in the Federation's verification book. The Clock Chairman should also, on the same page, enter details of any other pigeons the owner of the winning pigeon has clocked on that day. The verification book shall then be passed on to the club official designated to verify the pigeons. Should the Clock Chairman win the race it shall be the duty of the club's Secretary to fill out the verification book. It is the right of any member to refuse to have his pigeon liberated at his loft on the same day it was clocked. In this case the pigeon is to be verified the next day.

11.

25. Verification Procedure (1):-(a) The winning pigeon from each club, if successful in gaining a Federation position, is required to be verified within 24 hours of the closing of the Federation event.

(b) Should the owner of the club's winning pigeon also have other pigeons gaining Federation placings in the same event, these pigeons must also be verified.

(c) On verification of a pigeon the club official should :-

(1) check the race particulars on the verification sheet

(2) inspect the pigeon to ensure the ring number coincides with that on the verification sheet, and also ensure that the colour and sex of the pigeon also coincides.

(3) liberate the same pigeon from outside the loft ensuring it flies at least one full arc around the loft, so as to validate the pigeon is homing to that loft.

(4) upon satisfactory verification of points (1), (2) and (3) the club official shall then sign the verification sheet as being true and correct. The owner of the pigeon should also sign the sheet witnessing that a true and correct verification has taken place. (cont.)

(d) Any member of the Federation is entitled to examine any club's Federation verification book.

26. Verification Procedure (2) :-Members shall produce a verification book, when presenting their clock at their club, containing the approved abbreviation and all markings on the life ring. In the event of an incorrect verification or non-production of a verification book a nominated GMPF representative will visit the members loft to investigate and legitimate ownership of the pigeon. Notwithstanding the aforementioned rules, all winners of Federation races must be inspected and liberated from a winning members loft by an official from the club through which the member is affiliated with the GMPF.

27. Race Ring Verification :- Unless, in the opinion of the Executive Body, a clerical error has occurred, the numbers on a rubber race ring produced from a clock must correspond with those on the entry form.

28. Authorised Clocks :- All competitors in Federation controlled races must use a clock approved by the Federation Clock Chairman and made specifically for timing racing pigeons. No alteration shall be made to any clock other than that sanctioned by the Federation Clock Chairman.

29. Clock Setting :- All clocks used by competitors in Federation controlled races must be set and sealed as determined by the Executive Body and shall have a number thereon. No competitor shall have more than one clock for each Federation race, which shall be issued to the member from the club in which they are represented in the GMPF, and each clock shall have a tag or label affixed with the name of the competitor and the club thereon.

30 Seals and Sealing Guns :- Clocks are required to be sealed as directed by the Executive Body. Clubs are required to use numbered aluminium seals and sealing guns manufactured for use with such seals.

31. Federation Clock Sheets :- All clubs competing in GMPF controlled races are to use the official GMPF Clock Sheet, which is to be despatched to the GMPF Clock Chairman directly after the close of the race, together with the clock tapes showing details of all pigeons that have, or may have, gained federation placings.

12.

32. Clock Tapes :- All competing members clock tapes must be stamped with an approved ink stamp bearing the name of the club, name of the competitor, race, date of the race and legible signatures of the clock setters.

33. Rubber Race Rings, Thimbles and Clock Inspection :- All birds competing in Federation controlled races shall carry a rubber race ring, which must be placed in a thimble, approved by the GMPF Clock Chairman, on arrival and placed in the receptacle in the clock provided for that purpose, or directly in the receptacle in the clock where an approved thimbleless clock is used. Only one rubber race ring is to be placed in each thimble, or the approved receptacle in the clock where an approved thimbleless clock is used. The GMPF Clock Chairman shall have the power to view or impound any members clock at any time.

34. Liberation of Pigeons (1) :-Any competitor, other than the President, Secretary or members of the GMPF Liberation Committee, communicating with the convoyer, or in any way interfering with the liberation of the pigeons, shall be debarred from the said race and future competition in the GMPF for such time as the Executive Body shall determine.

35. Liberation of Pigeons (2) :-Any member of the GMPF sending pigeons to the liberation point on race days, otherwise than through his club, shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

36. Liberation of Pigeons (3) :- The President, Secretary or members of the GMPF Liberation Committee shall have the powers in all races to take whatever action they consider necessary to ensure that all pigeons have been liberated at the race point.

37. Non-Competing Members :-Members of the GMPF not competing in the race must confine their pigeons in their loft during the course of such a race. Any offender shall be dealt with by the Executive Body.

38. Velocity System :- The Federation prizes and awards will be awarded on the system of velocity proper, i.e. the bird making the greatest velocity and complying with all GMPF rules and regulations shall be deemed the winner.

39. Impossible Velocity :- Should any competitor be credited with having made such a velocity that the Executive Body considers impossible on the day, then the Executive Body shall have the absolute power to disqualify the said bird in the said race, although there may be no evidence to suggest any fraudulent practice of the competitor or any other persons responsible for the marking or despatching of the birds to or at the race point.

40. Barring of Pigeons :- Should any pigeon arrive from a race point without a rubber race ring it will be barred from taking any position in that race.

41. Hours of Darkness :- In the case of races extending over 1 day where there are no pigeons homing on the day of liberation , the closure of the race shall be sunset and shall re-open at sunrise . In the event of a pigeon arriving after the official closure of the race , the race shall re-open on the clocking of that pigeon and shall close 60 minutes later , with the same procedure to apply to all birds clocked prior to sunrise .

13.

42. Declaration of Result :-Official results of all races controlled by the GMPF will not be declared until the Executive Body is satisfied that all birds gaining Federation positions have satisfied all rules and regulations applicable to such races, a provisional result will be provided prior to the declared result.

43. Federation Positions :- Federation positions are to be set as 25% (or nearest possible) of nominated flyers for the season in all Young & Old Bird Federation races. Members are permitted to clock One pigeon with the view of gaining a Federation position in all Federation races.

44 Race Protests :- Protests of any description must be accompanied by a deposit of \$50 and must be made through the club such member is represented through within four clear days of the declaration of the race, and if such protest is considered frivolous by the Executive Body the deposit shall be forfeited. All protests must be made in writing and signed by the member, the protest shall then be dealt with by the Executive Body whose decision shall be final.

45. Race Appeals / Queries :- The Executive Body shall consider any appeals made by GMPF members, and will reserve the right to decide on any question that may arise which is not specified in these rules and regulations. The decision of the said Body will be final and binding on all parties.

46. Special Races :-GMPF clubs desirous of holding Special races must first submit details of such races for approval by the GMPF.

47. Issue of Rings :-No life rings shall be issued by the GMPF prior to the first day of July each year, and no life rings or rubber race rings shall be issued by the GMPF to anyone not approved to receive such rings by the Executive Body.

48. Sale of Rings :-GMPF approved Life Rings are to be sold in units of ten, with ten rings being the minimum number of rings issued to any member at one time. Exceptions are to be made for \$2 Special Rings, which may be sold in any number.

49. Issue of Rubber Race Rings :- The GMPF shall issue to the clubs all rubber race rings to be used in Federation controlled races. Where possible, clubs should attempt to use the same coloured rubber race rings for any given Federation race.

50 Registration and Eligibility :- For pigeons to be eligible to compete in any Young or Old bird race controlled by the GMPF the bird must be rung with a closed ring registered in the name of the competitor with the GMPF Ring Secretary.

51. Registration of Recognised Rings :- All GMPF members must have filed with the GMPF Ring Secretary a list of all ring numbers owned by them. This list must be submitted with each application for affiliation of a new member. Any additional rings obtained by a member must be registered in the members name, in the case of partnerships or firms the ring numbers shall be registered in their joint names. It is the responsibility of all GMPF members to ensure ring numbers owned by them are registered with the GMPF Ring Secretary prior to the commencement of the respective Young or Old bird season in which birds rung with such rings will compete.

14.

52. Eligibility to fly :- Each club will provide the Federation with a list of intending flying members before the first race of the season and only members on these lists will be permitted to compete in that season .

53. Proof of Ownership :- Proof of ownership of placed pigeons in Federation races will be checked by the GMPF Ring Secretary who will advise the Race Secretary prior to

confirmation of race results. Proof of ownership in club races can be sought from the GMPF Ring Secretary by the club secretary.

54. Transfers (1) :- All registrations of pigeons acquired by a GMPF member must be accompanied by a signed transfer card, failure to supply transfer details shall entail disqualification. The transfer card must be forwarded to the GMPF Ring Secretary, it is the responsibility of the member to ensure the GMPF Ring Secretary has received such notification and the pigeon is registered to that member.

55. Transfers (2) :- On the change of ownership of any rings registered in the name of a GMPF member, the owner shall sign and hand over to the new owner a GMPF transfer card

56. Transfers (3) :- All rings on birds transferred to or from an address other than that at which the same are registered must be transferred in the usual manner.

57. Non Registered Pigeons :- Any member found wilfully holding a pigeon in his loft or possession that has not been registered to that member, or without the knowledge and permission of the registered owner, is to be suspended for a minimum of three months

58. Registration/Transfer of NON GMPF Rings. :- All foreign rings (Non GMPF) transferred into this Federation shall attract a transfer fee equal to the current ring cost, new flyers being exempt at the discretion of the GMPF Executive.

59. Combined Aggregate :- To win the GMPF Combined Aggregate, the competitor must have flown both Young & Old birds.

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CLOCKING RULES

1. Continuous Running Clocks :- (a) All clocks shall be kept in the custody of the club or the GMPF during the membership of the owner, except when in the custody of the member when the clock must be under seal.

(b) All clocks must be started at actual time obtained from a chronometer, and a record of the time kept.

(c) The chronometer to which the clocks are started shall be handed over to the Clock Committee and remain in the custody of the Clock Committee, under seal, until the close of the race.

(d) On the production of a clock, or clocks, after a race they shall be struck against the chronometer and thus obtain the total variation, which shall be added or deducted in the usual way, except in the event of a clock gaining at a rate of more than 7 seconds per hour, the registered time on the dials will be taken as the time of arrival, and in the event of a clock losing at a rate greater than 7 seconds per hour, double the slow time is to be added to the registered time.

NOTE : In the event of a clock ceasing to work after the bird has been timed in, the clock shall be deemed a slow clock.

(e) All paper tapes or dials must show the date, number of the clock and the signature of one of the Clock Committee. No time shall be given unless the clock opening puncture appears on or after the registered time when the clock was struck against the chronometer after timing in.

(f) Any competitor whose clock shall, on being opened, show more than the recognised regulation punctures or print, shall have that clock confiscated and forwarded to the GMPF Clock Chairman.

(g) Any competitor may, in Federation races of the GMPF, clock one pigeon for Federation prizes, and other pigeons eligible for club pools or club prizes, but only the first one pigeon clocked shall, under any circumstances, be able to compete for the Federation race.

(h) Federation pool pigeons for 50 cent, \$1, \$2 or \$5, must be entered on the official GMPF entry sheet, and verified in the usual manner.

2. Faulty Clocks (1) :- Any competitor who shall, prior to the clocking of his birds, find the clock issued to that member at fault can have it replaced with a clock set by the Clock Committee for that race, providing the faulty clock is handed to a member permitted to hold such a clock. The Clock Committee shall be responsible for the production of the faulty clock, if required by the Executive Committee.

3. Faulty Clocks (2) :- In the event of any clock being found faulty on the race bird homing the owner may, if permitted, clock his pigeon in any clock set by the GMPF for that race. The faulty clock must be produced as in rule 2 before such clock is used. The verification book must be produced in the specified time.

16.

4. Production of Clocks :- All clocks competing in Federation races must be produced after clocking at the appointed centre within the time advised by the Clock Committee.

(a) In Federation races up to 500 kilometres, members must produce their clocks no later than one and a half hours after the first pigeon is clocked, or by the set pull time determined by the Delegates Committee, and advised to all members prior to the race day.

(b) In Federation races over 500 kilometres and up to 800 kilometres, members must produce their clocks no later than two hours after the first pigeon is clocked, or by the set pull time determined by the Delegates Committee, and advised to all members prior to the race day.

(c) In Federation races over 800 kilometres, members must produce their clocks no later than the time specified by the Executive Committee.

Exceptions to these rules will apply where a member is unable to present his clock for one of the following reasons :-

(1) The members loft is located at a distance from the clocking centre that, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, places that member at a disadvantage to his competitors, in that travelling time is excessive and may not allow the member reasonable time to clock second or third pigeons. Such a member will need to make application for extended clocking time to the Executive Committee, the application must be made in writing prior to the commencement of the season, and should be represented through the members club delegates. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.

(2) Any member of the GMPF Clock Committee who may be delayed due to the pulling of his chronometer against the master chronometer.

Any member failing to comply with the above rules shall be instantly disqualified from the race involved, unless the Federation Clock Committee representative considers extreme circumstances apply, in which case the representative may make application to the Executive Committee to read the clock in question.

NOTE : No extra time to clock pool pigeons is allowed in any Federation race.

5. Federation Clock Chairman :-The GMPF Clock Chairman shall be elected by the Delegates Committee . The GMPF clock chairman may not also be clock chairman of his club whilst he holds this position .

6. Club Clock Chairman :- The Club Clock Chairman shall be elected by each club, the Executive Committee must be notified of the member elected and has to approve that election.

In any instance where the Executive Committee does not accept the club's elected Clock Chairman the club will be required to conduct another election to fill the position.

7. Federation Clock Committee :- The GMPF Clock Committee will consist of the elected Club Clock Chairmen, who shall be members competent in the knowledge of setting and reading clocks. The Clock Committee is not required to meet on a regular basis, but may be required to meet at the request of the GMPF Clock Chairman or the Executive Committee. Members are required to show due respect to members of the Clock Committee and its' Chairman, any member whose conduct towards a member of the Clock Committee is deemed to be disorderly or offensive shall be dealt with as in Rule 9 of the General Rules.

17.

8. Certifying and Holding of Clocks :-All members must submit their clocks they intend using for the season's races at least 7 clear days prior to the date of the first race in which they intend to compete. Clocks are to be submitted at the members club to the Club Clock Chairman, and will be adjusted, if necessary, to keep accurate time. The Clock Chairman will be empowered to refuse any clock that does not pass examination. Clocks will be issued to members on the night of setting clocks for the coming race, to be used for clocking in on race day, then being returned to the Club Clock Committee unopened at the end of each race. Each clock shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Club Clock Committee during the whole race series unless permission is gained from the Club Clock Chairman for its removal.

9. Clock Inspection :-Any member of the GMPF Clock Committee shall have the power to view any competitor's clock at any time during a races progress, and impound the same if found to be faulty.

10. Signature on Clocks :-All clocks set must contain the signature of the senior GMPF Clock Committee member present at the time of setting. No member of the GMPF Clock Committee shall, under any circumstances, be permitted to sign their own clock.

11. Clock Setting :-

(a) After the set pull which starts the clock, the first pull required for the 1st variation will be at the discretion of the club clock chairman.

(b) Any clock that has a 1st variation of more than five (5) seconds is not allowed to be used for that race, clocks may be reset in such cases.

(c) Race day pulls are required to be exactly on the hour or on the 1 minute marks of the hour.

(d) Any clock produced at a club unsealed, even if supplied with a jewellers receipt may not be used for one week unless 1st approved by the Federation clock chairman.

No Member of the GMPF shall, under any circumstances, be permitted to set their own clock.

12. Variation against Chronometer :- The Master timer or chronometer must conform to Eastern Standard time or Daylight Saving time, whichever is in use at the time of the race. Should a member's clock have varied then it shall be adjusted on the assumption that such variations have been constant and regular from the time the clock was locked to the time of opening. In the case of members being permitted extra time to produce their clocks, allowance must be made for any extra variation incurred.

13. Issuing and Detaining of Clocks :- The GMPF Clock Committee shall have the power to issue or detain any clock without explanation.

14. Owner's Risk :- Any risks associated with clocks remains the owners at all times, the Federation shall not be responsible for clocks in the event of accidents.

15. Clock Register :- A clock register is to be maintained by the GMPF and all competing clocks must be registered in owner's and competitor's name before being used in any race. The register is to be kept by a nominated member of the GMPF Clock Committee, but not the Chairman.

16. Clock Sealing :- All clocks are to be sealed with a recognised seal.

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Use of ETS (Electronic Timing Systems)

1. The use of Electronic Timing System is approved by the Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation Incorporated (GMPF) for use in all races conducted by the GMPF.

2. In the event that the GMPF Committee determines that an ETS or a system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the GMPF may disapprove the use of that system. The disapproval of any system will be effective immediately upon the resolution of the GMPF Committee

and the disapproval will be advised to members as soon as reasonable possibly by personal notice.

- (a) If any race secretary or race official determines that a lack of security exists with any individual unit, he must notify the GMPF committee and seek an immediate statement as to the validity of the continued system use. The Race Secretary or race official must provide a written statement of the reason for concern to the system owner and to the GMPF Committee.
- (b) Issues of the potential or actual adequacy or otherwise of security will be a matter for determination by the GMPF Committee within its absolute discretion.
- (3) Use of an ETS by an individual GMPF member must be authorized by the GMPF.
- (4) A GMPF affiliated Club shall not make the use of an ETS mandatory.

Particular ETS Systems

- (5) A member is free to purchase any ETS he chooses. A member is responsible for ensuring the system (hardware/software) is compatible with other systems used by the GMPF or the members of an GMPF affiliated Club.
- (6) It would be advisable for any member, prior to purchasing an ETS System, to check with the GMPF as to what systems are already in use.

Use of ETS Systems by Members

The serial number of each ETS and the serial number of each antenna (Trap) must be approved by and registered with the GMPF prior to use.

- (8) Installation of the ETS in a members loft must be inspected and approved by the GMPF before being accepted for competition use within the GMPF.
- (9) Every ETS sensor antenna must be installed wholly within the confines of the competitor's loft. The sensor/antenna of an ETS must 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 must be sealed as a fixture at point of entry. Point of fixture shall be documented.
- (11) No sensor/antenna may be employed or placed at the loft of another competitor or moved to any other position of the competitors loft without prior application to, and approval by the GMPF.

19.

Racing Requirements

- (12) System control modules or system keys and software used in ETS systems shall be purchased or procured by the system owner.
- (13) Users of ETS must:
 - (a) Use an electronic band scanning system that has a re-programmable electronic band.
 - (b) Use electronic bands that have read/write chips. Currently the use of 64/128 bit chips are approved for use.
 - (c) Use only electronic bands approved or supplied by the scanning system manufacturer.

(14) The Race Secretary of each competing GMPF 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 authorized by the GMPF affiliated Club or the GMPF during competitive events.

(15) The GMPF requires that Race Secretary or Club Secretary or members of the Race Committee affix or attach each electronic band to a pigeon in order to ensure the bands locking mechanism is securely engaged. (All bands must be totally secured on the second click). This process may be performed at least one (1) week prior to the first basketing night or earlier as required by the Club or the GMPF. The GMPF or Club may allow a competitor to affix or attach electronic bands to a pigeon, subject to verification by the Centre Supervisor, that the band's locking mechanism is securely engaged.

(16) It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that all ETS bands are attached to their birds and that a print out of the life ring numbers and coinciding ETS band numbers are forwarded to the GMPF ring secretary prior to the competing season. False scanning, lost or stolen ETS bands may be replaced during the competing season on the proviso that a printout is taken of the ETS band number change. And a printout of such change is forwarded to the GMPF ring secretary within 3 days.

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