

# GAUTENG PIGEON UNION



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# **CONSTITUTION OF THE**

## **GAUTENG PIGEON UNION (G.P.U.)**

### **1. PREAMBLES**

Due to the Gauteng Pigeon Union's (herein after called the "G.P.U.") intention to recall, revise and replace the existing Constitution, the terms and conditions are herewith elevated and declared the "UNION CONSTITUTION".

### **2. NAME**

The name of the Union is the Gauteng Pigeon Union (**G.P.U.**)

### **3. RECALLING**

The existing Constitution of the **Union** is hereby recalled and replaced by the following Constitution, which will be deemed effective from the date determined by the Management Committee.

### **4. LEGAL ENTITY**

The **Union** is a legal entity with Legal capacity to institute, or defend legal action in any qualified Court, Tribunal or Forum.

### **5. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the **Union** are:

- 5.1.** To promote and encourage pigeon racing and in general to assist and protect all associated interests.
- 5.2.** To control pigeon racing and to compile rules and regulations that will organise and control pigeon racing in the CENTRAL GAUTENG and circumjacent areas.
- 5.3.** To lay down rules and regulations in order to regulate and control pigeon racing in Central Gauteng.
- 5.4.** If required, to approach government, provincial or local administrative bodies and to negotiate with them matters affecting pigeon racing directly or indirectly.
- 5.5.** To encourage and promote the breeding of racing pigeons in general.
- 5.6.** To acquire, buy or hire moveable or fixed property for the **G.P.U.**
- 5.7.** To dispose of, sell or let moveable or fixed property for the **G.P.U.**

- 5.8. To lend out, invest, spend or donate any **G.P.U.** funds, subject to such terms and conditions and for such purposes as deemed necessary from time to time, to promote the interests of the **G.P.U.**
- 5.9. To incorporate or affiliate the **G.P.U.** with any other body, organisation or council if deemed necessary.

## **6. APPLICATION AND REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- 6.1. This Constitution is applicable to all members subject to the Gauteng Pigeon Union as from the date of declaration of membership, and the onus rests upon such member to familiarize and associate him/herself with the contents of this Constitution.
- 6.2. No modification, termination, alteration or addition will be made to this Constitution without:
  - 6.2.1 The approval of **75%** of all the members of the Union management committee.
  - 6.2.2 Written notice of at least one month given to the Union secretary, stating the exact stipulations of any proposal of a revision, termination, alteration or addition to Constitution.
  - 6.2.3 Written notice of at least 14 days given to all members of the Union management committee, stating the exact stipulations of any proposed revision, termination, alteration or addition to the Constitution.
  - 6.2.4. The G.P.U. Constitution will not be revised for any minor alteration, but chairmen of the affiliated clubs will, by means of the minutes of Annual General Meeting, or a Special Annual General Meeting of members, be notified of such minor alterations. It is expected of the chairmen to notify their membership thereof. It is each member's responsibility to amend his/her copy of the corresponding Constitution and also note the date of such change.
  - 6.2.5. The Union Secretary will update a copy of the Constitution, and this will be made available on the **G.P.U.** website.
- 6.3 New members are expected to obtain a copy of the Constitution from their clubs and ensure that they are fully familiarized with the contents thereof.
- 6.4 When a new club affiliates to the **G.P.U.**, the Union Secretary will provide the chairman of the new club with a copy of the Constitution. The chairman will then be expected to provide every member of the club with a copy.

## **7. ORGANISATION**

The Union is organised on the following basis.

- 7.1. The **G.P.U.** is managed by the Union Management Committee.
- 7.2. The Union Committee will be formed by the Chairman (or a nominated representative) from every affiliated club, as well as members of the Management Committee of the Union who were nominated by the Divisions in accordance with Article 8 hereunder.
- 7.3. Divisions, as stipulated under the heading "Divisions".
- 7.4. Divisional Management Committee, as stipulated under the heading "Divisional Management Committee"
- 7.5. Associated clubs or associations, as stipulated under the heading "Associated Bodies".
- 7.6. Club Management Committees, as stipulated under the heading "Club Management Committees".
- 7.7. Members, as stipulated under the heading "Membership".

## **8. COMPILATION OF THE UNION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Union Management Committee comprises the Chairman (or nominated representative) from every Division. The representative is elected annually on the first meeting of the Divisional Management Committee. At the same meeting a Second is also elected to the Union Management Committee in the absence of any Union Management Committee from that same branch. The Union Secretary will attend the Union Management Committee meetings in order to execute his duties.

## **9. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- 9.1. The Union Management Committee will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman at its Annual General Meeting from members nominated to the Union Management Committee. The Chairman, and in his absence, the Vice Chairman, will be the chairperson at all Union Committee and Union Management Committee meetings.
- 9.2. The Chairman  
The Chairman is responsible for all the Union Activities as laid down in the Constitution. The Chairman can delegate instructions which will be under his control, and will act at all time in a manner that is in the interest of the Union.
- 9.3. The Vice Chairman  
Will advise the Chairman, and always be informed of all Union activities, in order to function as Chairman should he be requested to do so, or in the absence of the Chairman.
- 9.4. The Union Committee will at its first meeting every year, appoint a Ring official, Secretary, Race Secretary, Transport Manager and any other Officials that the Union may deem necessary as well as remuneration and conditions as they see fit. These officials will be called:
- 9.5. Secretary  
He/she is responsible for the issuing of notices of meetings, taking minutes, all correspondence and all duties imposed on him/her by the Committee.
- 9.6. Treasurer

He/she is responsible for the proper bookkeeping of the G.P.U. finances, collecting all Union fees and disbursement of all prize monies and Creditor's accounts.

#### **9.7. Race Secretary**

He/she is responsible for the calculation of distances, control at joint basketing, receiving of race results from Clubs as per the schedules compiled by the Management Committee and to supply all Clubs with race results. Ring Official He is responsible for proper control over the Union Inventory, recordkeeping of sales, handing over of such cash to the Treasurer, to report "stray" pigeons to their owners and to order the Union Stocks yearly.

#### **9.8. Transport Manager**

He is responsible for the Union Truck and must ensure that the truck is at all times clean and in good working condition, the loading and offloading of baskets at all affiliated Clubs, ensuring that there is sufficient food for the pigeons on the truck at the time of basketing, to control liberation of the pigeons and to liaise with the Race Secretary regarding any major change in the liberation schedules or any problems regarding the Truck.

### **10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**10.1 The annual general meeting of the Union Committee will be held in March every year at a date, time and venue nominated by the Chairman. The Chairman may move the meeting to a next month only in the event that the financial statements are not ready during March.(14 May 2020)**

**10.2** The Union Management Committee will meet for the last time before the end of February every year, and may call on the Union Committee for decisions regarding any specific sensitive matter, referred by the Union Management Committee or for consideration on matters where the Union Management Committee could not reach a required majority ruling.

**10.3** Besides matters referred to the Union Management Committee, as stipulated in the previous sub-article, and for the election of the highest office-bearers of the Union as stipulated in article 9 hereof, the Union Management Committee will also discuss the Balance Sheet and Audit Report or Financial sheets at the Annual General Meeting and will at the last meeting every year. Finalise the race program and route for the following racing season from written or Verbal proposals made to the Union Management Committee.

### **11. MEETINGS**

**11.1** The first meeting of the Union Committee will be held annually during the week following the second Monday of March, at a time and venue determined by the Chairman.

**11.2** The Union Committee meets at least once every second month.

**11.3** The quorum at any meeting of the Union Committee or the Management Committee will be 75% of the members of such Committee.

**11.4** All proposals or decisions at a Union Committee meeting will be carried by a majority of votes of members present. Every representative will have one vote.



- 11.5** The Chairman will have no vote and does not act as a representative of the Club or Branch that nominated him as a Committee member.
- 11.6** In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the members of the Union Committee present at the meeting will elect a chairman to chair the meeting and such chairman will not have a vote as in "11.5" above.
- 11.7** Notice of at least three days prior to the commencement of a meeting must be given for any Union Management meeting.
- 11.8** In the event of the Union making use of an independent Transport Contractor to transport the pigeons, the representative of such a Contractor will be invited to attend all Union Committee meetings to report and advise on transport matters.
- 11.9** In the event of any Union Management Committee member being unable to or refuse to attend a meeting of the aforementioned Committee, or if any divisional Management Committee failed to elect a representative to serve on the Union Committee, the remaining members will replace, despite the stipulation of article 18.1, members on the Committee, but no Division may have more than one representative on the Committee.

## **12. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS THE RIGHT TO:**

- 12.1.** Replace any Union official either temporary or permanent, due to a vacancy resulting from absenteeism, sickness, and resignation or otherwise of any of the officials.
- 12.2.** Prescribe the procedure of the meeting, provided the quorum for any meeting will be 75% of the members of the Management Committee, and that any matter will be determined by a majority vote.
- 12.3.** Determine the boundaries for the purpose of the Union races and to present these at the Annual General Meeting for confirmation.
- 12.4.** Make, change or recall rules and regulations that are contradictory to this Constitution and to notify the competing affiliated clubs in writing.
- 12.5.** Delegate any powers given to the Management Committee, in accordance to article 13, to an Operations Management which comprises a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Race Secretary and two  
(2) elected Union Committee members. At the next Union Committee meeting the Operations Management will report any activities carried out by virtue of such delegated powers.
- 12.6.** To revise, confirm, change or set aside the decision of any affiliated club or it's officials or of the Operations Management or the Disciplinary Investigation Committee on any matter concerning the Union or any matter or case brought before the Committee, i.e. an appeal, revision or otherwise. The Management Committee is also empowered to refer such matters back to the body concerned to be reopened or reheard.

- 12.7.** To employ Auditors annually and table same at the A.G.M. for approval.
- 12.8.** Introduce, review or refund entrance fees from time to time and to make monies available as honorariums or bonuses to officials, or donations or contributions to Charity organisations, from available funds.
- 12.9.** Appoint any person as an employee or an official of the Union, to remunerate and terminate the services of such person as it sees fit provided it is done within the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.
- 12.10.** Buy or sell, hire or rent, exchange or receive any moveable or fixed assets, including shares, and to invest any **G.P.U.** funds as it sees fit.
- 12.11.** Authorise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer by means of a resolution to sign all powers of attorney, contracts or other acts or documents which require signatures and to draw cheques and to accept, endorse, issue or draw up any other negotiable documents relating to Union matters.
- 12.12.** Borrow money by registering a Bond over fixed property as security, or to provide surety on the terms and conditions as the Committee sees fit.
- 12.13.** Handle the funds and assets of the Union in general for the purposes of the Union.
- 12.14.** To request Special General Meetings to be held.
- 12.15.** Take action in events that are not provided for in this Constitution, provided such action is not in contrast to the objectives of the Union.
- 12.16.** To meet where and when it is necessary as it sees fit.
- 12.17.** In general, to administer and manage the business of the Union and to visit affiliated clubs when basketing is done or clocks are read in order to ensure that all stipulations of this Constitution is adhered to, but also with the understanding that these authorities can be delegated to any member of the Committee.
- 12.18.** To adapt annual membership and transport fees, or to introduce special levies should the expenses be exceeded, or in the event of a fuel price increase being excessive, without calling for a Special Annual General Meeting.
- 12.19.** To enter into friendly bilateral agreements with other Racing Pigeon organisations and to be affiliated to S.A.N.P.O.
- 12.20.** To attend any meeting of any Divisional Management Committee or any affiliated body or committee thereof.
- 12.21.** Any decision taken that could impact the Union either contractually or financially, must be preceded by a Management Committee minute before any action is taken.

## **13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 13.1** The Executive Committee comprises: a Chairman, Vice Chairman and one other Union Committee member elected by the Union Management Committee, all three of which will form a quorum. In the event of a withdrawal or non-availability of any of the three aforementioned members, the Union Management Committee has the power to elect such member from its own ranks.
- 13.2** The Executive Committee has the authority formulate charges against a member, investigate and make a decision and to reprimand, fine, suspend or dismiss an affiliated body or member when found guilty of:
- 13.3** Deliberate contravention of the stipulations of this Constitution or by-laws, rules or regulations therein: or
- 13.4** Behaviour that is detrimental to the interests or good name of the Union: or
- 13.5** Conduct that violates the disciplinary code: or
- 13.6** Neglect to pay a fine issued by the Executive Committee within one month from the date of imposition.
- 13.7** The Executive Committee is empowered to execute any action handed down to it by the Union Management Committee.

## **14. APPEAL**

An Appeal can be lodged at the Union Management Committee against any verdict or order made by the Executive Committee on condition that a written notice of appeal reaches the Secretary of the Union Management Committee within 14 days of the date of the verdict or order concerned.

## **15. DIVISIONS**

### **Number of Divisions**

**15.1.** The Union will comprise the following divisions:

**15.1.1.** FAR EASTRAND DIVISION;

**15.1.2.** EASTRAND DIVISION;

**15.1.3.** MIDRAND DIVISION;

**15.1.4.** Any other Divisions that may be approved by the Union Management Committee.

## **16. BORDERS**

The borders will be as determined from time to time by the Union Management Committee.

## **17. DIVISIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 17.1** Each Divisional Management Committee consists of one representative from every affiliated body within the borders of the division, having been elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of every affiliated body. In the absence of an elected member representing such affiliated body, the Divisional Management Committee is empowered to replace such member from the members of the same affiliated body.
- 17.2** Each Divisional Management Committee comprises of at least five members, and all affiliated bodies within the borders of the Division are equally represented on the Divisional Management Committee of such Division.
- 17.3** Should the number of affiliated bodies within the borders of the Division be less than 5, the representatives elected by the affiliated bodies to serve on the Divisional Management Committee will meet during the week following the first Monday of February at a time and place announced by the Divisional Secretary, with the purpose to elect sufficient members for the Divisional Management Committee in order to meet the requirements of article 17.2 of this Constitution. The Divisional Secretary or Union Secretary will act as Chairman at such a meeting and all the members present will form a quorum, and any decision with a majority vote will be binding. At such a meeting the only decision, consideration or discussion will be the election/replacement of members.
- 17.4** All members or replacements elected according to article 17.3 will retain their seats until such time as there are 5 affiliated bodies within the borders of the Division or until the next election of representatives of the Divisional Management Committee by the affiliated bodies, which ever event comes first.

## **18. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 18.1.** Every Divisional Management Committee will annually, at its first meeting, elect the following Officials:
- 18.1.1.** From its members, a Chairman and Vice Chairman.
  - 18.1.2.** From its members, elect three representatives on the Union Committee as well as one Second who will take a seat at the Union Committee in the event of an absenteeism or non-availability of any of the elected representatives.
- 18.2.** Every Divisional Secretary will annually submit to the Union Secretary, on or before the fourth Monday in February, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Division, as well as that of the representatives and the seconds on the Union Management Committee.

## **19. MEETINGS**

- 19.1.** Every Divisional Management Committee will annually hold their first meeting during the week following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of February at a time and place announced by the Divisional Secretary, or failing which, the Union Secretary.
- 19.2.** Every Divisional Management Committee meets at least once every three months.
- 19.3.** A quorum at any meeting of the Divisional Management Committee is 75% of the representatives of the members.
- 19.4.** In the event of both, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, being absent at a meeting, the remaining members of the Management Committee will elect one of the members to act as Chairman.
- 19.5.** Notice of a period of at least three days will be given for a Divisional Management Meeting
- 19.6.** Should any member or members of a Divisional Management Committee be unable or unwilling to attend a meeting of the said Committee, or if any affiliated body fails to elect a member to serve on the Divisional Management Committee, the remaining members has the power to replace, despite article 23.2, members on the Committee, provided an affiliated body will not have more members on the Committee than the legal requirements of article 17.2. Replacement members will retain their seat on the Committee until such time as the absent member or members return, or until such time as the non- represented body elects a member to serve on the Divisional Management Committee, which ever event happens first.
- 19.7.** The time, place and procedure for meetings of the Divisional Management Committee will be determined by such Committee.

## **20. POWERS OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 20.1.** Each Divisional Management Committee handles the matters as well as those of all the affiliated bodies within the borders of a specific division, subject to the stipulations of this Constitution, and shall have the following special powers:
  - 20.1.1** To determine the borders of all affiliated bodies;
  - 20.1.2** To determine the Division and Section;
  - 20.1.3** To review, confirm, revise or set aside the decisions of any affiliated body or committee;
  - 20.1.4** To determine the prizes or prize monies competed for within the Division or Sections within the divisionas well as the method of allocation of such prizes or prize monies;
  - 20.1.5** To determine the number of race baskets allocated to every affiliated body;

**20.1.6** To visit affiliated bodies at basketing time or when clocks are being read, in order to ensure that all related rules, regulations and by-laws of the Constitution are adhered to;

**20.1.7** To attend any meeting of an affiliated body or committee if so desired;

**20.1.8** To attend any charges laid against an affiliated body or member;

**20.1.9** To draw up, investigate and decide on any charges against an affiliated body or member and to reprimand, suspend, fine or remand any affiliated body or member if found guilty of:

**20.1.9.1.** Deliberate contravention of stipulations of this Constitution or any by-laws, rules or regulations therein; or

**20.1.9.2.** Behaviour that is detrimental to the interest or good name of the Union; or

**20.1.9.3.** Conduct that contravenes the disciplinary code; or

**20.1.9.4.** Failure to pay a fine within one month from determination of such fine by the Executive Committee

## **21. ASSOCIATED BODIES**

### Association

- 21.1.** Any racing pigeon organisation with a membership of not less than ten (10) may be affiliated to the Union, provided such organisation falls within the declared borders of the Union.
- 21.2.** Application for affiliation will take place in such a manner as determined from time to time by the Union Management Committee. The Union Management Committee may either approve or decline to their exclusive discretion, and in the event of a decline, re-application will not be considered within six months from date of decline. The Union Management Committee is not obliged to give any reasons for the decline.
- 21.3.** Any club or association with a membership of less than ten (10) members at the beginning of the racing season, will apply to the Union Management Committee for an extension of their affiliation. The Union Management Committee may, in its own discretion, consider the application.
- 21.4.** Every racing pigeon organisation granted affiliation by the Union Management Committee is subject to this Constitution from the date of affiliation.
- 21.5.** No club will be considered for membership out of a district with an existing associated club of the Union, except with the approval of the existing club, with a further provision that should the existing club oppose the application without any substance or acceptable reasons, the Union Management Committee will settle the matter and make a final decision.

- 21.6.** Should any club wish to confirm its borders, it may do so, provided it does not affect membership of any of its participating members. Existing members outside of these newly confirmed borders who have lost their membership of the relevant club for whatever reason, either through resignation, suspension or other reasons, however, will not enjoy this protection

## **22. BORDERS**

The borders of every affiliated body will be as fixed from time to time by the Divisional Management Committee.

## **23. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 23.1.** All affiliated bodies will hold their Annual General Meeting during January of every year at such a place and time as determined by the Club Management Committee of the affiliated body.
- 23.2.** At the Annual General Meeting of every affiliated body a club management committee will be elected annually to control all the matters of such affiliated body, as well as a representative to serve on the Divisional Management Committee, and a second to serve on the Divisional Management Committee during the absence or non-availability of the elected representative of such affiliated body.
- 23.3.** The Secretary of every affiliated body will inform the Union Secretary and the Divisional Secretary before the end of the year in writing, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of members elected as representatives and their seconds of such affiliated body elected to serve on the Divisional Management Committee.

## **24. CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- 24.1.** Every affiliated body has a club management committee comprising a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and such other members deemed necessary.
- 24.2.** Every member or second of the affiliated body, elected to serve on the Divisional Management Committee will automatically be a member of the club management committee.

## **25. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE**

- 25.1.** The Club Management Committee is elected annually at the Annual General meeting of every affiliated body.
- 25.2.** The term of office of a club management committee ceases at the next annual general meeting of the affiliated body, or when a meeting is called with the purpose of electing a new club management committee, whichever event happens first.

**25.3.** The stipulations of Articles 25.1 and 25.2 are also applicable to every Club Management Committee of an affiliated body.

## **26. AUTHORITY**

The authority of the Club Management Committee is subject to the stipulations of this Constitution, as stipulated in the Constitution of every affiliated body.

## **27. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

**27.1.** The Union Management Committee may annually, at its first meeting, grant honorary membership for a period of not more than one year to any person, organisation or member who served the Union or the Racing Pigeon Sport with excellence.

**27.2.** Honorary membership granted in accordance with stipulation 27.1. may annually be extended for a further period of one year.

## **28. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**28.1.** Any person who wishes to become a member of the Union, must lodge an application, co-signed by a proposer and second from the Union, with the Secretary of the affiliated body such person wishes to join, together with a clearance letter from the previous club, if applicable, as well as the Club's prescribed membership fees.

**28.2.** An affiliated body will not accept an application for membership from any person who was a member of any other racing pigeon organisation or club, if such applicant does not submit a certificate as proof that he left his previous organisation or club honourably and out of his own free will.

**28.3.** Individual clubs may, at their own discretion, allow their members to simultaneously compete in races with other Unions or clubs, or to prohibit it.

**28.4.** In the event of any member failing to pay his annual membership fees within fourteen days from the due date, the membership of such member will cease with both, the club and the Union, unless the member can give an acceptable explanation to the Management Committee for his failure to pay his fees.

**28.5.** Any two persons who are members of the same affiliated club may compete as share members, each from his own loft, making use of his own clock, subject to the following conditions:

**28.5.1.** Each of the two persons will pay the full membership fee to the Union.

**28.5.2.** Everyone must pay his/her half of the transport fees.

**28.5.3.** There must be two persons who jointly undertake to participate as share members, and make this declaration before the start of the racing season.



**28.5.4.** Each person may only basket half of the number of pigeons allowed for a full member.

**28.5.5.** Prize money will be paid to the person who enlisted the pigeon.

**28.5.6.** Points will count independently in respect of the person who enlisted the pigeon.

## **29. GENERAL**

- 29.1** The only persons that are allowed as members of the Union, are the members of an affiliated body and any person that ceases to be a member of the Union will also cease to be a member of any affiliated body and vice versa, with the provision that any person that is a member of any affiliated body, will be considered as allowed to be chosen as a member of the Union and the relevant affiliated body is subject to the stipulations from the date that this Constitution takes effect.
- 29.2** The election of a member for membership of the Union may be cancelled by the Union Management Committee if, according to the Union Management Committee, a substantial misrepresentation or mistake was made with respect to the member or by the member.
- 29.3** If a member for any reason whatsoever ceases to be a member of the Union, he automatically forfeits all monetary claims against the Union or any affiliated body thereof.
- 29.4** No member under the age of eighteen (18) years may be nominated or elected as a member of the Union Management Committee, Divisional Management Committee or Club Management Committee.
- 29.5** The Secretary of each affiliated body must inform the Union Secretary and Divisional Secretary immediately by written notice when a member is suspended, or if he/she resigns, or when the Management Committee of the respective affiliated body recommends that a member of the Union's membership be suspended.

## **30. SUBSCRIPTION**

### Annual Subscription

- 30.1.** Every member pays an annual subscription of an amount predetermined by the Union Management Committee.
- 30.2.** Subscriptions are annually due on the first day of March and are payable before the start of the Annual General Meeting of the affiliated body.
- 30.3.** Every affiliated body must, within 14 days from receipt of their members' subscription, remit the same amount to the Union Secretary, accompanied by a list in duplicate of names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members who have paid their subscription fees.

## **31. FAILURE TO PAY SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- 30.1** Any member who defaults on his/her annual membership fees by the required date, will not be allowed at any Annual General Meeting of the affiliated body, or to vote, or to be elected, or to stay on, or to be nominated as member of the Management Committee of any affiliated body, division of the Union, or to obtain Union identification rings, or participate in any race or event organised by the Union, until such time all his outstanding subscriptions are paid up in full.
- 30.2** Should any member fail to pay his/her annual membership fees within 14 days from fixed due date, such a member will cease to be a member of the Union or any of its affiliated bodies.
- 30.3** A member who has been dismissed or suspended, or whose membership has been terminated, is nevertheless responsible for any arrear subscriptions.

## **32. YOUTH MEMBER**

- 32.1.** Any person under the age of 18 is recognised as a juvenile member, and may participate in races with the status of Youth Member.
- 32.2.** Youth members are allowed to compete in the races on payment of transport fees only, as determined from time to time. They are not eligible for representation on the management committee, and will not be considered for election or nomination on the said committee. Youth members will also not be considered for prize monies.
- 32.3.** Youth members are allowed to enter 5 pigeons for single races, and 3 each for double races. The pigeons registered in the name of a particular youth member may, for the duration of the season, not be registered in someone else's name.

## **33. PARTNERSHIPS**

In the event of a loft being owned by a partnership, all charges levied for annual subscription will be regarded as a single subscription and paid to the Union as such. Any disciplinary sanctions will be enforceable on all the members of the partnership.

## **34. DISCIPLINARY CODE**

- 34.1.** The code will apply equally to all members of the Union.
- 34.2.** It is the responsibility of every member to maintain discipline, good order and acceptable, proper behaviour at all times.
- 34.3.** Any member who is being disciplined in accordance with this code will at all time:
- 34.3.1.** Be informed in writing of the charge/s.

- 34.3.2.** Disciplined in a reasonable period of time.
- 34.3.3.** Be present at the hearing and entitled to be heard.
- 34.3.4.** Have the right to representation during the investigation.
- 34.3.5.** Entitled to call witnesses.
- 34.3.6.** To cross examine any witnesses called.
- 34.3.7.** The right to have access to any witness, evidence or related information.
- 34.3.8.** If found guilty, the disciplined member will be granted time to present mitigating testimony before he is sanctioned.
- 34.3.9.** Be notified, in writing, within seven days from the date of the hearing of the panel's conclusion and sanction, if any.

**34.3.10.** The disciplined member will be informed of his right to appeal to the Union.

## **35. OFFENCES**

- 35.1.** It is impossible to list all possible forms of transgressions and therefore, the attention will be focused on that which is unacceptable and unreasonable behaviour, based on norms and standards currently practised by members of the Union. Every offence which constitutes unacceptable behaviour will be identified and dealt with, in accordance with the disciplinary proses.
- 35.2.** Offences may be combined for the purpose of disciplinary actions.
- 35.3.** Disciplinary decisions are made after proper consideration of previous similar offences where the warning period has not lapsed, as well as the general disciplinary record of the disciplined member. It is therefore necessary that the disciplinary record of the disciplined member be considered in the decision for the most appropriate disciplinary sanction to be passed, after a member has been found guilty of an offence.
- 35.4.** The onus to find the offender guilty rests with the investigator to prove the respondent guilty of any specific offence, on a balance of probabilities that corresponds with the onus probandi in any civil court action. If the chairing official of the panel is convinced that the respondent has committed the offence on a balance of probable doubt, the offender must be found guilty.
- 35.5.** The specific offences detailed in the Constitution area general guideline, and must not be regarded as comprehensive. For easy reference, offences can be categorised as follows:
  - 35.5.1.** Unbecoming behaviour;
  - 35.5.2.** Alcohol/Drugs;

**35.5.3.** Dishonesty.

**36. DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

The maximum disciplinary sanction applicable in respect of each column should be used as a guideline and not necessarily applied. The nature and circumstances of each separate case, considering its own merits, should be considered before a decision is taken.

Infraction	Explanatory note	First infraction	Second infraction	Third infraction
A.				
Threaten or incite other members to take part in violence or serious disruption		Final written warning	Suspension for a specific period	Termination of membership
B.				
Threat to physically injure and assault	Physical assault/- attack by one party in respect of another or by two parties towards each other. Circumstances where self-defence is at issue must be considered	Suspension for a specific period	Termination of membership	NA
C.				
Impolite/Improper/Contemptuous conduct	Use dirty language in communication with other members, make disparaging remarks to other members, provocation, impoliteness, cheek, use of improper signs and other conduct related to this	Written warning	Suspension for specific period	Termination of membership

### 37. ALCOHOL/DRUGS

The maximum disciplinary sanction applicable of each column should be used as a guideline and not necessarily applied. The nature and circumstances of each separate case, considering its own merits, should be considered before a decision is taken.

Infraction	Explanatory note	First infraction	Second infraction	Third infraction
A. Use alcohol in an area other than an area specifically provided for the use of alcohol	When a member, for instance, on basket evening uses alcohol in the hall and not in the bar	Verbal warning	Final written warning (can be excluded if it is a serious infraction)	Suspension for a period or permanent
B. Be under the influence of alcohol to such an extent that member's conduct causes a nuisance, resentment or aversion	When a member is under the influence of alcohol/drugs to such an extent and other members find his conduct unpleasant or distasteful	Final written warning	Suspension for a period	Termination of membership

### **38. DISHONESTY**

The maximum disciplinary sanction applicable in respect of each column should be used as a guideline and not necessarily applied. The nature and circumstances of each separate case, considering its own merits, should be considered before a decision is taken.

Infraction	First infraction	Second infraction	Third infraction
A. Fiddle with clocks, race rings, electronic rings or anything related to this in order to influence the accurate time measurement of participating racing pigeons in any way	Suspension for a period	Termination of membership	
B. Dishonesty in respect of origin and/or gender registers of pigeons presented for auction	Written warning	Suspension for a period	Termination of membership
C. Pigeons obtained in a way contrary to general principles of good practice, e.g. stealing pigeons, appropriating foreign pigeons without warning the Union secretary of the presence of the foreign pigeon within (4) four days	Final written warning/suspension for a period	Termination of membership	
D. Purchasing pigeons, including purchases at auctions without settling the agreed purchase price in time and in full	Prevention from taking part in further races	Suspension for a period or termination of membership	

E. Use of any forbidden drugs as classified in the SANPO Constitution	Termination of membership of Union/Club as well as SANPO, or any other sanctions which the executive may impose		
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## **39. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

**39.1.** The procedure consists of two actions:

**39.1.1.** An investigation during which facts and proofs applicable to the alleged infraction are gathered, and

**39.1.2.** If the investigation indicates that the infraction is such that the penalty does not justify a written warning or a heavier penalty, the following procedure applies.

**39.1.3.** Deliberation: In cases where the degree of severity of the infraction only justifies deliberation, the Chairman of the Union must:

**39.1.3.1.** bring the infraction to the member's attention;

**39.1.3.2.** establish the reasons for the infraction and give the member the opportunity to react to the allegation;

**39.1.3.3.** reach agreement with the member in order to redress the conduct.

**39.1.4.** Verbal admonition: If the degree of severity of the infraction justifies a verbal admonition, such verbal admonition is given by the Chairman of the Union to the member. The Chairman informs the member that any future conduct may lead to more severe action by the Union. The verbal warning is annotated in the records of the Union.

**39.1.5.** If the investigation indicates that the infraction is of a more serious nature, where the suitable penalty upon being found guilty shall justify at least a final written warning, or where the member previously received a verbal warning for the same type of infraction, a trial shall be held during which the facts and proof applicable to the alleged infraction(s) shall be evaluated and a decision taken as to the correct disciplinary sanction.

**39.1.6.** When a member is formally charged with an alleged infraction, the following procedure applies:

**39.1.6.1.** The member is notified in writing of the alleged infraction;

**39.1.6.2.** The respondent admits guilt or pleads not guilty before or on five days following the serving of the notice;

**39.1.6.3.** On admission of guilt, the alleged misbehaviour is considered proven and a panel designated by the Union management hears any mitigating circumstances of the respondent and imposes a suitable sanction;



**39.1.6.4.** The respondent is informed in writing within three days of the decision of the panel. The respondent reserves the right to appeal as far as the sentence contained in the prescribed procedure for appeal is concerned;

**39.1.6.5.** If the respondent pleads not guilty, the following procedure applies:

**39.1.6.5.1.** The respondent received a written notice 7 days prior to the trial date of the trial to be held on a specific date, at a specific time and at a specific place;

**39.1.6.5.2.** The trial is handled by a panel, designated by the Union management, consisting of the following members:

**39.1.7.** Any competent person designated by the Union who can act as Chairman and two members of the Union designated by the chairman, and a member designated by the club of the respondent. The chairman has the power to designate an assessor to assist with the trial. Any competent person who performs the investigation and presents the evidence (the investigator).

**39.1.8.** If the notice of trial is served in time to the respondent and he is not present at the scheduled trial, the trial shall proceed in his/her absence. If the respondent requests postponement, he/she must request this to the investigator at least 48 hours before the date of the trial.

**39.1.9.** The presiding officers has the power to impose the suitable sanction.

## **40. AIM OF TRIAL**

**40.1.** To maintain order;

**40.2.** To obtain and evaluate all relevant facts, information and proofs;

**40.3.** To pronounce judgment in respect of the guilt or not of the respondent;

**40.4.** To impose a disciplinary sanction in the case of guilt;

**40.5.** To obey the rights of a respondent;

## **41. THE TRIAL**

**41.1.** The panel follows the following procedure during the trial:

**41.1.1.** The presiding chairman explains the nature and aim of the investigation and explains the respondent's rights;

**41.1.2.** The investigator presents the charge to the respondent and addresses the panel on the facts;

- 41.1.3.** The respondent is given the opportunity to address the panel and to identify points of dispute;
- 41.1.4.** The Union puts its case (by the investigator) and calls witnesses;
- 41.1.5.** The witnesses may be cross-examined by the respondent or his representative and members of the panel can also ask questions for the purpose of elucidation;
- 41.1.6.** Hereafter the respondent is given the opportunity to state his case as well as to call witnesses. The respondent and his witnesses may be cross-examined by the investigator, and members of the panel can also ask questions for the purposes of elucidation;
- 41.1.7.** The investigator is given the opportunity to address the panel with respect to the guilt of the respondent, and the respondent is given the opportunity to address the panel with respect to his innocence;
- 41.1.8.** The investigator and the respondent are temporarily excused and the panel concludes whether the respondent is guilty or not;
- 41.1.9.** The presiding officer calls the parties back into the committee, including the respondent, and informs the respondent of the judgment (guilty or not) providing reasons for such conclusion;
- 41.1.10.** The investigator and the respondent are given the opportunity to present mitigating or aggravating circumstances if a decision of guilty is pronounced;
- 41.1.11.** Upon hearing the pleadings or aggravation or mitigation, the investigator and the respondent are temporarily excused and the panel decides on the imposition of a suitable sanction;
- 41.1.12.** The presiding officer must now inform the respondent verbally of the sanction by the committee, but must also serve his sanction in writing to the respondent before or on three days following the date of the trial;
- 41.1.13.** The presiding officer also draws the respondent's attention to his right to appeal to SANPO;
- 41.1.14.** During the trial all witnesses must be electronically recorded and the recordings must be kept in safekeeping for a period of at least three years from date of trial.

## **42. APPEAL AGAINST DECISIONS BY THE AFFILIATED CLUBS AND/OR THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

- 42.1.** If a member is not satisfied with a decision made by his club committee, he must lodge a written objection with his club committee, giving them an opportunity to reconsider

- 42.2.** The club committee has seven days in which to consider the objection. If the member does not receive a reply within the seven day period, or if he is informed that the club committee upholds its decision, then the member must have his written appeal delivered to the Union Secretary within fourteen days after the seven day consideration period has lapsed. Such an appeal will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Investigation committee of the **G.P.U.**
- 42.3.** A member may lodge an appeal against the conclusion of the disciplinary investigation committee of the Management Committee on condition that:
- 42.3.1.** Any person who took part in the activities of the club that was responsible for the verdict or instruction for the appeal, will withdraw from the Disciplinary Investigation committee.
- 42.3.2.** The vacancy thus caused in the Management Committee must be filled by the Management Committee or similar body of the club.
- 42.3.3.** The quorum of the Management Committee hearing such appeal will be half plus one of the members of the Management Committee and any case will be decided by a majority of votes.
- 42.3.4.** An amount of R50.00 is payable when the notice of the appeal is lodged.
- 42.3.5.** Such an appeal must be supported by written reports detailing the grounds for an appeal, from the member concerned as well as witnesses, if any.
- 42.3.6.** The Management Committee is empowered to ratify, revise or set aside in any manner whatsoever.
- 42.4.** If the member of the associated club is not satisfied with verdict of the Management Committee, such member or club has the right to appeal to S.A.N.P.O.
- 42.5.** The Management Committee may, at its own discretion, petition the appellant to be personally questioned..
- 42.6.** The Management Committee is empowered to, at its own discretion, whether or not the aforementioned amount of R50.00 be refunded to the member or not.
- 42.7.** It is illegal to lobby for votes or support in connection with such an appeal. Such action will expose both, member and affiliated club to suspension or eviction from the Union by the Management Committee, as it deems fit.

## **43. MEMBERS FORBIDDEN TO OCCUPY A POSITION OF OFFICE**

Any suspended member is, from date of suspension or eviction, released of any position of office and is also not eligible for election as member of the Union Management Committee, Management Committee, Divisional Management Committee or Management Committee of any affiliated body,

with the understanding that when such a member is re-admitted, he/she again becomes eligible for election on any of the aforementioned Management Committees.

#### **44. FINANCIAL**

**44.1** The financial year of the Union and its affiliated bodies is from the 1<sup>st</sup> January of any year to the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the same year.

**44.2** The Union Management Committee must ensure sound bookkeeping of the business of the Union, and the Union Management Committee must annually present properly and comprehensive Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure statements as well as report of the business of the Union, to Divisional Management Committee before the end of every financial year.

**44.3** The books and accounts of the Union must be finalized, balanced and audited as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

**44.4** Any financial shortfall that may occur during the racing season must, by means of a pro-rata levy, be recovered from every member, in such a manner and within such a period as determined by the Union Management Committee.

**44.5** All transactions with the Union must be settled either by cheque or electronic fund transfer (E.F.T.).

**44.6** Every affiliated body must ensure that the bookkeeping of the business of the affiliated body is audited annually and be available at all times for an inspection by the Union Management Committee or Divisional Management Committee.

#### **45. REGISTRATION RINGS**

**45.1** Registration Rings contains the letters as determined by the Union Management Committee followed by the year of issue and a serial number.

**45.2** No rings must be issued by the affiliated body to any member until all membership fees due to the Union or the affiliated body have been settled in full, and no rings will be sold to any person who is not a member of the Union, unless written consent has been given by the Union Management Committee.

**45.3** The date of issue of registration rings is the 1<sup>st</sup> May of every year, or such date as determined by the Union Management Committee.

**45.4** No affiliated body or member is entitled to return registration rings bought and paid for, for a refund unless authorised by the Union Management Committee.

#### **46. FINANCIAL RULES**

- 46.1.** All orders from affiliated bodies must be accompanied by the appropriate amount of money payable for the material ordered. The Union Secretary will not issue any material to associated bodies until such time as the said payment has been received.
- 46.2.** No affiliated body that is in breach of paying their subscriptions, transport fees or nomination fees on the due dates, will be allowed to take part in any races, until all outstanding amounts have been settled.

#### **47. INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Should there be any uncertainty or doubt regarding the meaning or application of any of the stipulations of the Constitution or any of the By-laws, Rules or Regulations of its construction, the interpretation of the Union Management Committee will be final, binding and conclusive with the proviso that should there be any contradictions, or seem to be between the Afrikaans and English versions, the Management Committee will exercise its powers in compliance with this article to provide an interpretation at the best of its ability, which is reconcilable to both versions.

#### **48. DISBANDMENT**

- 48.1** The Union may disband or merge with another organisation with similar objectives and purposes, provided that in both instances 75% of the Members are present at a properly constituted meeting, of the Union Management Committee, which has been specifically convened for this purpose.
- 48.2** At a merger, the assets of the Union may be transferred to the other organisation involved in the merger if so required.
- 48.3** When disbanded, the assets of the Union will be sold by a liquidator appointed by the Union Management Committee or by the Court, as the case may be. After all the debts of the Union have been paid up in full, the money left over will be donated to the Veterinary Foundation, Onderstepoort.
- 48.4** In the event of the Union disbanding, there will be no responsibility to any of the members of the affiliated clubs other than their personal membership or other outstanding moneys due to the Union.

#### **49. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 49.1** Every member should ensure that his address or change of address be given to the Union Secretary, by means of his affiliated body.
- 49.2** Any written notice or letter on whatever matter, to a member, either by hand, post, e-mail or fax, sent to the address of the member's affiliated body, according to the records of the Union at the time of despatch, will be considered as having been received within 48 hours from the time of despatched by hand, post, e-mail or fax.

- 49.3** The neglect to give notice of a meeting to any person, who is entitled to attend a meeting, does not render the meeting invalid.
- 49.4** Notice of any by-laws, rules or regulations made, changed or abolished by the Union Management Committee, will be passed on in writing to a member, through his affiliated body.
- 49.5** Every official and member of the Union is at all reasonable times entitled to inspect the Union's books of accounting and other documents, and the Union Secretary, Union Race Official or other custodian thereof, is obliged to make it available at a reasonable time and place.
- 49.6** Every member of the Union Management Committee, official or member, agent or employee of the Union, will be reimbursed for any expenses, claims, losses suffered or commitments entered into, in the execution of his/her duties for the Union's business. No such person is accountable for the actions of another person as a result of his/her participation in the receipt of money which has not been received by him/her personally, or for and losses as a result of defective title deeds to properties acquired by the Union or through their revocability of security wherein, or in strength of which, any monies invested by the Union, or for any loss of whatever nature, which was not caused by the deliberate action or gross negligence of such person.
- 49.7** It is prohibited to keep stray pigeons. Stray pigeons must be reported to the Union Secretary within a reasonable time, the information required is the colour of the pigeon as well as the registration ring year and number.

## **50. SETTLING OF DIFFERENCES**

In the event of any differences occurring as a result of the non-compliance of any stipulations of this Constitution or of any by-laws, rules and regulations, such matters will be referred to the Union Management Committee, whose ruling will be final, binding and conclusive.

## **51. PRIZE MONIES AND NOMINATIONS**

- 51.1** With the exception of races controlled by the Union Management Committee, the entrance fees payable, the number of positions qualifying for prize monies and the allocation thereof is determined by the affiliated bodies. Where less than the required number of pigeons return within the fixed race time, prize monies will be allocated in the normal basis of division of prize money to each qualifying pigeon.
- 51.2** Every affiliated body will be held responsible for the collection of all monies payable, to be paid over to the Union Secretary. Such monies will be paid over to the Union Secretary not later than the second work day following the closing day of the race.

## **52. VALIDITY OF PREVIOUS STIPULATIONS, BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**52.1** Any steps, activities or procedures done in compliance with any stipulations of the old Constitution, which is recalled as per article one of this Constitution, and any steps, activities or procedures not yet concluded at the effective date of this Constitution, the necessary steps, activity or procedures must be concluded in accordance with this Constitution, if at all possible.

**52.2** Any by-laws, rules and regulations made in compliance with the old Constitution which has been recalled as per article one of this Constitution, will be, as long as it is not in contradiction with this Constitution, regarded as made in compliance with corresponding stipulations of this Constitution.

## **53. INTERIM UNION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The existing members of the Union Management Committee, elected in accordance with the stipulations of the old Constitution which is being recalled by this constitution, considered properly elected in accordance with corresponding stipulations of this Constitution, and they continue to function as the Union Management Committee until such time as the Union Management Committee is elected in accordance with this Constitution.

## **54. SUNDRY STIPULATIONS**

### **54.1. RACING RULES**

The racing programme for every season as well as full details of the liberation points, dates and times, basketing and liberation dates, registration and transport fees will be made available at least 14 days prior to the first race.

### **54.2. VELOCITY CALCULATION**

**54.2.1.** Every race will be calculated in accordance with the system of velocity calculation as the crow flies, and the time between liberation time and clock time, minus the night hours, where applicable. The pigeon that covers the highest number of meters per minute will be regarded the winner, with second and other positions to follow.

**54.2.2.** A race will close in correspondence with the distance covered and the clock in time of the winning pigeon where the number of hours as shown below will be added:

- (a) 0 to 700 km. - 12 hours (excluding night hours)
- (b) 701 to 1,000 km - 24 hours (excluding night hours)
- (c) More than 1,000 km. - 48 hours (excluding night hours)

**54.2.3.** A race is closed as soon as the speed of the first pigeon is less than 450 meters per minute. Such a race is will cancelled and regarded as null and void. A race will only

be cancelled after a decision to this effect has been taken by the Union Management Committee.

### **54.3. PIGEONS ELIGIBLE FOR COMPETING IN RACE**

- 54.3.1.** Pigeons that compete in the races must be the bona fide property of the member who registered them, and every pigeon must be rung with the official ring of the Union, or a registration ring which is acceptable to the Union.
- 54.3.2.** Derby race: All pigeons with official G.P.U. Derby rings may participate in the Derby race. Rings from an alternative organisation which have been issued after the 1<sup>st</sup> May of that particular year, may also participate in the Derby race on condition that the member paid his full Derby ring fees for that particular series of numbers at least one month prior to basketing of the Derby race, and with the approval of the Union Committee.
- 54.3.3.** Young Pigeons: Young pigeons that are rung and registered in the owner's name may participate in races for young pigeons, provided that, if registration rings from another recognised organisation are used, the rings are not issued before the date the Union issues rings. In the case of a foreign ring, a certificate is required stating that the rings were not issued before the date of issue by the Union. A young pigeon may participate in races in the year of its birth, with the exception of Yearling Championship and Derby races of that year.
- 54.3.4.** Registration: Every member must, before the start of each racing series, register all the pigeons that will participate in the next racing season. Every member will hand a list of all pigeons to the Secretary of his club on the first basket evening before the races start. This list must then be handed to the Union Race Secretary who will, after acknowledgement of receipt, file it away in his file for record purposes. Supplementary lists may be submitted during the season. When such lists are submitted the member confirms with his signature that he is the bona fide owner of the pigeons on the list submitted.

### **54.4. REGISTRATION RINGS**

Registration rings issued by the Union and registered in the name of the club, must be issued and registered in the names of the members of the club. A register of all issued rings to members must be kept by the club concerned. By signing the race entry form, the member declares that the pigeons so entered, are his bona fide property

### **54.5. DAMAGED RINGS**

All pigeons participating in races must have an undamaged registration ring. Any damaged ring or ring that has been tampered with, disqualifies the pigeon from participating in any race.



#### **54.6. STRAY PIGEONS**

It is prohibited to participate in any race with a stray pigeon without the consent of the rightful owner.

### **55. BASKETING**

- 55.1.** Basketing of pigeons may not start before there are at least four participating members present.
- 55.2.** All pigeons participating in races must be rung with a rubber ring, approved and supplied to the club by the Union. Where electronic clocks are used, every pigeon must be rung with an electronic ring.
- 55.3.** Rubber rings: Before the pigeons of a member are rung for basketing, the required number of rubber rings, with paper slips for the pigeons concerned, must be kept in such a way that the member does not have access to them.
- 55.4.** Handling: The Union may decide whether a member or his representative will be allowed to handle his own pigeons for the purpose of attaching the rubber ring or to place them in racing baskets.
- 55.5.** Every member, or his representative, carrying his own pigeons, must have his/her hands and arms completely exposed to his/her elbows i.e. not wear any rings, watches or bracelets during basketing. The member must place his/her hands, without a pigeon, on the sensors to verify that no registration takes place on the CAN. On basketing each pigeon, every member must show his hands to the basket official or the person monitoring the baskets at that time.
- 55.6.** Reading of ring details: No member and/or his/her representative may read out the numbers of his own pigeons when presenting it for attaching the rubber ring during basketing. Full details of the registration ring on the pigeon must be read out.

### **56. CONTROL OF RUBBER AND ELECTRONIC RINGS**

- 56.1.** When pigeons have been rung with rubber rings or after the electronic rings have been scanned and prior to the pigeon being placed in a specific basket, the basket official or another nominated member must control and ensure that the pigeon has a rubber ring/electronic ring that fits properly around its leg. The member must also ensure that the pigeon is placed in the correct basket. Pigeons may not under any circumstances be placed in a basket other than the one with the ascribed number;
- 56.2.** No pigeons may, for whatever reason, be removed from an ascribed basket without the approval and supervision of the club racing secretary or his/her deputy;
- 56.3.** Only GG "read write" rings may be used.

### **57. RACE REGISTRATION FORMS**

- 57.1.** All members must use acceptable entry forms in duplicate;

- 57.2.** The registration form must be completed in full and correctly and must include the name of the club, the member's name and the racing point. Upon completion of the form it must be signed by the member or his./her deputy;
- 57.3.** Faulty rings or omitted ring details of pigeons shall disqualify such pigeons from the relevant race;
- 57.4.** As soon as basketing is completed, all original race registration forms of each club must be addressed, posted or delivered in a sealed envelope to the Union racing secretary;
- 57.5.** The corresponding paper slips for the rubber bands issued for the banding of a member's pigeons and the duplicate registration form must be sealed in a separate envelope and kept in a safe place until the member's clock is read. The way of safe keeping must be approved by the management committee of the Union.

## **58. SEALING BASKETS**

- 58.1.** Before pigeons are placed in a basket for a race, the large release door of the racing basket must be sealed with numbered seals. Once all the pigeons are placed in the basket and before the baskets are removed from the basketing point, the entrance door of the basket must also be sealed with a numbered seal;
- 58.2.** From the time the basketing is started until the baskets are loaded onto the vehicle that transports the pigeons, the baskets must continuously be supervised by at least four competing members.

## **59. CONTROLLING THE WINNING PIGEON**

In all races, the winning pigeon of each club must be controlled as soon as possible by a nominated competing member. The ring details and the colour of the pigeon shown to the nominated member must be reported back to the club. The winning pigeon must be released less than twenty metres from the relevant member's loft in order to establish whether it returns to the loft or not.

## **60. NIGHT HOURS**

- 60.1.** If no pigeons return on the day of their liberation, the night hours shall be the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 15 minutes before sunrise. Hours of darkness will be determined by the GPU;
- 60.2.** Reporting - Every member must, for all the races, unless otherwise stated in the race program, report to the nominated person of his affiliated body by cellular transmission (sms), the approximate time his first pigeon was clocked is to be reported within one hour after the actual clocking time of his/her first pigeon.

## **61. LOFT DISTANCES**

- 61.1** Application: Applications for distances must be directed to the Union by the member's relevant club;
- 61.2** New Lofts: If a member's loft is moved more than 20 metres, he must re-apply for the distances;
- 61.3** Accepted distances: Only distances calculated by a competent person elected by the GPU, with GPS shall be accepted. The Union will have their member's distances calculated with the same method and preferably by the same person.

## **62. TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 62.1.** All pigeons registered for races shall be transported at the owner's risk;
- 62.2.** During transportation, the Union shall arrange that the pigeons have food and water;
- 62.3.** The Union shall not be responsible for delay, injuries or loss of racing pigeons for any reason whatsoever;
- 62.4.** The Union's transport official must replace any baskets deemed unfit for the transport of pigeons.

## **63. ESCAPE OF RACING PIGEONS**

- 63.1.** When during the transportation of the pigeons or at the liberation point the truck driver notices that some of the baskets are damaged and not sealed, he must immediately notify the transport official. If the baskets are damaged to the extent that it is suspected that some pigeons may have escaped, he must annotate the number(s) of the basket(s), count the remaining number of pigeons in the specific basket(s), and annotate the ring numbers of the pigeons. The report must be handed to the transport official upon his return to the GPU holding area;
- 63.2.** Except in the case of Rule 63.3, if a report is received by the transport official and that person is convinced that pigeons transported to a liberation point have escaped from a specific racing basket(s), this shall be reported to the Union management, and all the pigeons placed in the specific basket(s) for that race shall be disqualified from that race;
- 63.3.** If it is established at the liberation point that pigeons have escaped from basket(s), and the remaining pigeons registration numbers can be annotated in consultation with the Union Management in the presence of a person approved by the Union management, and it is ensured at the liberation point that such pigeons can be liberated with the remaining pigeons, only the pigeons whose registration numbers are annotated from the relevant basket(s) shall be allowed to compete in the specific race.

## **64. LIBERATION OF PIGEONS**

- 64.1.** The truck driver shall receive written instructions from the transport official concerning the liberation times as decided by the Union management;
- 64.2.** If, due to unforeseen circumstances, liberation times must be amended, the chairman shall decide on his own discretion any change to liberation times.

## **65. GENERAL**

- 65.1** The number of pigeons that members may register for races will be determined by the Union Committee.
- 65.2** Appeals against race results must be lodged with the member's Club secretary within seven (7) days of date of publication of such race results.
- 65.3** It is compulsory for every affiliated body to participate in races subject to these race rules and not follow his/her own or those of other organisations. Decisions by the Union management concerning any matter and upon approval at the Annual General Meeting shall therefore also apply and be binding on all affiliated bodies.

## **66. RULES FOR THE CARE AND LIBERATION OF RACING PIGEONS**

The Union is compelled to establish standards for the care of all racing pigeons for the period during which the pigeons are transported to the racing point and until such time as the pigeons are liberated, as well as the liberation of the pigeons and the circumstances at the liberation point itself. The Union must ensure that standards are adhered to by doing regular unannounced inspections.

## **67. CARE**

- 67.1.** Water bowls and food must always be available on the trucks should circumstances require that the pigeons need food and water;
- 67.2.** In short-distance races where the pigeons are placed in baskets on a Friday evening, it is not essential that the pigeons get water. Where circumstances change so that an early liberation is not possible, the pigeons must get water before being liberated, but only on instruction of the transport official;
- 67.3.** With long-distance races where the pigeons are placed in baskets on a Thursday evening, it is essential that there is enough food available in case the pigeons should be kept over, but only on instruction of the transport official.

## **68. LIBERATIONS**

- 68.1.** No pigeons may be liberated in mist or rain;
- 68.2.** No pigeons may be liberated if vision is not reasonable to very good;

**68.3.** No pigeons may be liberated before 15 minutes after sunrise;

**68.4.** No pigeons may be liberated near electric wires or other obstructions that can injure the pigeons upon liberation;

**68.5.** No pigeons may be liberated in traffic, on highways, or other roads.

## **69. INJURIES**

All pigeons, which upon liberation for one or other reason cannot fly, must be returned to the transport official by the truck driver, who must then return such pigeons to their respective owners.

## **70. CLOCK RULES FOR MECHANICAL CLOCKS**

**70.1.** Only S.A.N.P.O. approved clocks may be used. The following models are the only ones allowed, but the Union Management may supplement the list from time to time:

Benzing Nr.2 La Le Doise Benzing Comatic	Benzing Nr 4 Junior No 2. 18 or 25 pigeon	Benzing Nr. 5 Junior No 4. Benzing Diploma	Benzing Quarts Toulet Super Time controlled computerized	Benzing diploma STB
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**70.2.** The following clocks may only be used without thimbles:

Benzing Nr 4. La Le Doise Ordinary drum	Benzing Nr. 5	Benzing Quarts Benzing paloma	Benzing Comatic Time controlled computerized	Junior model 4
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**70.3.** Every affiliated body will appoint a Clock Committee comprising of at least three members. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the elected Committee must be forwarded in writing to the Union Race Secretary before the start of any of the race season.

**70.4.** Any member who wishes to compete in the races must hand his clock, in proper working order, at least fourteen days before the first race of every year, to the Clock Committee.

**70.5.** The clock must be checked, wound up, sealed and struck in to start as if for a race.

**70.6.** After a clock had been approved it may not be removed from the custody of the Clock Committee, unless it has been sealed with the official seal of the affiliated body.

**70.7.** Should any member return his clock, which is not properly sealed, to the Clock Committee, such member will be disqualified.

- 70.8.** Affiliated bodies will keep their seals and sealing pliers in safe custody at all times in order to prevent the misappropriation thereof. Neglecting to comply with this rule renders the affiliated body to disqualification or suspension.
- 70.9.** Only the Clock Committee may break a seal or supply a new one. It is, however, the responsibility of the owner of the clock to ensure that his/her clock is sealed before removing it, and to ensure that it stays sealed until, for whatever reason, it is handed over to the Clock Committee.
- 70.10.** All clocks will be modulated by the Clock Committee only.
- 70.11.** When a clock is modulated, two members of the Clock Committee must sign the clock roll, stating the liberation point, the member's name and the number of the clock.
- 70.12.** All clocks must be struck in and out on the S.A.B.C. radio time signal. Clocks may also be struck in and out on the half an hour according to the uninterrupted world time signal, if so approved by the Union. The television time, 1026 time signal, "master timers" as well as the GPS may also be used. These times must be recorded in the clock time book. The same time signal must be used for both, strike in and out as far as possible.
- 70.13.** During strike in and out, one electronic clock of every system in use must be struck together with the mechanical clocks at the time signal in order to ascertain the variance to the time signal. A printout is then done which will reflect the variance figure for all the clocks of a particular system. This variance will be taken into consideration when the speed calculation is done, by either adding it on or taking it off of the race speed of the pigeon
- 70.14.** After the clocks have been struck in, a control strike must be done within three minutes. The time of the control strike may not differ by more than one second from the time the control strike instruction has been given. The time for the control strike must not be predetermined, and must vary from time to time. For example, the strike instruction must not always be given exactly on the minute after one or two.  
If the variance exceeds more than one second, the clock must be re-set and struck in again.
- 70.15.** After the control strike, the number in the drum hole where the first rubber ring will be inserted must be recorded in the clock book. When the clock is opened, after the race, and the recorded hole in the clock drum is found empty, the corresponding time on the clock roll must be cancelled. Every clock roll printout must also reflect the two prescribed strikes.
- 70.16.** The onus is on the owner of the clock and/or the person in control of the clock to ensure that all the stipulations are taken care of before removing it from the custody of the Clock Committee.
- 70.17.** Any member of the Clock Committee and any member of the Management Committee or nominee of either of these Committees may, during the period the clock has been sealed for one or other race, at any time inspect such a clock, do a check strike and if found faulty, do the necessary correction.

- 70.18.** On strike out day, before the clocks are opened, the clocks of all members, in the presence of at least five competing members, must be struck out on the sixth signal of the S.A.B.C. signal, or otherwise as stated in article 70.12 of this Constitution. All clocks must also be struck once more by the nominee of the Clock Committee, before the seals are broken, and the number of the empty drum hole must be recorded in the clock book. The "full" on the Benzing and STB clocks will be regarded as the empty hole in the clock drum and will be regarded as in compliance with this article, and will be noted as such. Any clocks that are not struck out, must be handed in, sealed, to the Clock Committee at the next basket evening.
- 70.19.** The Clock Committee may break the seals and open the clocks only after all the above mentioned strikes have been executed. Where pigeons have been clocked, such clocks must be handled on the day the pigeons have clocked in the manner as defined in article 70.17 of this Constitution.
- 70.20.** No concession may be made should a clock gain more than 2.5 seconds per hour. In the event of a clock trail being more than 2.5 seconds per hour, double the lost time must be added on, when calculating the variance.
- 70.21.** A paper clock roll of a clock that stopped after the pigeons have been clocked, but before it could strike out, or that of any clock that had been opened before it was struck out, in consistence with article 70.12 to 70.14 may not be accepted. The paper clock roll that was torn in between the punch opening, and /or punch closing mark after a pigeon had been clocked, the clock may be opened by five members of the Clock Committee, the clock paper roll be reset in order that the strike out time can be recorded for the clock concerned.
- 70.22.** Any paper clock roll which is tattered, or as a result of faulty print (double print clock), cannot be read, or there is reasonable doubt, must be handed to the Union Management Committee for inspection. Their decision will be final and binding.
- 70.23.** The rubber ring must be inserted in a thimble supplied by the manufacturer for the particular clock. Open thimbles may not be used. This stipulation does not apply to clocks manufactured for use without thimbles, and must be approved in advance by the Management Committee.
- 70.24.** In the event of a member's clock stopping during a race, or becomes defective before the arrival of his first pigeon, he must hand the sealed clock to a member of the Clock Committee. The committee member, together with another member will have the authority to reset and start the clock on an S.A.B.C. time signal as per article 70.12 and 70.13 of this Constitution, or such member may clock with a competing member nearest to him.
- 70.25.** When a clock stops after the clocking of a pigeon, the owner of the unopened clock can hand it over to a member of the Clock Committee, who is empowered to open the clock, which will then remove the rubber rings and clock them in his own clock. If a member of the Clocking Committee suffers the same experience, he can, in the same manner, take his clock to any member for the rubber rings to be clocked in the member's clock, as though the member is a member of the Clock Committee. In either of these instances the time registered in the alternative clock will be regarded as the pigeon's time of arrival.

- 70.26.** Where a member is obliged to clock another member's ring, the member must present his unopened, sealed clock to the fellow member to convince such member that he is obliged to clock his ring into the fellow member's clock. The Union Management must be furnished with reasons for such action accompanying the club results addressed to the Union Race Secretary.
- 70.27.** After clock in time, all clocks will be, to the discretion of the affiliated body, struck out to the closest possible radio time signal, GPS, "master times" or television time.
- 70.28.** Strike outs must always be read by two members of the Clock Committee to the nearest half second to the detriment of the member.
- 70.29.** Rubber rings must always be placed properly in the drum hole or thimble. When the Clock Committee member removes the rings, they must be totally satisfied that the rings were completely placed in the right drum hole or thimble.
- 70.30.** The serial and control number on the rubber ring must correspond with those on the paper strip originally removed from the rubber ring, as well as the numbers written on the registration form. The drum hole number where the rubber ring was taken from must be written in ink on the rubber ring and the paper strip. If the number on the inside of the rubber ring is compared with the number of the inside of the paper strip, it must be noted to that effect.
- 70.31.** All rubber rings with their corresponding paper strips, clock rolls and race results of the pigeons appearing on the results, must be sent, either by registered mail or by hand to the Race Secretary, by not later than morning of the first working day following the day the race closed. Should the Management Committee so desire, then some or all the relevant mentioned documents must be tabled. These documents must be kept in safe keeping by the Race Secretary until the 31<sup>st</sup> December of every season, after which, it may be destroyed.
- 70.32.** Competitors may place two or more rings in one thimble or drum hole. When the clock is opened, all rings found pinched in the lid of the drum hole, dragged or popped out, will not be accepted. In the event of a ring being dragged and in the process and it lands in the next drum hole, the time on the latter drum hole will be recorded as the clock time of that specific pigeon.
- 70.33.** The registration panel of the electronic clock must be on the inside of the point of entrance to the loft in order that the pigeon is under control when it is clocked (registered). Traps must be made according to the manufacturer's specifications. The panel must be fixed to stop it from moving around. The point where the pigeon registers must be at least 100mm on the inside of the loft. Loose panels in a fly-in passage is, therefore, not acceptable.
- 70.34.** Any electronic clock system may, at any time, be inspected by a member of the club. When the winning pigeon is thrown out, such pigeon must enter the loft over the registration panel in order to confirm its ring number. This entry printout will then be attached to the basket allocation form



**70.35.** The rules with reference to the regulating of clocks in the **G.P.U.** are subject to the rules and regulations properly explained in addendum E of the S.A.N.P.O. Constitution, and is *mutatis mutandis* applicable here as well.

## **71. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES, DRUGS, MEDICATION AND STIMULANTS**

All rules and regulations concerning prohibited substances, drugs, medication and stimulants must be followed as stipulated in the Constitution of S.A.N.P.O. and is *mutatis mutandis* applicable here as well.

## **72. GENERAL**

- 72.1.** No affiliated body will be allowed to organise a race without obtaining the permission of the Union Management Committee prior to organising such a race.
- 72.2.** A member is not allowed to compete from more than one loft, unless such lofts are not more than twenty meters apart.
- 72.3.** The largest number of pigeons per race, a member is allowed to register, will be determined by the affiliated body from time to time.
- 72.4.** Every member must, for all races, unless otherwise mentioned in the race program must, within one (1) hour of the actual clock in time of his first pigeon, inform the nominated person of his/her affiliated body (herein after called "the nominated person"), of the approximate time when his first pigeon was clocked in.
- 72.5.** The nominated person must then, on the prescribed form, record the times when the pigeons were clocked in and the times when the members reported the clock times to him. This form must be certified as correct by the nominated person, and handed over to the Clock Committee.
- 72.6.** Race results will be made available to every competing member as soon as possible after the race.
- 72.7.** The Derby race for yearlings will take place over a distance of approximately 650 kilometres.

**THE G.P.U. CONFIRMS HEREWITH THAT, BY THE SIGNING OF THIS CONSTITUTION THAT THE PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION WILL BE REPLACED IN ITS ENTIRITY BY THIS CONSTITUTION, AND THE G.P.U. DECLARES THAT THE PERSON WHO SIGNS THIS CONSTITUTION IS EMPOWERED TO SIGN SUCH CONSTITUTION AND THAT IT IS Efective FROM THE DATE OF THE SIGNING THEREOF.**

**SIGNATURE :** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME :** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION :** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE :** \_\_\_\_\_