

## **VRPU COVID-19 TOSSING, BASKETING AND RACING PROTOCOLS 2021 AS AT 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**The following tossing, basketing and clocking protocols are recommended by the VRPU (Victorian Racing Pigeon Union Inc.) Committee during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. These protocols apply irrespective of any VRPU protocols currently in place. The purpose of this system is to protect the fanciers from COVID-19 infection and to minimise contact with the public and other fanciers. This protocol may be amended based upon State revised regulations issued from time to time.**

### **Tossing Protocol**

**Fanciers must comply with State Government's health regulations regarding social distancing and any other directives.**

- Interaction between fanciers at a toss point is not encouraged. Therefore, if a fancier arrives at a toss point and sees another fancier tossing, then he/she should only enter that area maintaining social distancing rules applicable at the time.
- Unless an immediate family member from the same household, there should be no accompanying people in the car whilst transporting the birds. This applies during any lockdown and may be relaxed as social distancing regulations ease.
- There should be no interaction with members of the public at the release point and the fancier must vacate the area within 5 minutes after release of his/her birds.

### **Basketing Protocol**

**Fanciers must comply with State Government's health regulations regarding social distancing and any other directives. At all times fanciers must comply with social distancing regulations and hygiene as detailed below. The VRPU has two Compliance Officer/Safety Co-ordinators, John Share and Jim Davis who can demonstrate the requirements to all participating Union members.**

- The rooms (floor plan area of approx. 456m<sup>2</sup>) shall have the floors marked for where fanciers are to stand whilst in queue for basketing and or clock production demonstrating a 1.5 metre separation.
- The rooms shall provide bottles of hand sanitizer and bacterial wipes at entry to rooms and at the basketing areas.
- The VRPU recommends that elderly, persons feeling unwell, or fanciers with a past medical history that could be vulnerable to the virus, should refrain from entering the VRPU rooms. These fanciers should arrange for other fanciers to process their clock and birds whilst waiting in their car or make alternative arrangements in order that they can participate in racing.
- The rooms shall be set up for basketing by the room stewards or their nominated assistants the night before basketing or as agreed between those persons.
- Social distancing must be practiced when setting up the rooms, basketing/ registering pigeons for a race and clock production. Our recommendation is that there should be no more than 30 people in the Union rooms at a given time. A 1.5 metre distance between each fancier must be strictly enforced at all times and each person must wear an approved/acceptable mask whilst indoors..
- Participating fanciers for the 2021 season will need to QR check in using the current QR code signage displayed on the front door and notice board or if this is not

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possible, sign into the rooms noting time of arrival and contact number for each basketing night.

- Each fancier is to bring his/her baskets and clock to the Union room's south door to be processed within the Union rooms. Upon registering the fancier shall pay any fees due including that weeks' race costs as applicable and \$10 convoy/cleaning fee. **(Know the number of birds you are racing each week.)**
- One person (room steward) controls the entry of fanciers to the rooms, two persons work on the clocks (two teams mindful of distancing rules), the fancier whose birds are being basketted directs the sex and unit tier number of where the pigeons go and the balance of fanciers take the pigeons to the transport units from the fancier's baskets.
- Each of these people must wash their hands at the commencement and end of the basketing session. Upon completion they shall collect their respective clocks and baskets and leave the rooms allowing the next persons to commence.
- All surfaces of the Union Rooms should be disinfected at the conclusion of basketing in readiness for the next basket night.
- Transporting the units from the Union rooms to the federation truck must also follow social distancing rules. This means the units must be transported with a fancier at each end of the units to comply with social distancing rules.
- There should be only 1 person in the vehicle transporting the pigeon units at the one time, unless an immediate family member. If another person must be in attendance at the federation truck, then they must travel in a separate car.
- At the federation truck we recommend that the units be left near the truck for loading by dedicated experienced fanciers allocated by the federation and that the club members do not interact with this process. Similarly, when the empty units are to be picked up, there is no interaction between club and federation persons.
- A scrape down, clean and appropriate disinfectant spray of each tier and unit after each race is recommended to kill potential corona virus contamination in readiness for the next weeks racing.

### **Clocking Protocol**

- Clocking protocol should limit interaction between fanciers. Again, fanciers arriving at the rooms will need to QR check in using the current QR code signage displayed on the front door and notice board or if this is not possible, sign into the rooms noting time of arrival and contact number.
- It is recommended that participating fanciers arrive within their 2 hours of clocking and after check in, form a line at the marker points on the room floor, present their clock, have read and immediately leave.

### **Race Results**

- The Secretary/ Treasurer shall produce the race results at the completion of the clock productions and readings and the overall race result will be published on the pigeonrace.net website.

**A copy of this protocol should be given to each fancier and it should be kept in their car at all times when transporting the pigeons.**