

# VICTORIAN RACING PIGEON UNION INCORPORATED

## RACE RULE CONDITIONS 2025

### 1. Races

The Committee shall have the power to frame Regulations for the conduct of races between pigeons belonging to various Clubs in affiliation with the VPU, and 'Federation' and in respect of combined races with other Associations; and in such regulations, shall be deemed to be identical with the VPU herein.

### 2. Liberation/Convoyer

The Committee shall have the power of appointing and remunerating the Convoyer and Supervisors, and making all arrangements and details as to the liberation of the birds.

### 3. Birds

All birds must fly to a member's loft, and be the absolute property of members in whose names they are raced, and be shown within six days of close of race alive, if required, to the appointed representative of the VPU, who shall have the power to liberate the birds at the member's loft, and which must return to the member's loft, in his presence. Any infraction of this rule shall annul all rights to prizes and to future competition in Federation Races. The VPU shall also be at liberty to send a representative to investigate the legitimate ownership of any pigeon, the expense of such investigation, as fixed by the VPU, to be borne by the defaulting member, and to be recoverable as and for liquidated damages.

### 4. Loss or Damage

The VPU shall not be responsible for any loss or damage of any birds at any time under any circumstances whatsoever.

### 5. Food and Water

The VPU, in all races, shall provide food and water for all race birds under their charge where necessary, and in accordance with the Code of Practice.

### 6. Food Mix

The birds are to be fed a balanced mixture of different grains whilst in the care of the convoyer.

### 7. Arrival at Race Point

All pigeons should arrive at the race point a minimum of three hours prior to being liberated in all VPU races, or within a time as decided by the liberation committee.

### 8. Ring Registration

Registration lists from all flyers for the forthcoming racing season is to be forwarded to Ring Registrar as soon as possible prior to the start of the Short and Long Distance series or at the Annual General Meeting for that season. Any registrations after the commencement of the series shall incur a fine of \$50.

The ring list for flyers using the EBSS must have the birds accurately ring numbered and coloured into their clocks prior to the first race. Failure to present an accurate ring list may deem the flyer ineligible to compete in that week's race.

## **9. Rubber Ring**

Unless, in the opinion of the Committee, a clerical error has occurred, the numbers on the rubber race ring, produced in clock, must correspond with those on the entry form.

## **10. Contacting the Convoyer**

Any competitor other than the VPU President and Secretary - Treasurer and any member of the liberation committee contacting the Convoyer or in any way interfering with the liberation of birds shall be debarred from the race and future competition in the VPU for such times as the Committee may determine.

## **11. Birds for Liberation**

Any member of the VPU sending birds for liberation to the race point on the day of races, otherwise than through his Club, shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

## **12. Basketing**

All birds competing in Federation races must be basketed as directed by the VPU.

## **13. A bird unfit to compete**

No pigeon, which in the opinion of any member of the Committee or elected room steward, is in any way unfit to compete, and shall be allowed to compete in any race conducted by the VPU. Any pigeon showing signs of pigeon pox or other infectious disease shall be refused entry into race units.

## **14. Inoculations**

- (1) Any member desiring to inoculate their racing pigeons with pigeon pox serum must complete the inoculation by the second weekend in May. Any birds inoculated after this date without the written approval of the VPU Committee will be ineligible to compete in that season's Old Bird Series.
- (2) All members must vaccinate all their pigeons for PMV1 on a yearly basis. Newly bred birds are to be vaccinated at approximately 25 days old and again with a booster after 4 weeks all in accordance with veterinary advice and manufacturer's recommendations. In any case, all newly bred race birds must be vaccinated at a minimum of 3 months prior to the first race and again at 2 months prior to the first race. Each year, prior to the commencement of racing, a flyer or partnership must produce a signed and witnessed VPU Committee approved document showing evidence of vaccination. Failure to submit such document will render the flyer ineligible to compete in that season's racing.

## **15. Race Entries**

Statements as to entry numbers etc. for nominated races are to be forwarded to the VPU Secretary - Treasurer on the night of basketing. The VPU will accept late entries for nomination races at a cost of \$2.00 per bird extra to normal entry fees.

## **16. Distribution of Prize money**

All Federation races will race for mandatory prize money unless a member takes the option to not participate in prize money before they compete in their first race for the season. Prize money will be as follows. For Federation events in the Short series 100% to sections. For Federation events for the Distance series – 50% to open fed and 50% to section. Section prize money will be allotted pro rata to the number of birds sent in each section, which will comprise of sections as per Rule 57.

## **17. Releases**

In all races where birds cannot be liberated on the scheduled day they can be held over for release on the following day or transported to another race point of equal or lesser distance for liberation. If release is not possible on the second day, a decision on what procedure is necessary is to be left in the hands of the Committee.

## **18. Loft flying distances**

An official, to be appointed by the VPU, shall measure members flying distances, over any course decided upon, and only those measurements shall be accepted. The original measurements shall be held by the VPU, but the Secretary - Treasurer must supply a copy of same. All objections to the said measurements must be lodged with the Secretary - Treasurer within seven days of the race.

## **19. Members from the same loft**

Up to four competing individuals or partnerships may compete and fly their birds registered in their own name to the same loft or premises. Each member or partnership must be a VPU member and must be a bona fide flier. Each member or partnership shall compete under the Rules of the VPU and within the Code of Conduct. Only two of these VPU flyers from the same loft or premises are entitled to vote at the annual general meeting. The maximum number of birds that can be entered for Federation events from the same loft or premises cannot exceed the maximum number of birds allowed to be entered by two flyers from the same loft or premises, with the exception of the '10 Bird 400 mile National', where each flyer is entitled to enter the limit of 10 birds each. "

## **20. Race entry sheets**

Race entries must be made on an entry form recognised and approved by the VPU, and all marks on life rings and a correct description of birds entered, a verification slip containing an accurate description of all clocked birds and all markings on life rings must be produced with clock. An individual verification page must be completed for each bird clocked.

## **21. Bird entry numbers**

There shall be a restriction on every member of the VPU of 50 birds to be entered for Federation events up to 400km and then a restriction of 30 birds for Federation events greater than 400; with the exception of a limit as specified on the race schedule for a particular race. The Committee may decide to reduce these entry numbers if there is insufficient transport available for the conveying of pigeons to a certain race point.

## **22. Entry forms**

All entry forms must be presented with one bird on each line provided on the form. Entries to be in numerical order with no blank lines between entries. All members must fill their entry forms in ink only, or produce an approved computer printed form. The club Secretary - Treasurer or appointed person shall rule a line immediately below the last pigeon and sign their name below such line prior to basketing. The signature of the penciller must also be added after the entry form has been processed. Any alterations including liquid paper alterations to ring numbers will not be accepted. Alterations to ring prefixes will be permitted for rings other than VPU. The names or flyer numbers of the handlers, penciller and ringer must be recorded on the back of the entry form. If a bird is not listed on the original entry sheet, it can be entered via a separate VPU entry book if a \$2 fine is paid.

## **23. Deemed winner**

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 the VPU Rules and Regulations to be deemed the winner.

#### **24. Same velocity**

If after the second decimal of any velocity two or more clocks are even, then such clocks shall be deemed to be of the same time, and are equal values of prize.

#### **25. Prize money**

Should only one flyer get a bird home within the time limit he or she shall be entitled to all the prize money, but should two or more competitors home birds within the limit then;

- (1) When a second competitor gets a bird home within the time limit he or she shall receive second prize money and share with the first competitor all the surplus money.
- (2) When a third competitor gets a bird home within the time limit he or she shall receive third prize money and share with the first and second competitor all the surplus money until all prizes are taken.
- (3) Section prize money will follow these same formulae.

#### **26. Closure of races**

Races up to 400kms shall close at dark on the day of liberation; from 401kms to 700kms, at dark on the day following the day of liberation; from 701kms to 850kms at dark on the third day following the day of liberation; over 851kms at dark on the fourth day following the day of liberation.

#### **27. Extending races**

In the event of the race not won within the specified time the Committee shall have the power to extend same. The race will close before the specified time if all Federation places have been won, however, Sections will remain open until filled or until the close of that race.

#### **28. Hours of darkness**

In the case of races extending over one day where there are no pigeons homing on the day of liberation, the closure of the race shall be sunset and re-opened 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 close 30 minutes later. The same procedure to apply to all birds clocked prior to sunrise.

#### **29. Diplomas**

The place-getters in all Federation events shall receive VPU diplomas. These diplomas shall give the position won in the Federation race and also the particulars of the clocked bird.

#### **30. Impossible velocity**

Should any competitor be credited with having made a velocity that the Committee deems impossible on the day, then the Committee shall have absolute power to disqualify the said bird in the said race, although there may be no evidence to suggest or support any fraudulent practice of the competitor or any other person responsible for making or dispatching of the birds to or at the race point.

#### **31. Aggregate**

The VPU shall award a trophy to the winner of the Short Distance, Long Distance, Combined Old bird aggregates, and a trophy/Certificate for the aggregate winner of each Section.

#### **32. Eligibility for combined aggregate**

For members to be eligible to compete for the combined aggregate they must compete in both the Short Distance and Long Distance in the Old Bird series.

### **33. Aggregate points**

Aggregate points shall be awarded to all birds gaining a Federation position. In the case where a flyer takes two positions, the points gained by the second pigeon in the Federation result will become null and void.

### **34. Protests**

Protests of any description must be submitted in writing and received by the Secretary - Treasurer within 14 days of declaration of race. Within 14 days of such receipt the Committee shall meet and make a decision either upholding or dismissing the Protest and notify the Protestor of their decision.

### **35. Federation points**

There shall be 20 Federation positions awarded in the Short and Long-Distance series, with prize money allocated to the first 10 positions only in the series. The VPU shall award a trophy to all federation winners.

### **36. Clocks**

- (1) All competitors in Federation Races must have a clock specially made for timing homing pigeons, the same to have the approval of the Committee and no alteration shall be allowed to any clock, other than may be sanctioned by the Committee.
- (2) All clocks used by competitors in Federation races must be set and sealed as decided by the Committee and shall have a number thereon. No competitor shall have more than one clock for each Federation race, and shall have the name of the competitor thereon.
- (3) In the event of a clock ceasing to function after a bird has been timed in, the clock Committee shall disqualify such clock from such race but the owner of such clock may take the stopped clock to the Club Clock Chairman who has the power to open such clock and transfer the rubber ring and thimble to another clock and stamp the time of such transfer. The time recorded at such transfer is then accepted as the time of arrival of the pigeon. The faulty clock to be retained by the club clock chairman and presented to the Clock Committee for inspection the same day.
- (4) All birds competing in any Club, Federation or Special race conducted by the VPU must carry a rubber race ring. Only one rubber race ring can be placed in the recognised thimble, which must be then put in the clock provided for that purpose. For thimble-less clocks only one rubber race ring can be placed in each clocking hole. If more than one rubber race ring is placed in the thimble or thimble-less clock hole that competitor will be disqualified and no time will be given to any bird flown by that competitor in that race.
- (5) The VPU Committee shall have the power to view any competitor's clock at any time during the progress of a race and impound same if found to be faulty. In the event that a flyer uses a clock specifically designed to be operated thimble-less and the Committee has approved that clock, that flyer does not have to use a thimble.
- (6) All computer thimble or thimbles less computer clocks are approved for use in VPU Federation events. As these clocks do not have a paper tape in them, the code number inserted for each particular race is to be recorded on the clock sheet at the time of clock setting and checked at the time of clock presentation. It is the sole responsibility of the flyer that uses this type of clock to produce a printer on race days so a readout can be retrieved for race calculations. In the event that it is impossible to produce a read-out tape for a particular race then the flyer will be given no time.
- (7) Where dolometers are present on clocks they are to be checked annually. Dolometers are to be reset at zero for each race. Any clock on being returned with a dolometer reading of 5 or above will be penalized one minute for each full gradient of 5 showing on the dolometer. The penalty shall be added to the clocking time.

### **37. Clock Pullovers**

All clocks must be pulled over twice against the chronometer after clock production at a VPU clock production center. In the event of a member clocking from a race but being unable to obtain a variation on the chronometer pull, the Chairman of the VPU Clock Committee may open the clock and obtain such variation. The clock to be produced at the VPU rooms with seal intact.

### **38. Fast and Slow Clocks**

- (1) All clocks to be started at actual time, obtained from a chronometer, and a record of the time kept. Hole 2 to be showing when leaving the rooms.
- (2) In the event of a clock when compared against the chronometer after clocking showing a variation in excess of five (5) seconds to the hour either way, fast or slow;
  - i) In the event of a fast clock the full proportion of variation (5 secs each hour) up to the time of clocking be deducted from the clocking time and any variation in excess of five (5) seconds shall remain the actual clocking time.
  - ii) In the event of a slow clock the full proportion of variation (5 secs each hour) up to the time of clocking shall be added to the clocking time and any variation in excess of five (5) seconds each hour shall be doubled and then added to the clocking time. The foregoing rules cannot be so construed as to prevent the Clock Committee from exercising the powers invested in it and any member whose clock varies in excess of ten (10) seconds to the hour must notify the VPU Secretary - Treasurer or a member of the Clock Committee before clocking.
- (3) All paper rolls must bear the name of the race, the club, flyer's name, number, setting date and two signatures, at least one a Clock Committee member. If paper roll is incomplete no time will be given.

### **39. Clocking birds for Federation**

In Federation events up to approximately 600km (known as the 400's), a competitor may clock Federated birds but only the first competing bird clocked shall under any circumstances be entitled to compete for the Federation event. In Federation events in excess of 600km (known as the 400's) a competitor may clock Federated birds with two birds being eligible for Federation positions with the second bird ineligible for either aggregate points or prize money which shall be awarded to those birds outside the top 20 positions that would have been in the top 20 save for the clocking of second pigeon/s.

### **40. Faulty Clocks**

- (1) Any competitor who shall, prior to the clocking of his bird, find the clock issued to him at fault, can have it replaced with a clock that has been set by the Clock Committee for the race, by the club clock chairman or representative, who shall be responsible for the production of the faulty clock, as required by the Committee.
- (2) In the event of any clock being found to be faulty on a race bird homing, the owner may, if permitted, clock his bird in any clock that has been set by the Clock Committee for the race. The faulty clock is to be produced to the VPU Clock Committee at clock checking for the race before such clock is used again.

### **41. Checking Clocks**

- (1) Any member, after clocking, desirous of having his clock checked and his variation recorded, may make application to the Chairman of the Clock Committee for such purpose. A fee for this service shall be \$10.00.
- (2) The VPU shall not accept responsibility for damage sustained to any clock under any circumstances at any time.

## CLOCK PRODUCTION

42. Clocks produced at any of the approved clocking centre's whether electronic or manual cannot be read or pulled over unless there are a minimum of three (3) other participating flyers present. In the event of less than four (4) flyers clocking and producing their clocks at an outside clocking centre, those flyers must produce their electronic or manual clocks at the VPU rooms for processing .At all times the Chairman of the Clock committee or his delegate shall be present for the clock reading or pullover.”
43. In all old bird Federation races up to and including 600km (known as the 400's) races clocks are to be produced at clocking centres within two hours of clocking or as otherwise directed by the VPU Committee.
44. For all races over approximately 600km (known as the 400's), clocks are to be produced at the VPU rooms at 8:00pm on the day of liberation or on the day following the day of liberation or as otherwise directed by the Committee. The only occasions that these times can be exceeded are when a member is still within two hours of clocking.
45. In races where birds are clocked on weekdays, clock production will be at the VPU rooms at 8:00pm or as otherwise directed.
46. Failure to produce clocks at the nominated time without a valid reason, that competitor may not be granted any time for that race or fined a penalty of \$50.
47. All clocks competing in Federation events must be produced at the clock checking rooms at the time appointed with all seals intact. Any competitor failing to comply with this Rule may be fined \$50.00 or not granted any time or both.

## GENERAL

48. VPU members are reminded that it is a Federal offence to liberate pigeons within close proximity of any airport.
49. All areas of the VPU rooms are smoke free areas in line with Government laws and duty of care.

### **50. Hire of Rooms**

No fee will be charged for any financial VPU member of club using the VPU rooms for pigeon sales. A fee of \$300 will be charged for any non-VPU member or club wishing to hire the rooms. An extra fee of \$50 will be charged for setting up sale pens and the cleaning of rooms if required. Any pigeon shows or other non-profit activities conducted by clubs will not be charged for.

### **51. Stray Pigeons**

- (1) Any member, whose loft a pigeon other than his own may come, shall at once give notice to the Ring Registrar that he has such a bird. The Ring Registrar will immediately inform the owner of the lost bird.
- (2) The Owner of the lost bird, upon being notified by the Ring Registrar as to its whereabouts, shall be compelled to arrange for the recovery or disposal of the said bird within seven (7) days of receipt of notice. If this Rule is not complied with by the Owner, as reported by the Ring Registrar to the Committee, then a \$50 fine shall apply to that Owner.

## **52. Racing another flyers pigeon**

Any member who races a pigeon not registered in their name shall be liable for disqualification up to 12 months.

## **53. Transfer Of Pigeons**

Any member wishing to transfer their ownership of a pigeon to another must notify the Ring Registrar on the prescribed form prior to the commencement of the racing schedule of the old bird series.

## **54. Life Rings**

- (1) No life rings shall be issued by the VPU prior to the first day of July in each year.
- (2) All VPU rings must be sold in multiples of ten, except for Special event rings, which may be sold individually.
- (3) All birds competing in Federation races must be rung with an intact life ring not defaced in any way. Only VPU rings or rings approved by the VPU will be accepted. No overseas rings will be recognized by the VPU except for Rule 55. Any life ring other than VPU rings or Special Race rings will attract a surcharge of 50 cents for every ring upon registration of the flyer's ring list.

## **55. Overseas Rings**

South African rings specifically issued within Australia for the South African Million Dollar Race are eligible to compete in all VPU Federation races or those raced under the VPU rules and in that year of the ring for the VPU Produce Race.

## **56. Boundaries**

The boundaries of the Union shall be as follows. All that area west of longitude E145 06' 54" the North until the junction with Plenty Road and all that area west of Plenty Road until the junction with Darebin creek at Kingsbury, then west of Darebin Creek until it meets with Heidelberg Rd. North of Heidelberg Rd until Hoddle St, then west of Hoddle St/Punt Rd and north of Kerford Rd at St Kilda. The Northern Boundary shall be all that area south of Latitude S37 14' 31.2". There is no Western boundary.

## **57. Sections**

There will be six sections in the VPU namely North section, South section, Central section, West section, North East section and the South East section arrived at as follows. The North section to comprise of those members from the Kilmore and Wallan Clubs, South section those members from Pascoe Vale and Glenroy Clubs, Central section those members from Craigieburn, Northern Homing Club and Broadmeadows Club, North East section for those members from Thomastown, Regent and Preston who are North of the M80 Ring Road and the South East section for those members from Thomastown, Regent and Preston who are South of the M80 Ring Road and a West section for those members of the Innerwest Inv. Pigeon Club or who are west of the WPF's original eastern boundary will compete in the section relative to their affiliated Club.

## **58. Bird of The Year**

The VPU shall award a trophy for the 'Champion Old Bird'. Points will be allocated to each bird obtaining a Federation position. The points given will be identical to those allocated for Aggregate points. The bird with the greater number of points will be declared the champion bird in each series.



## USE OF EBS SYSTEMS

The use of Electronic Band Scanning systems (“EBSS”) is approved by the VPU for use in all races conducted by the VPU.

- 59.** In the event that the VPU Committee determines that an EBS System or a system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the VPU may disapprove the use of that system. The disapproval of any system will be effective immediately upon resolution on the VPU executive Committee and the disapproval will be advised to members as soon as reasonably possible by personal notice.
- (1) The VPU reserves the right to withdraw the approval of any EBSS at any time, if a lack of security occurs with any particular system.
  - (2) If the VPU Clock Chairman, his designate, or any race official determines that a lack of security exists with any individual unit, he must notify the VPU Executive Committee and seek an immediate statement as to the validity of the continued system use. The VPU Clock Chairman, his designate or race official must provide a written statement of the reason for concern to the system owner and to the VPU Committee.
  - (3) Issues of the potential or actual adequacy or otherwise of security will be a matter for determination by the VPU Committee within its absolute discretion.
  - (4) Entering of pigeons can only commence with the presence and approval of the room steward. The person reading the electronic clock must confirm that the first bird scanned is the first bird entered for any given race. At the completion of entering birds via the scanner the clock is either read or the power is disconnected.
- 60.** Use of an EBSS by an individual VPU member must be notified to the VPU in writing by the member’s respective VPU affiliated club.
- 61.** A VPU affiliated club shall not make use of an EBSS mandatory, nor is it compulsory for a flyer to use EBSS for the whole season.

### **62. Particular EBS Systems**

A member is free to purchase any EBSS he chooses. A member is responsible for ensuring the system (hardware/software) is compatible with other systems used by the VPU or the member’s VPU affiliated club. The VPU or the club shall have no responsibilities for any system incompatibility.

“Benzing Live or equivalent”

- (i) The use of an EBS System that allows a competitor to evaluate his clock via the ‘Live System’ in a manner the same as or similar to ‘Benzing Live System’ is approved for use in the VPU.
- (ii) The VPU Clock Chairman must be satisfied with the integrity of any EBS System proposed to be used and its ability to carry out the functions and provide the required level of security. Approval of EBS Systems will be the responsibility of the VPU Clock Chairman. The only approved system at the time of implementation of this rule is ‘Benzing Live’ .
- (iii) The use of Benzing Live or any other future approved system within each VPU clocking centre will be a decision for the members of each individual Centre.
- (iv) Any Centre wishing to use an approved ‘Live’ System must have an email facility at the Centre, the email address encompassing the name of the Centre either wholly or in part.
- (v) The Centre Clock Chairman or his designate will be responsible for the receiving and printing of the emailed evaluation sheets.

(vi) In the event of a competitors email evaluation sheet not arriving at his designated Centre, the competitor will be required to produce his electronic clock at his designated Centre within the normal time frames as set out in Rules 43-47. No additional time to produce will be allowed. Failure do so will result in no time being given.

(vii) To clarify and avoid confusion, where an email evaluation sheet does not arrive at a competitors designated Centre within the normal time frames set out in Rules 43-47 due to a failure in the email system and the competitors clock is not produced at his designated Centre within the normal time frames as set out in Rules 43-47, then no time will be given.

It would be advisable for any member, prior to purchasing an EBS system, to check with the VPU as to what systems are already in use.

### Use of EBS Systems by Members

#### **63. Serial numbers**

The serial number of each EBSS and the serial number of each antenna must be approved by and registered with the VPU prior to use.

#### **64. Installation**

Installation of the EBSS in a member's loft must be inspected and approved by the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate before being accepted for competition use within the VPU.

#### **65. Location of Antenna**

- (1) Every EBSS sensor antenna may be installed at the bird entrance where the birds will normally enter the loft. If placed on the outside entrance, the longest dimension of the antenna shall be touching the outer wall of the loft entry. Antennas may be placed on a "sputnik", as long as it is the normal bird entrance into the loft.
- (2) Every sensor/antenna must be sealed as a fixture at point of entry. Point of fixture shall be documented.
- (3) Multiple entries are permissible; however, the loft measurement will be from the closest entry to the majority of race points
- (4) No sensor/antenna may be employed or placed at the loft of another competitor or moved to any other position of the competitor's loft without prior application to, and approval by the VPU.

#### **66. Multiple Users**

Where an EBSS is configured for multiple users, members will be permitted to use one electronic clock for two individual flyers to the one loft.

### Racing Requirements

#### **67. Purchase**

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

#### **68. Users of EBSS must:**

- (1) Use an electronic band scanning system that has a re-programmable electronic band.
- (2) Use electronic bands that have read/write chips. Currently the use of 64k/128k bit chips is approved for use.

### **69. Holding modules or system keys**

The Clock Chairman or VPU Secretary - Treasurer 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 VPU during competitive events.

### **70. Bands**

It shall be the responsibility of each individual competitor to affix or attach electronic bands securely to each of his birds making sure that the band's locking mechanism is securely engaged.

### **71. Handling Birds**

During the race entry logging or the basketing process, electronic banded pigeons shall not be handled by the competitor or a representative of the competitor. During the logging process, all band data must be reviewed to ensure band data accuracy by the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate.

If a presented bird's ring number does not match what is recorded in the flyers electronic clock then that bird will have its chip removed and disallowed entry into the race or race unit. The chip/s will be held in safe keeping at the VRPU Clubrooms until race day clock production and the reading of the flyers electronic clock, or anytime thereafter, whereupon the chips shall be returned to the flyer.

### **72. Printing Entry Sheet**

After all race birds have been entered in an EBSS, the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate shall print a list of the competitor's entries as verification of all birds entered. The printout shall be signed by the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate, and the competitor.

### **73. Entry Sheet**

The printout serves as a race entry sheet. An additional copy shall be printed for the competitor. A normal race entry sheet may be supplied by the competitor and all entries may be checked by the person overseeing the logging of the birds as an additional proof of entry.

### **74. Ties**

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

### **75. System failure**

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

### **76. Continuous Clocking**

If the EBSS has a continuous clocking function, then that function is approved for use subject to normal clock presentation procedures.

### **77. Malfunction/Repair/Relocation**

- (1) In the event of a malfunction of an EBSS and it being sent for repair, proof of repair must be produced before the EBSS can be used for competition again.
- (2) In the event of the removal of the sensor/antenna for any reason, the sensor/antenna reinstallation must be approved by the VPU before the EBSS can be used for competition again.

**78. Interference by another competitor**

If any competitor intentionally attempts to corrupt, interfere with, or destroy the electronic data of another competitor, then his entire entry shall be disqualified from competition at the discretion of the VPU Committee.

**79. Data**

When closing the race, the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate shall print out all data prior to transferring data from the EBSS to the computer. The printout will serve as a back-up document for later reference if necessary. All data files should be stored on a back-up diskette in the event data reconstruction becomes necessary but none of the VPU, the VPU executive Committee, the VPU Clock Chairman or his designate or other race officials has any liability whatever for any act or omission including, without limitation, loss or corruption of any data. Use of an EBSS is at sole risk of the member or competitor using it.

**80. Non-Printout of Race Entry or Race result**

- (1) Delete.
- (2) Delete

General

**81. Right to Inspect**

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

**82. These EBSS Rules**

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

**83. Forms**

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

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

**85. Social Media Guidelines**

It is incumbent on all members to follow the Social Media Guidelines as set out under “Important Documents” on the VPU website. Disregard for these guidelines shall invoke Rule 19 of the VPU Constitution.

**86. Performance enhancing drugs/substances**

The VPU Committee shall make rules and regulations prohibiting the use or importation of performance enhancing drugs/ substances or overseas vaccines. Contravention of these rules and regulations shall entail suspension. Refer Appendix A.

**87. Transport fees**

All transport upfront yearly fees are to be paid by all race season participating members on the first basketing night of the first race or no later than the second race’s basketing night.

**88. Amend these Rules**

The VPU Committee may from time to time amend these rules and conditions as it thinks fit and within its absolute discretion.

**89. Interpreter of all these Rules**

Members acknowledge that The Committee shall be the interpreter of all these Rules and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the VPU and not provided for by these Rules shall be final.

These Rules may be added to, appealed or amended by a two thirds majority of members at any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose. All new rules will be published annually in the VPU Website.

**Members are respectively requested to make themselves fully conversant with these Rules.**