



## **Melton Invitation Homing Club Inc. Melton – Victoria**

### **Constitution and Rules of the Melton Invitation Homing Club**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

For the promotion and enhancement of Pigeon Racing within the shire of Melton and the promotion of the Central Pigeon Federation and Pigeon racing within the community. Including taking part in all major community events.

#### **1. NAME**

The name of the incorporated association is the Melton Invitation Homing club Incorporated. M.I.H.C.I situated in Melton Victoria (3337)

#### **2. DEFINITIONS – INTERPRETATIONS.**

(1) In this constitution unless contrary intention appears :-

The committee means the committee of management of the M.I.H.C.I.

“Financial year” means January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

“Annual General Meeting “means a general meeting of members convened in accordance with section 11.

“General Meeting “means a general meeting of members convened in accordance with section 12.

“Special Meeting” means a general meeting of members in accordance with section 13.

“Members” mean financial members of the M.I.H.C.I.

“Executive” means the executive body as defined in accordance with section 15.

“The Act” means the association and incorporation act 1981.

“The regulations” means regulations under the act.

Racing By-Laws means all rules and regulations pertaining to the racing of pigeons.

- (2) In this constitution a reference to the secretary /Treasurer of the M.I.H.C.I. is a reference of the person who holds office under the constitution as the Secretary/Treasurer of the M.I.H.C.I. and that person is also the Public Officer of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (3) Word of expression contained in the constitution shall be interoperated in accordance with the provisions of the act as interpretations act 1958 and the act as in force from time to time.

### 3. **Constitution**

This constitution and racing by-laws shall be binding on all members of the M.I.H.C.I.

All motions and resolutions relating to the matters contained in this constitution and the current racing by-laws moved before incorporation by the M.I.H.C.I. Are now null and void all motions/resolutions passed at any constituted meeting of the. M.I.H.C.I. shall be binding on all members whether they were present at such meeting or not.

Any member contravening the constitution, rules and regulations motions resolutions or the current racing by-laws shall be required to answer to the members of the M.I.H.C.I. at the next constituted meeting.

Alterations or deletions of, or additions to this constitution or statement of purposes of the M.I.H.C.I. must not be altered except in accordance with the Act.

Pursuant to the section 22 of the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 an incorporated association may, by special resolution alter its statement of purpose or its rules. A special resolution is passed at a meeting if – of the entitled members of the incorporated association who vote in person or (if proxies are allowed) by proxy at the meeting, not less than three – quarters vote in favor of the resolution and 21 days notice has been given to all members of the association of the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

### 4. **Purposes**

The objects for which the M.I.H.C.I. was formed are:-

- (1) General improvement and extension of pigeon racing by the encouragement of breeding, showing ,training and racing of Thoroughbred Homing Pigeons.

- (2) The promotion of social organization and the organization of racing and showing of Homing pigeons for competition.
- (3) To provide suitable clubrooms and other conveniences incorporation therewith and to furnish and maintain the same, and to permit the same and other property of the M.I.H.C.I. to be used by the members and other persons dually introduced by members either gratuitously or for payment.
- (4) To Purchase hire , make or provide and maintain all kinds of furniture implements ,utensils , stationery and other things required or which maybe conveniently used in connection with the M.I.H.C.I. clubrooms and other premises of the M.I.H.C.I. by persons frequenting the same , whether members of the M.I.H.C.I. or not .
- (5) To buy, prepare, make, supply, sell and deal in all kinds of apparatus, appliances and accessories used in connection with racing and showing pigeons, and al kinds of provisions and refreshments required and used by the members of the M.I.H.C.I. or other persons frequenting the clubrooms or other premises of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (6) To purchase take on lease or in exchange or otherwise acquire, any lands buildings, assessments of properties, real or personal , which maybe requisite for the purpose of or conveniently used in connection with any of the objects of the M.I.H.C.I. and to sell demise,mortgage, give in exchange or dispose of the same.
- (7) To hire and employ secretaries, clerks, managers, servants, and workman and to pay them or other persons, in return for services rendered to the M.I.H.C.I. salaries, wages, gratitude's and pensions.
- (8) To promote and hold , either alone or jointly with any other association clubs or persons, meetings , competition and shows , and to offer , give or contribute towards prizes and awards , and to promote , give or support dinners, balls, presentation and other entertainments .
- (9) To establish promote, or assist in establishing or promoting or to subscribe to or become a member of any other association or club whose objects are similar or in part similar to the objects of the M.I.H.C.I. or the establishment or promotion of which maybe beneficial to the M.I.H.C.I.
- (10) To invest and deal with monies of the M.I.H.C.I. not immediately required upon such securities and in such manner as may from time to time be determined.

- (11) To borrow raise and give security for money, by issue of or upon bonds , debentures , bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other obligations or securities of the M.I.H.C.I., or by mortgage or charge upon all or any part of the property of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (12) To do such other lawful things as are, in the opinion of the M.I.H.C.I. committee, incidentally or conductively to obtain of the above objects or any of them.

## **5. MANAGEMENT**

- (1) The affairs of the M.I.H.C.I. shall be managed by a committee of management constituted as provided in section 15 - 1 (a)
- (2) (a) The committee of management shall control and manage the business and the affairs of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (b) May , subject to the constitution , regulations and the act exercise all such powers and function as maybe exercises by the M.I.H.C.I. , other than those powers and functions that are required by this constitution and racing by-laws to be exercised by the executive of the M.I.H.C.I. to see subject to this constitution, the regulations and the act , has power to perform all such acts and things as appeared to the committee to be essential for r the proper management of the business and affairs of the M.I.H.C.I.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) A person of good character who is nominated by 2 members for membership as provided by this constitution and has no outstanding debts or infringements with any Racing pigeon, or sporting, or community organizations shall be presented to the membership committee is eligible to be a member of the M.I.H.C.I. on payment of an entrance fee annual subscription payable to this constitution and if applicable accompanied by a written clearance from his/her previous club.
- (a) Special consideration shall be given to applicants who have been expelled or refused membership to serve a probationary period as deemed by the membership executive committee upon completing such probation will then have all probations removed.
- (2) A person who is not a member at the time of the incorporation of the M.I.H.C.I. (or who such a member at the time that has ceased to be a member,) shall not be admitted to membership.
- (a) Unless he/she is nominated as provided in sub clause 3.
- (b)His admission as a member is approved by the members.

- (3) A nomination of a person for membership of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (a) Shall be made in writing on official membership form
  - (b) Shall be lodged with the Secretary/Treasurer of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (4) After receipt of the nomination and all appropriate documentation, the Secretary/Treasurer shall refer the nomination to the executive board.
- (5) Upon nomination being referred to the executive board the executive shall determine whether to approve or reject the nomination by a unanimous vote by secret ballot.
- (6) Upon the nomination being approved or declined the Secretary /Treasurer shall, with as little delay as possible, notify the nominee in writing that he/she on the outcome of his/her application, and request payment within a period of 28 days after the receipt of the nomination of the sum payable under this constitution as the entrance fee and first years annual subscription.
- (7) The Secretary/Treasurer shall , upon payment of the amounts referred to in sub clause 6 enter the nominees name in the registrar of members kept by him/her and upon the name being so entered the nominee becomes a member of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (8) A right, privilege or obligation of a person by reason of his/hers membership of the M.I.H.C.I :-
- (a) If not valid of being transferred or transmitted to another person  
or
  - (b) Terminates upon cessation of his/hers membership by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise.

**(9) TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Full Flying Member: - shall be required to pay full membership shall be entitled to attend M.I.H.C.I meetings and activities and shall have full voting rights.
- (b) Full non – flying member:- Shall be required to pay full membership and shall be entitled to attend M.I.H.C.I meetings and activities shall have full voting rights at meetings with the exception of voting on prizes, trophies, Line of flight and anything pertaining to the racing of the birds.
- (c) Associate Members: - Shall be required to pay half membership, shall be entitled to attend meetings, activities, and to purchase life rings but shall have no voting rights at meetings of the M.I.H.C.I.

- (d) Pensioner Full flying Members: - Shall be required to pay half membership, shall be entitled to attend M.I.H.C.I meetings and activities and shall have full voting rights.
- (e) Pensioner non – Flying member:- Shall be required to pay half membership and shall be entitled to attend M.I.H.C.I meetings and activities shall have full voting rights at meetings with the exception of voting on prizes, trophies, Line of flight and anything pertaining to the racing of the birds.
- (f) Junior Members: - Under 16 years of age or a full time student less than 18 years of age shall be required to pay one quarter membership shall be entitled to attend all meetings and activities and shall have no voting rights at meetings of the M.I.H.C.I.
- (g) Partnerships: - 2 or more members may fly in partnership provided, that all concerned have paid the relevant membership required. Partnerships shall be entitled to voting rights for one member only.
- (h) Life Membership:- A life membership to the M.I.H.C.I may be confirmed to any person who in the opinion of the M.I.H.C.I has by his/her action furthered the interest of the M.I.H.C.I Such conferral may be only be made subject to the approval of full membership of the M.I.H.C.I to be voted at an annual general meeting only. A life member of the M.I.H.C.I shall be exempt to pay any subscriptions or levies and will be entitled to the same privileges as all other members M.I.H.C.I A life member shall have full voting rights at meetings of the M.I.H.C.I
- (i) Foundation Membership: - Are members who originally formed the M.I.H.C.I. Shall have full voting rights at all meetings of the M.I.H.C.I and are life members of the M.I.H.C.I but must pay annual subscription unless voted in as Life Members (9h)

**(10) Entrance Fee and annual subscriptions**

- (a) The entrance fee, where applicable an annual subscription on or before the annual general meeting of the M.I.H.C.I each year.

(b)The amount of membership of the entrance and annual subscription shall be decided upon at the annual general meeting each year.

(11) **REGISTRY OF MEMBERS.**

The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep and maintain an annual registry of members which shall be entered the full name and address date of entry of the name of each member and registrar shall be available for inspection of members at the address of the Secretary/Treasurer or as asked for.

(12) **RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER**

(a) A member of the M.I.H.C.I who has paid all monies due and payable by him/her may resign from the M.I.H.C.I giving notice in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer of his/her intention to resign and shall cease to be a member.

(b) Upon the notice given under sub clause (a) the Secretary/Treasurer shall make in the registrar of members an entry recording the date on which the member by whom the notice was given cease to be a member.

(c) The Secretary/Treasurer shall, if requested by the resigning member provide a written clearance for such member.

13. **EXPULSION OF A MEMBER**

(a) Subject to this Constitution and racing by-laws, the members may by resolution

- (i) Expel a member from the M.I.H.C.I
- (ii) Suspend a member from the M.I.H.C.I for a specified period or
- (iii) Fine a member in accordance with the regulations, if the members are of the opinion that he member.
- (iv) Has refused or neglected to comply with this constitution or racing by-laws; or
- (v) Has been guilty of a conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the M.I.H.C.I

(b)Subject to this constitution and racing by-laws the executive may by resolution fine a member or disqualify him/her. In accordance with the requirements as outlined in the racing by-laws.

- (i) Should a member wish to protest or dispute a resolution of the executive he/she may do so in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer within 7 days accompanied by a fee \* , the amount to be set at the annual general meeting. All protests and disputes shall be dealt with by the members at the next annual general meeting.

(14) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The M.I.H.C.I shall in each calendar year, shall convene an annual general meeting for its members.

- (a) The annual general meeting shall be held on such a day as the members determine.
- (b) The annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the general meeting prior to such annual meeting.
- (c) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:-
  - (i) To confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of all annual general meetings held since that meeting; and adopt such minutes.
  - (ii) To receive from relevant office bearers reports of upon the transactions of the M.I.H.C.I during the last preceding year.
  - (iii) To elect office bearers of the M.I.H.C.I
  - (iv) To receive and consider the statements of M.I.H.C.I
- (a) The annual general meeting shall transact special business in accordance with this constitution.
- (b) The annual general meeting shall be in addition to any other general meeting that maybe held in the same year.
- (c) The quorum required half of the financial members.

(15) **GENERAL MEETING**

The general meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month unless otherwise arranged for the purpose of transacting all M.I.H.C.I business and the quorum required shall be half of the financial members.



(16) **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary/Treasurer in conjunction with the president at any time and shall be called within 28 days by the Secretary/Treasurer upon receiving a written requisition for that purpose stating the specific objects for which the meeting is required and signed by not fewer than 3 financial members of the M.I.H.C.I.

- i. The quorum required for special meetings shall be half of the financial members. If the secretary/treasurer does not cause a special meeting to be held within the 28 days after the date on which the requisition was sent to the Secretary /Treasurer the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special meeting to be held 3 months after that date.
- ii. No business other than that set out in the requisition convening the special meeting shall be transacted at that meeting.

(17) **MEETING PROCEDURES**

(a) The following shall be the course of business at the general meeting of the M.I.H.C.I

- (i) Meetings of the previous minutes to be read and confirmed
- (ii) Minutes to be adopted
- (iii) Business arising out of the minutes
- (iv) Correspondence
- (v) adjourned motions and businesses
- (vi) Reports
- (vii) Breach of constitutional racing by-laws
- (viii) General Business

(b)The president, or in his/her absence the vice president shall preside as chairperson at the annual general, general or special meeting of the M.I.H.C.I

- iii. If the president and the vice president are absent from the annual general, general or special meeting of the M.I.H.C.I the members present shall elect one of there number to preside as chairman at that meeting.
- iv. A question arising at the annual , general or special meeting of the M.I.H.C.I shall be determined by a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded , a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has , on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously or, carried by a particular majority or lost and entry to that effect in the minute book of the M.I.H.C.I is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favor of , or against , that resolution .
- v. (i) Upon any question rising at an annual, general or special meeting of the M.I.H.C.I a member has only 1 vote.
- (ii) All votes shall be given personally
- (iii) In case of an equality of voting on a question the chairman of the meeting is entitled to exercise or second a casting vote.
- vi. If an annual, general or special meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than half members it shall be taken at that meeting in such manner as the chairman may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the said meeting of that question.
- vii. A member is not entitled to vote at any annual, general, or special meeting unless all monies due and outstanding accounts payable by him to the M.I.H.C.I have been paid.

(18) **OFFICE BEARERS**

(a) Office bearers of the committee of management shall be :-

(i) All financial members of the M.I.H.C.I

(ii) In addition to the for mentioned committee the following

officers shall be nominated and elected at each annual general meeting

- (a) President (Chairman)
  - (b) Vice President
  - (c) Secretary
  - (d) Treasurer
  - (e) Ring Secretary
  - (f) Auditor
  - (g) Velocity Steward
  - (h) Clock Committee
  - (i) Basketing Foreman
  - (j) Publicity officer
  - (k) Delegate
- (iv) Each officer of the M.I.H.C.I shall hold office until the annual general meeting after that date of his/her nomination and elections but is eligible for re-election.
- (v) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in sub clause
- (ii) The members may appoint one of its members to be a vacant officer and the member so appointed may continue in the office up and including the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his/her appointment
- (iii) Officers of the executive committee shall be

(a)President (Chairman)

(b)Vice President

(c)Secretary

(d)Treasurer

(vi) **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

- (a) Nomination of candidates for election of officers of the M.I.H.C.I. shall be made by 2 members of the M.I.H.C.I. and with the consent of the candidate
- (b) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
- (c) If the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies to be filled a vote shall be held.

(vii) Vacancy of office Bearers

For the purpose of the constitution, the office of the officer of the M.I.H.C.I becomes vacant if the member or officer:-

- (a) Ceases to be a member of the M.I.H.C.I
- (b) Becomes insolvent under the administration within the meaning of the companies (Victorian) code; or
- (c) Resigns his office by notice in writing given to the Secretary/Treasurer.

(19) **DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS**

(i) **President:** shall be the duty of the president to:- preside at all meetings , preserve order at all meetings , sign the minutes of the previous meeting when confirmed by vote have the power to call a special meeting in conjunction with the Secretary , sign cheques in conjunction with the secretary or treasurer

(ii) **Vice President:** - It shall be the duty of the Vice president to render assistance to the president on all occasions, to perform the duties of the president in his stead, when he is absent and at such times he shall be vested with all the powers of the president.

(iii) **Secretary:-** Secretaries duties are to carry out in conjunction with the president and are to include convene and attend all meetings except such as he maybe excused by the meeting for attending , keep minutes of all meetings , conduct all correspondence , purchase all stationary equipment as required. Help organize with the president measurements of all lofts positions and obtaining race distances as

required .Sign cheques in conjunction with the president and treasurer and perform other duties as requested by the committee any or part of these duties maybe delegated at the discretion of the committee or the Secretary.

(iv) **Treasurer:-** receiving and receipting all nominees and banking the same produce a financial statement when called upon by the committee , and to prepare and audited balance sheet at the annual general meeting paying all M.I.H.C.I as directed keeping proper account books , recording all M.I.H.C.I transactions; such books and documents shall be available by him/her to members at any time .

Sign cheques in conjunction with president and secretary.

Ring Secretary: - It shall be the duty of the ring secretary, issue all metal or plastic life rings on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July each year keep a record of al life rings and life ring numbers registered to members of the M.I.H.C.I to record all life rings transferred by members to sell and record all metal or plastic life rings issued for that year. Receive and report to members particulars of lost birds.

(vii) **Auditor:-** Shall not be a member of the M.I.H.C.I , shall have suitable accounting qualifications, prior to each annual meeting or at any time the committee may direct and audit and examine all books, documents and balance sheets, and if correct sign and certify the same accordingly.

(vii)**Velocity Steward-** It shall be the duty of the velocity steward to calculate all velocities in connection with all races.

(viii) **Clock Committee:-** The clock committee shall comprise of President , Secretary if applicable and two other members, set and seal all clocks as required by the committee as outlined in the racing by-laws , assist the velocity steward with the bird verification and clock tapes at clock reading.

(ix) **Basketing foreman:** - It shall be the duty of the basketing foreman to: be in full control of all basketing procedures to judge the fitness and health of all pigeons entered in races effuse entry of any pigeon he considers unacceptable. All decisions of the basketing foreman in conjunction with the president shall be final and binding on all members

(ix) **Publicity Officer:** - It shall be the duty of the publicity officer to be responsible for the publicizing of all M.I.H.C.I races and attractions in all relevant publications electronic or print.

(xi) **Delegate (if applicable) or proxy:** It shall be the duty of the delegate to represent the M.I.H.C.I at all meetings outside those of the M.I.H.C.I where the M.I.H.C.I requires presentation.

## **20. CHEQUES**

All cheques draughts bills of exchange compository notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two members of the executive.

## **21. SEAL**

1. The common seal of the M.I.H.C.I shall be kept in the custody of the secretary.

2. the common seal shall not be fixed to any instrument except by the authority of the executive and the affixing of the common seal shall be at tested by the signatures of two members of the executive.

## **22. WINDING UP OR CANCELATION**

In the event of the winding up or cancellation of the incorporation of the M.I.H.C.I the assets of the M.I.H.C.I shall be evenly distributed amongst all existing financial and life members.

## **23. CUSTODY OF RECORDS.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution the secretary shall keep in his custody or under his control all books, documents and securities of the M.I.H.C.I

2. All accounts, books, securities and any other relevant documents of the M.I.H.C.I must be available for inspection free of charge by any member upon request
3. A member may make a copy of any accounts, books, securities and any other relevant documents of the M.I.H.C.I

## **24. FUNDS AND INCOME**

The funds and income of the M.I.H.C.I shall be derived from entrance fees annual subscriptions, donations , and such other r sources as the committee determines and shall be applied solely towards the objects of the M.I.H.C.I and no portion thereto shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend , bonus or otherwise how so ever by way of profit to the members of the M.I.H.C.I provided that nothing here in contained shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any officials or servants of the M.I.H.C.I , or to any member of the M.I.H.C.I in return for services actually rendered to the M.I.H.C.I or prevent the free gift to the members of the publication of the M.I.H.C.I or the giving of privileges to on payments of expenses of representatives attending meetings or otherwise on behalf of the M.I.H.C.I or to prevent the bonified issuing of certificates of merit or the giving of prizes or contribution of prizes by the M.I.H.C.I to the members of the M.I.H.C.I.

## **25. URGENT BUSINESS**

The M.I.H.C.I executive shall have the power to deal with any urgent business arising between meetings that may or may not be covered by this constitution and racing by-laws and reported same to the members at the next general meeting.

## **26. GENERAL MEETINGS**

1. (a) General meetings:- the secretary of the M.I.H.C.I shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting of the M.I.H.C.I place a notice outlining

the place date time of the general meeting and the nature of business to be transacted at that meeting on the notice board of the M.I.H.C.I clubrooms .

2. (a) Special and annual general meetings the secretary of the M.I.H.C.I shall at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding a special or annual general meeting of the M.I.H.C.I cause to be sent to each member of the M.I.H.C.I at his or her address appearing on the register of members, and notice by prepaid post stating the place, date, and time of the meeting, nature of the business to be transacted at that meeting.
- (b) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the special or
- (c) annual general meeting shall be transacted at that meeting.
- (d) A member desiring to bring any business before an annual general meeting may give notice of that meeting in writing to the Secretary at least 30 days before that meeting. The secretary shall then include that business in the notice calling that annual general meeting.

## **27. DISPUTES AND MEDIATIONS**

1. The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between.
  - (a) A member and another member; or
  - (b) A member and the M.I.H.C.I.
2. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all the parties.
3. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting then the parties must within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
4. The mediator must be
  - (a) A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - (b) In the absence of agreement
    - (i) In the case of a dispute between a member and another member a person appointed by the committee of the M.I.H.C.I; or



- (ii) In the case of a dispute between a member and the M.I.H.C.I a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria ( Department of Justice)
5. A member of the M.I.H.C.I can be a mediator
  6. A mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.
  7. The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
  8. The mediator, in conducting the mediation must
    - (a) give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard ; and
    - (b) Allowed due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
    - (c) Insure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute through out the mediation process.
  9. The mediator must not determine the dispute.
  10. If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

## Racing By Laws

1. It shall be the duty of the committee to provide a series of races on four routes, west, north west, north and north east. they shall have the power to alter or vary the he race schedule at anytime during the season should the need arise .  
Race schedules for the subsequent year shall be presented to the members of the M.I.H.C.I no later than the annual general meeting each year.
2. The committee shall have the power of appointing and remunerating the conveyer and supervisors and making all arrangements and details to the liberation of the birds.
3. All Birds must fly to a members loft and be the absolute properties of the names that they are raced and be shown within 6 days of a close of race alive , if required, to the appointed representative of the M.I.H.C.I who shall have the power to liberate the bird at the members loft and which must return to the members loft in his/hers presents ant infracutation of this rule shall annual rights to prizes and further competition in the M.I.H.C.I races . The M.I.H.C.I shall

also be at liberty to send a representative to investigate legitimate ownership of any pigeon , the expense of such investigation , as fixed by the M.I.H.C.I , to be born by the defaulting member and to be recoverable as and for a liquidated damages.

4. M.I.H.C.I shall not be responsible for any loss or damage of any birds at any time at any circumstances whatsoever .
5. M.I.H.C.I in all races , shall provide water and food for all races under their charge when necessary in accordance with the Victorian code of practice .
6. All pigeons should arrive at the race point a minimum of 3 hours prior to being liberated in all M.I.H.C.I races . or within a time as decided by the executive committee of the M.I.H.C.I
7. For birds to compete in races of the M.I.H.C.I must be registered in the name of the owner 7 days prior to the commencement of the season.
8. Registrations list for the forthcoming race season to be forwarded to the ring registrar prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March . for young bird flyers and the 1<sup>st</sup> June for Old bird flyers , unless in the opinion of the committee , a clerical error has occurred and the numbers on the rubber race ring produced in clock , must correspond with those on entry form .
9. Any competitor other than the M.I.H.C.I president and secretary and any member of the executive body contacting the conveyer or in any way interfering with the liberation of the birds shall be debarred from the race and future competition in the M.I.H.C.I for such times as the committee may determine .
10. Any member of the M.I.H.C.I sending bids for liberation to the race point on the day of races otherwise and through the M.I.H.C.I shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season .
11. All birds competing in M.I.H.C.I races must be basketed as directed by the executive .
12. No pigeon, which in the opinion of the elected basketing foreman in conjunction with the president is in any way unfit to compete, shall be allowed to compete in any race conducted by the M.I.H.C.I . Any pigeon showing signs of pigeon pox shall be refused entry into the race unit .
13. Any member desiring to inoculate their pigeons with pigeon pox serum must complete the inoculation by the second weekend in May . Any birds inoculated after this date without written approval of the executive committee of the M.I.H.C.I will ineligible to compete in that seasons old bird series .
14. Statements a to entry numbers pools etc . are t be forwarded to the secretary of the M.I.H.C.I on the night of basketing the

M.I.H.C.I will accept late entries for nomination races at a cost of \$2.00 a bird extra to normal entry fees .

15. In all races where birds cannot be liberated on the schedule day they can be held over for release on the following day . If release is not possible on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day , a decision on what procedure is necessary is left to the executive of the M.I.H.C.I.
16. Race and pool entries must be made on an entry form recognized and approved by the appropriate federation and all, marks of life rings and a correct description of the birds entered, a variation slip containing an accurate description of all clock birds and all markings of life rings must be produced with the clock there shall be a restriction of birds of every member of the M.I.H.C.I when entering in any federation or M.I.H.C.I race . conducted, with the acceptance of limits as specified on the race schedule for a particular race or racing season where the committee may decide where their is insufficient transport available for conveying the pigeons to certain race points .
17. All entry forms must be presented with one bird on each line provided on the form . entries to be in numerical order with no blanks between entries . All members must fill in their entry forms in ink only or produce an approved computer print form . The club secretary or appointed person shall rue a line immediately below the last pigeon . and sign their name below such line prior to basketing . The signature of the penciler must also be added after the entry form has been processed . Any alterations including liquid paper alterations to ring numbers will not be accepted . Alteration to ring prefixes will be permitted for rings other than appropriate federation the names or flyer numbers of the handlers, penciler 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 federation entry book if a \$2 fine is paid .
18. M.I.H.C.I prizes and awards will be awarded on the system of velocity proper :i.e.: the bird making the greater velocity and the bird making the greater velocity and complying with all the M.I.H.C.I rules and regulations to be deemed the winner .
19. If after the second decimal or velocity two or more clocks are even, then such clocks shall be deemed to be of the same time and are equal values of prizes.
20. Should only one flyer get a bird home within the time limit he/she shall be entitled to al the prize money , but should to or more competitors home birds within the limit , they shall be entitled to divide all surplus prize monies. This does not include pool money, unless one f the bird's s entered in a particular pool.

21. Races up to 400 kms shall close at dark on the day of liberation; from 401 kms to 700kms at dark on the following day of liberation ; from 701 kms to 850kms at dark on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following the day of liberation; over 851kms at dark on the 4<sup>th</sup> day following the day of liberation .
22. In the event of a race not within the specified time the committee shall have the power to extend the same . the race will close by the specified time if all club places have been won. However pools will remain open until filled or until the close of that race.
23. In the case of race extending over one day where either are no pigeons homing on the day of liberation , the closure of the race shall be sunset and reopened at sunrise . In the event a pigeon arriving after the official closure of the race, the race shall reopen on the clocking of that pigeon and close 30 minutes later. The same procedure to apply to all bird clocked prior to sunrise.
24. All place getters in the federation shall receive federation diplomas. These diplomas shall give to the position won in the federation race and also the particulars of the clocked bird.
25. Should any competitor be accredited with having made a velocity that the committee deems impossible on the day , then the committee shall have the absolute power to disqualify the said bird in the said race , although there maybe no evidence to suggest or support any fraudulent practice of a competitor or any other persons responsible for making or dispatching of the birds to or at the race point .
26. **AGGREGATE:** the M.I.H.C.I shall award trophies to the winners of the young bird old bird and combined aggregates for each year.
27. For members to be eligible to compete in the combine aggregate they must compete in both young and old birds series .
28. aggregate points shall be rewarded to all birds gaining club positions .
29. **PROTESTS:** protests of any description must be submitted in writing and must be received by the secretary within 1 days of declaration of the race.
30. There shall be 10 federation positions awarded in young bird series and 20 positions awarded in the old bird series with prizes allotted to the first 15 positions only in the old bird series .
31. **CLOCKS :** All competitors in federation and club races must have a clock specially mad for timing homing pigeons, The same to have the approval of the committee and no alterations shall be allowed to any clock , Other than maybe sanctioned by the committee of the M.I.H.C.I

32. All Clocks used by competitors in club and 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 or club race and shall have the name of the competitor thereon .
33. In the event of a clock ceasing to function after bird has been timed in, the cock committee shall disqualify such clock from such race but the owner of such cock 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 clock recorded at such transfer is then accepted as time of the 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 .
34. All bird competing in any club, federation or special race conducted by club or federation must carry a rubber race ring. Only one rubber race ring can be placed in a recognized thimble which must be then put in the clock provided for that purpose . For thimbles clocks only one rubber race ring can be place in each clocking hole . If more than one rubber race ring is placed in thimble or thimbles clock hole that competitor will be disqualified no time will be given to any bird flown by that competitor in that race.
35. The club or federation committee shall have the power to view any competitors 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 to be used thimbles and the committee has approved the clock , the flyer does not have to use a thimble .
36. Benzing computer clocks are approved for use in club and 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 as a read out can be retrieved for race calculations. In the event that it is impossible to produce a readout tape for a particular race then the flyer will be given no reading.
37. In the event a member clocking from, a race but being unable to obtain a variation on the chronometer pull, the chairman of the club or federation clock committee may open the clock and obtain such variation. The clock at the said rooms with seal intact.

38. a. All clocks to be started as running clocks obtained from the chronometer and the record of the time kept hole 2 to be shown when leaving the rooms.
- b. in the event of a clock the proportion of variation 5 seconds each hour up to the time of clocking be deducted from the clocking time and any variation in excess of 5 second shall remain the actual clocking time.
- (i) In the event of a slow clock the full proportion of variation 5 seconds of each hour up to the time of clocking shall be added to the clocking time and any variation in excess of 5 seconds in each hour shall be doubled and then added to the clocking time . the forthcoming rule cannot be so construed as to prevent the clock committee from exercising the powers invested in it . Any members whose clock varies in excess of 10 seconds in the hour must notify the club or federation secretary or a member of the clock committee before clocking .
- c. All paper rolls must bare the name of the race the club flyers name number setting date ad 2 signatures , at least 1 clock committee member. If paper roll is incomplete no time will be given.
- d. In al club and federation events of less than 640kms a competitor may clock pool birds as well as federated birds but only the first competing bird clocked shall under any circumstances be entitled for club or federation event .
- e. Poll birds must be entered on the entry forms in the section provided for pool birds and verified in the usual manner .
- 39 a. A competitor who shall , prior to clocking of his bird , find the clock issued to him at fault , can have it replaced by a clock that has been set by the clock committee for the race , by the clock chairman of the club , who shall be responsible for the production of the faulty clock as required by the committee.
- b. In the event of any clock found to be faulty on a race bird homing , the owner may , if permitted , clock his bird in any clock set by the clock committee in any race . The faulty clock is to be produced as per rule 3 of the clock committee at clock checking for the race before such clock is issued again .

40. Any member , after clocking , desires of having his clock checked and his variation recorded may make application to the chairman of the clock committee of such service . a fee for this service shall be \$10.
41. The M.I.H.C.I shall not accept responsibility for any damage to any clock for any circumstances at any time.
42. **CLOCK PRODUCTION:** For all young bird federation races unless designated clocks are to be produced at the said federation rooms within 90 minutes of clocking or as otherwise directed by the committee.
43. In all old bird federation races up and to and including 600kms races clocks are to be produced at clocking centers within 90 minutes of clocking or as otherwise directed by the club or federation committee .
44. For all races over 600kms clocks are to be produced at the federation rooms on the day of liberation or 7pm on the day following the day of liberation . or as otherwise directed by the committee. The only occasions when these times can be exceeded are when a member is still within 90 minutes of clocking.
45. In races where birds are clocked on weekdays , clock production will be at the federation rooms at 8pm or as otherwise directed .
46. Failure to produce clocks at a nominated time without valid reason the competitor may not be granted any time for that race .
47. All clocks competing in federation events must be produced at the clock checking rooms at the time appointed with all seals in tact any competitor failing to comply with this rule maybe fined \$50 or not granted any time or both.
48. **STRAY PIGEONS:** a. Any member whose loft a pigeon other than his own should be entered , shall at once give notice to the ring secretary will immediately inform the owner of the lost bird .
  - b. The owner of the lost bird upon being notified by the ring secretary of its whereabouts shall be compelled to arrange for the recovery or disposal of the said bird within 7 days of receipt of notice .
49. Any member who races a pigeon not registered in their name shall be liable for a disqualification for up to 12 months .
50. **TRANSFER OF PIGEONS:** Any member wishing to transfer ownership of a pigeon to another flyer, must notify the ring secretary on the prescribed form prior to the commencement of the racing schedule of either young or old bird series.

51. **SHOOTING:** Reward offered information leading to the conviction of shooting trapping or stealing of any pigeon or pigeons the property of any member or members of the M.I.H.C.I shall be \$100. If any member of the club knowingly withholds evidence or otherwise fails to support action taken with the connection with the commission of any offence concerning the shooting , trapping or unlawful dealing in racing pigeons shall be guilty of dishonorable conduct.
52. **BASKETING:** On night of basketing for said race the owner is permitted to remove his own pigeons to be handed, then to the handler who then rubber rings the birds and placed in race unit or basket.

VICTORIAN  
CODE OF PRACTICE  
FOR THE  
KEEPING & RACING OF PIGEONS  
May 2000

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## PREFACE

The Victorian Code of Practice for the Keeping and Racing of Pigeons "the Code" was produced by the Victorian Racing Pigeon Association (VHA, VRPU, WPF and GMPF) for the welfare of Victorian racing pigeons. Where an Association or Club adopts this Code as part of its rules or regulations all members and affiliates are bound by its requirements. It must be studied carefully and is to be read in conjunction with the Constitution and Rules of the Association or Club, hereinafter referred to as "the Association."

The Code is based on the original Code developed by the Racing Pigeon Federations of Western Australia that was modified by the South Australian Homing Pigeon Association.

Pigeon owners, who are not members of the Association are not bound by this Code. The Association cannot be held responsible for any actions, or behavior, by non-members of the Association.

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

The main issues the Code focuses on are:-

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

## POLICY

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

The Racing Pigeon is a domestic animal and occupies an appropriate place alongside other domesticated species, within the general Australian Community.

Notwithstanding the need for adequate exercise required to enhance the health and performance of the racing pigeon, as a domestic animal, the Racing Pigeon should be regulated sufficiently to ensure its place within the urban community environment. As a consequence:-

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

With the exception of birds owned by fanciers living away from built up metropolitan housing Estates, or, for when pigeons are returning from racing and training, free flight exercise is to be on a planned basis. Duration typically from 30 - 90 minutes, and performed to a maximum of twice daily.

b) Free non-flight time, at any time, is to be conducted under close supervision by the owner. Other than for planned free flight and non-flight times, all racing pigeons are to be confined within their home loft. Persistent fielding and/or roof sitting habits are prohibited.

c) The Racing Pigeon should be housed within a loft, designed to provide shelter and comfortable accommodation for its inhabitants, and built in such a manner as to ensure it does not negatively impact upon the amenity of the environment in which it is located and so that it maintains the public dignity and image sought by the Pigeon racing fraternity.

## 1. DUTY OF CARE TO PIGEONS

People who own or are responsible for the care of racing pigeons have a fundamental duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of those pigeons.

## 2. ILL TREATMENT OF PIGEONS

The Association defines ill treatment of pigeons as injuring, tormenting or torturing, causing unnecessary pain, stress, neglect or suffering whether through overcrowding, lack of food or water or otherwise. These acts are considered by the Association as unacceptable treatment to pigeons and a breach of the Code.

## 3. ACCEPTANCE AND INSPECTION OF PIGEONS FOR COMPETITION

3.1 The Association acknowledges the depth of member expertise in pigeon care from which suitably experienced personnel for the inspection of pigeons submitted for competition can be appointed.

3.2 The Association will appoint persons annually to act as Stewards for the inspection of any pigeons submitted for competition.

3.3 Pigeons must be referred to the Steward by handlers if they have any suspicion that the pigeon is not of sound health and physical well being to successfully participate in the race entered.

3.4 The Steward retains the right to refuse an entry, without challenge, on the grounds of poor health, physical impairment, or neglect, if he considers its opportunities to return safely are impaired or the pigeon is a health risk to other entries. Such refusals are to be documented by the Association for action as necessary.

3.5 Poor pigeon health can be described as a pigeon having symptoms such as a general lethargy, breathing difficulties, nasal and eye discharge, pigeon pox lesions and the like.

3.6 Neglect can be described as the pigeon being presented in a soiled and generally dishevelled condition and/or harbouring external parasites, or inadequately healed wounds.

3.7 Physical impairment is intended to cover any condition, which is likely to diminish the chances of a racing pigeon to successfully complete a race entered such as injuries, scaring, bruising or insufficient feathering.

#### 4. TRANSPORT OF PIGEONS

4.1 The carriage of pigeons is to be made in baskets or units that allows for adequate air exchange and for the pigeons to view their outside surroundings.

4.2 The Association recognises private pigeon carry baskets, crates or units are constructed in many sizes to suit individual circumstances, such as vehicle configuration.

4.3 The minimum height for all containers for the carriage of pigeons, whether owned by the Association., or otherwise, is 21 cm (8") and is exclusive of all wire and plastic mesh bottom inserts.

4.4 The space allowance per pigeon will vary according to the time such confinement is in force, the distance of the race or toss and the need for feeding and watering of the pigeons en route and at the liberation site.

4.5 This space allowance relates to pigeons being taken used for private training, Association training and/or racing, or for the conveyance of pigeons to the clubrooms for entry into competition.

4.6 For daytime confinement of short duration of up to two hours generally accepted space allowances should be respected eg. 15 bird basket no more than 15 birds.

4.7 Overnight confinement of 19 hours or less duration, and/or the race journey is 350 kilometres or less - measured from the loft of the longest distance competitor, allow a minimum of 250 cm<sup>2</sup> per pigeon. For competition events, the confinement period commences at the club starting time for acceptance of pigeons for entry.

4.8 Confinement in excess of 19 hours or 350 kilometres, allow a minimum of 300 cm<sup>2</sup> per pigeon per basket, so as to ensure the pigeons can achieve the normal reclining position, typical for extended travel.

4.9 An example of permissible pigeons per tier measuring 1200cm x 900cm (4 feet x 3 feet) is as follows:-

Friday night basketing (one night confined in tier) - 40.

Thursday night basketing (two nights confined in tier) - 35.

Wednesday night basketing (three nights, or more, confined in tier) - 25.

## 5. FEED AND WATER PROVISIONS UNDER RACE CONDITIONS

5.1 The Association considers there exists a balance between the need to feed and water the pigeons en route and at the liberation site, to sustain reserves of energy to complete the journey, and the need to avoid the detrimental effect, of commencing a journey on a full crop. On this basis it is determined, that for up to 19 hours confinement, en route, involving an overnight journey, and the race is 350 kilometres or less, measured from the longest competitor, no feed provisions are mandatory. Provision must be made for the supply of water to pigeons competing in all races.

5.2 Where the confinement is expected to exceed 19 hours or the journey is in excess of 350 kilometres provision is to be made to feed and water the pigeons.

5.3 When feeding and watering of the pigeons is required, the Association shall arrange for entries to be accepted at such a time that will ensure that the Transporter will arrive at the liberation site by at least 1600 hours on the day before the event is to start. In these cases, feed and water procedures are to commence as soon as practicable after arrival. The feed is to remain in front of the pigeons for a minimum of one hour and not more than three hours, whereupon it shall be withdrawn. The water shall remain available for the pigeons continuously until at least one hour before liberation.

5.4 Feed and water en route is to be given by 1600 hours daily where the journey time to the liberation site exceeds the 1600-hour arrival time.

## 6. RACE AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES, COMPETITIONS, AND THE RELEASING OF PIGEONS FOR FLIGHT WHEN AWAY FROM THE HOME LOFT

6.1 The Association will appoint annually Release Officers and Official Liberator/Conveyor who shall be responsible for liberations.

6.2 The Race Release/Liberation Officer(s) and the Liberator/Conveyor will have control over the welfare of the pigeons including their collection, transport and liberation.

6.3 The above-mentioned Officers are empowered to cancel or postpone the race or alter the race point if considered necessary for the welfare of the pigeons. They shall direct the Liberator/Conveyor to make whatever adjustments are necessary for the welfare of the pigeons and ensure members are notified.

6.4 The appointed Liberator/Conveyor has responsibility for the release of pigeons, at the liberation site, in such a manner as to avoid potential for injury. The authority to release pigeons, in all races, rests with the above-mentioned officers. The Liberator/Conveyor shall contact a pre-arranged and nominated officer at least one hour prior to the release, to obtain a report on route conditions and discuss local conditions and receive approval to liberate. After liberation, the Liberator/Conveyor will again contact the nominated officer to provide details of the liberation for announcement to competitors and will record and report details of conditions along the line of flight home.

6.5 Where the liberation is delayed because of adverse weather conditions, the liberation will be delayed until the conditions for release are appropriate provided that where this occurs too late in the day pigeons will be held for release the next day.

On the second day, the responsible Officer(s) can decide to:-

- a) Release the pigeons at the time scheduled for the previous day.
- b) Bring the pigeons back to an alternative liberation site and reconsider the situation at that site.
- c) Determine the possibility, or advisability, of holding birds at the release site for another day.
- d) Hold the pigeons at the site, until it becomes evident the race must be declared cancelled and the pigeons returned home for collection by their respective owners, or to a place near home determined for a safe release.

6.6 Rain, fog, adverse winds or excessive heat or cold at the liberation site or expected to be encountered along the line of flight back to the home loft interferes with the pigeons orientation and ability to home. Pigeons therefore are not to be liberated away from their home lofts, for training or racing, in such adverse conditions. Liberators or members are to wait until such conditions abate or abort the liberation and revert to the aforementioned procedures.

## 7. PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS: DRUG FREE RACING

7.1 Because of the significant time delay between the entry of pigeons for a race and actual time of liberation, many performance enhancing drugs illegally used in other contests are fortunately rendered in-effectual for pigeon racing. It is however, policy that pigeon racing remains free of any administered performance enhancing drugs and this has particular reference to the use of any of the corticosteroids. Any competitor found to have entered a pigeon administered with any performance enhancing drugs will be held responsible and be dealt with by the Association. Any pigeons found sick or dead within the baskets at liberation can be sent for analysis. Where any inappropriate performance enhancing substance is detected, the owner(s) will be held responsible and the matter dealt with by the Association.

7.2 The Association shall have the right to conduct random testing of droppings for the presence of cortisone. If a flyer refuses to produce a bird for testing the bird shall be deemed to have produced a positive test result.

## 8. THE PIGEON "LOFT"

8.1 The Association recognises pigeon lofts are constructed in many sizes to suit or fit individual circumstances, such as available space within a conventional residential block, and it is not intended to interfere with this freedom. Instead, the Association encourages members and affiliates to be aware that to participate in the sport of pigeon racing as a member of the Association is a privilege. This privilege may be revoked in the event a loft housing pigeons belonging to a member is not maintained and improved from time to time, in such a manner as to keep the public image of the sport intact, and the amenity of neighbours and indeed the health and welfare of the pigeons foremost.

8.2 The racing loft houses birds which are generally released for exercised once or twice daily. Such lofts need not conform to any specific size or design except to comply with health and amenity requirements and to local council laws.

8.3 The stock bird loft is used for housing the breeding pigeons of the loft, and because of their value and likely background of racing from some other inter or intra state lofts, are not able to be freed for exercise. These pigeons require more space than race pigeons for their good health and well being. The stock loft shall generally be of similar configuration as the racing loft, except, in the place of box perches, breeding compartments are provided. Typical dimensions for breeding compartments are 550 mm wide x 450 mm high x 500 mm deep (22" x 18" x 20").

Adequate space to maintain health and well being of pigeons within the breeding loft may be calculated by the following formula:

Loft dimensions 1800 mm wide x 2100 mm long x 1800 mm high (6' x 7' x 6') = 6804000 cm<sup>3</sup> divided by (92000 cm<sup>3</sup> x 2.5) = 30 pigeons, (or 15 mated pairs) for the space provided. For the same sized race loft no more than 40 race pigeons should be housed.

8.4 The following is provided only as a guide but reasonably reflects the hallmarks of a well-organised and well-constructed pigeon racing loft.

The loft needs to be dry and warm over the winter months. For the summer heat the loft needs to have ventilation such as flaps and ventilators that can be adjusted and closed off as the winter approaches. The loft needs to be designed for ease of cleaning and for the comfort of the pigeons and box type perches are most suitable for both. Where practical, it needs to be sited on the lot so the front of the loft faces away from prevailing winter winds and rain, whilst making full advantage of the morning winter sun.

8.5 Box perches are the standard method of providing perching facilities for racing pigeons. These must be of sufficient dimensions to allow the bird to comfortably rest. Alternate styles of perching may be suitable, particularly "V" perching. "Plank" or "dowel" perching as seen in small bird aviaries, is unsuitable for racing pigeons, and is to be avoided unless it forms part of an aviary attachment to the loft.

8.6 There needs to be adequate air exchange within a pigeon-racing loft without causing drafts. Under and over floor ventilation promotes essential dryness required for a healthy loft.

Gabled type roofs are encouraged to cater for adequate air displacement. Where a gabled roof is not provided, an opening at ceiling height at the rear to the outside, of no less than 100 mm (4") along the full length of the loft, is to be provided. Alternatively, a 'witches hat' type chimney or similar ventilator or extractor should be placed centrally within the roof to effect the required air exchange and to promote good health and comfort for the pigeons.

8.7 It is recognised that in some municipalities regulations exist for pigeon lofts. Where these regulations are in conflict with the Code the Association will make appropriate representation to those authorities, seeking their cooperation and assistance in the interests of overall conformity.

8.8 All new lofts constructed off-ground, shall have a minimum height from the ground to floor level of 200 mm (8"). allowing for free flow of air under floor unless the floor construction is a concrete slab.

8.9 Floor Areas may be either:-

(a) Trafficable mesh grating floor, allowing for droppings to pass through for collection from below floor level.

(b) Trafficable timber floor with suitable moisture absorptive qualities, and for regular ease of cleaning eg. chip board, plywood.

(c) Concrete slab floor (where concrete is utilised, a heavy-duty plastic must be laid underneath at pouring).

(d) For the health of the pigeons, external open aviaries and or sun yards are desirable.

8.10 For the welfare and comfort of pigeons, where external cladding of a loft consists of brick, metal, or cement sheeting, such lofts shall ideally be internally lined with plywood, chipboard, or other heat retaining materials. For prevention of condensation dampness, all metal roofs should be insulated.

8.11 Members should aim to be consistently improving their pigeon lofts.

## 9. LOFT CLEANING

9.1 Where above floor compartment droppings remain permanently dry and in a semi powdered form and are of 25 mm (1") thickness or less, these are not considered a health hazard to either pigeons or humans.

9.2 Deep litter, unless of a substance(s) approved by the Association, is not encouraged. Where however this method of loft floor dressing is utilised, the loft must be designed with sufficient weather protection to ensure the litter can remain permanently dry. This material must be regularly raked over to maintain both neat appearance and the biological activity with aerobic breakdown of organic matter.

9.3 Loft floors are to be cleaned and droppings removed or raked over as above on a minimum basis of once per week. Removed droppings are to be placed in a covered receptacle in a dry location protected from access to flies and vermin, prior to removal from the property site or appropriate garden use as fertiliser.

## 10. FEED AND WATER

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

Essentially, racing pigeons thrive quite effectively on most grains including peas, maize, sorghum, wheat, oats, rice, barley, pellet preparations and small grains. The normal feed regime for racing pigeons is twice daily given after exercise. Feed is to be kept dry and in vermin proof containers and not left in the lofts overnight.

10.2 Clean water in the home loft, available at all times, with or without medications, or vitamin and mineral additives, is essential. Water should be changed daily.

## 11. NEIGHBOURS

A member shall attempt to resolve any neighbours concerns or complaints in respect of the pigeons such as, time of exercise around the loft, and do all that is reasonably possible to avoid conflicts arising.

## 12. STRAY BIRD MANAGEMENT



The Association recognises appropriate management of lost or injured pigeons belonging to members is a critical part of our objectives to foster the welfare of our pigeons. Failure to report a stray pigeon or collect reported pigeons will be viewed very seriously will result in a fine, suspension or cancellation of membership.

### 13. LOCAL COUNCIL LAWS

Members shall make themselves aware of local council laws and planning laws related to keeping racing pigeons and ensure that their lofts, cleaning, food storage, exercise times and other council requirements are met at all times.

### 14. PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CODE

Where this Code is adopted by the Association as part of its rules or regulations a breach of the Code, depending on the severity of the breach, will result in either a fine, suspension or expulsion from membership.