



Greater Melbourne

Pigeon Federation

Incorporated

AOO32191N

Racing Rules 2024

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	a	i	500km close midnight day liberation				
		ii	6-700km close midnight 2 nd day				
		iii	800km close midnight 3 rd day				
		iv	1000km close midnight 4 th day				
	b		No birds home 1 st day closure & reopen				
	c		Bird arrival after closure, race reopen				
	d		Between sunset/sunrise notification				
38			Production of clocks after clocking	20	2 Feb 25	2a	Amended
	a		Produce at appointed time and centre				
	b		Alteration clock presentation time				
	c	i	500k by 4pm race day				
		ii	500k to 800k by 6pm race day				
		iii	Over 800k 8pm race day				
		iv	Two or more races by 8pm				
	d	i	2 bird clock present prior to 90 minutes after				
		ii	Few birds home clocking advice				
	e		Exceptions:		ii 7 Aug 23	8a	Amendment
		i	Using Benzing Live				
		ii	Race deemed out of ordinary				
		iii	Disadvantage due to distance to travel				
			1. Application to GMPF				
			2. In writing through Club Secretary				
			3. Club apply to GMPF				
			4. Executive decision final				
	f		Instant disqualification for non compliance				
39			ETS Evaluation	21	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
	a		1 ½ hrs clocking first bird				
	b		1 ½ hr clocking second bird				
	c		Non evaluation, present to club				

Rule number			Rule	Page	Date Reviewed or amended		
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40			Manual Clock Post Clocking Requirements	21	4 Feb 24	11i	Reviewed
	a	i	Rubber race ring into thimble				
		ii	Thimble into clock				
		iii	One thimble only				
	b		Faulty clock on homing				
	c		Time variation				
	d		Slow clock				
	e		Show regulation details/punctures				
	f		Confiscation clock punctures/print				
	g		Race Ring number same on entry form				
41			Manual Clock Variation East Stand Time	22	4 Feb 24	11.i	Amended
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	b		Adjustments when time varied				
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42			Loss Race Rings Rubber Electronic Chip	22	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
43			Compilation of Race Results	22	4 Feb 24	11.i	Amended
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44			Velocity System	23	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
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45			Proof of Ownership	23	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
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46			Verification Procedure	23	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
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	b		Other pigeons same race				
	c	i	Race details on verification sheet				Amended
		ii	Bird details on verification sheet and photo				
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47			Declaration of Result	24	4 Feb 24	11.i	Reviewed
48			Federation Positions	24	4 Feb 24	11.i	Amended
	a		Set at 25% nominated flyers				
	b		Federation positions up to 600k				
	c		600k & above, 2 Fed positions, points for one				
	d		Prize money to 10 th place				
49			Aggregate Point Scoring	24	4 Feb 24	11.i	Amended
	a		All GMPF races				
	b		Reduction of race distance				
	c		Aggregate Awards				
50			Bird of the Year	24	4 Feb 24	11.i	Amendment
	a		Nomination				
	b		Awarded to most aggregate points				

Rule number			Rule	Page	Date reviewed or amended		
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51			Race protests	24	4 Feb 24	11i	Reviewed
	a	i	In writing and signed				
		ii	Through club within 4 days				
		iii	\$50 deposit				
	b		Forfeit deposit if considered frivolous				
	c		Executive decision final				
52			Race Appeals / Queries	25	4 Feb 24	11i	Reviewed
	a		Executive consider				
	b		Executive decision final				
53			Alteration of rules	25	2 Sept 24	14.a.4	Addition
	a		Notice of motion at delegates meeting				
	b		Notice of motion at AGM voted by delegates				

1. Federation Regulations

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

2. Code of Practice

The GMPF has adopted the current Victorian Racing Pigeon Board Code of Practice as a guide to ensure the welfare of racing pigeons in all activities associated with their keeping and racing. All GMPF rules, regulations and activities are to be carried out at all times in accordance with the current VRPB Code of Practice in order to offer protection and advancement in the interest of the GMPF member in all matters associated with the sport of racing pigeons.

3. Eligibility to Fly

- a. A pigeon fancier to be eligible to race his pigeons in the GMPF shall;
 - i. make application for GMPF membership through a GMPF affiliated Club Secretary on the GMPF official membership form,
 - ii. on acceptance of the membership application by the GMPF and affiliated club make payment of membership fees through the affiliated Club Treasurer.
- b. Each affiliated club will provide the Federation with a list of intending flying members before the first race of the season and only members on these lists will be permitted to compete in that season.
- c. Late registration and approval by the Executive Committee can be given upon application through an affiliated club. Such approval shall be subject to all new membership requirements being completed and all race and transfer fees being paid.
- d. GMPF members may compete in other federations.

4. Novice / Returning Fancier

- a. The following persons are eligible to be nominated as a novice or a returning fancier in the Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation.
 - i. Novice: Those who have never raced pigeons in any form previously in an organization or club.
 - ii. Returning: Those who have raced pigeons and after an absence of five years or more are returning to the sport.
- b. It is the Clubs responsibility to:
 - i. Nurture the novice and returning fancier into the sport.
 - ii. Nominate novice and returning fanciers on the GMPF membership application for approval by

the GMPF executive and delegates.

- c. Novice or returning fanciers shall pay:
 - i. GMPF and Club membership.
 - ii. The designated entry fee for first six GMPF races for GMPF prize money.
 - iii. After six races a further \$1 per bird over the published race entry fee for transport.
- d. Novice or returning fanciers will not pay:
 - i. GMPF transport upfront fees.
- e. All novice or returning fanciers are eligible for all prize monies generated by birds entered into all GMPF races.
- f. Novice and returning fancier status is to end after one year of competition. Where circumstances are appropriate and on submission from a club on behalf of member/s, the GMPF executive and delegates may grant an extension of novice and returning fancier status for one further season.

5. Lofts

- a. Only one member partnership or syndicate shall be allowed to compete to a registered address in the GMPF.
- b. Members flying distances to any course decided upon shall be measured by an official appointed by the Executive Body of the GMPF and only these measurements shall be accepted.
- c. The original measurements will be held by the GMPF Race Secretary. A copy of same shall be supplied to a Club Secretary upon request.
- d. Any objections to the said measurements must be lodged with the GMPF Secretary within seven days of the race.
- e. Loft location plans must be in the hands of the GMPF Secretary one month before the first race on the schedule.

6. Vaccination

All birds owned by members wishing to compete in any GMPF event/show are to be vaccinated with an approved vaccine as advised by the GMPF Executive. Such advice will be informed by state and federal regulatory authorities on the keeping and racing of pigeons.

7. Life Rings

- a. All birds to be eligible to compete in GMPF events must be:
 - i. Rung with a life ring that is GMPF approved, intact, closed, standard size, not defaced and displaying a telephone contact number.
 - ii. Registered in the name of the competitor with the GMPF Ring Secretary.
- b. Rings bearing the prefix "GMPF" will be recognised for competition in races.
- c. All GMPF members will purchase "GMPF" life rings which are registered to the member by the Ring Secretary on issue and purchase.
- d. No life rings will be issued by the GMPF prior to the first day of July each year.
- e. No life rings will be issued by the GMPF to anyone not approved to receive such rings by the Executive Body.
- f. GMPF approved life rings are to be sold in units of ten with ten rings being the minimum number of rings issued to any member at one time. Exceptions are to be made for \$2 special rings which may be sold in any number.
- g. Rings from another recognised Association or Federation may be used when application is made to the GMPF for permission to compete with such rings.
- h. Other federation's rings will only be considered for registration in bulk upon application to the Federation Executive committee. The only exception from this is for first year fliers with the GMPF.

8. Registration of Rings

- a. All new GMPF members must register rings with the GMPF Ring Secretary by forwarding a list of all ring numbers owned by them. Any additional rings obtained by a member must be registered in the member's name.
- b. In the case of partnerships or syndicate the ring numbers shall be registered in their joint names.
- c. It is the responsibility of all GMPF members to ensure ring numbers owned by them are registered with the GMPF Ring Secretary prior to the commencement of the respective racing season in which birds rung with such rings will compete.
- d. Late registration after the commencement of the race season may be lodged with the GMPF ring Secretary at a cost of \$10 for the first ring and an amount equal to the cost of the current year life ring for any subsequent rings.

9. Transfers

- a. On the change of ownership of any rings registered in the name of a GMPF member the owner must sign and hand over to the new owner a GMPF transfer document.
- b. All registrations of pigeons acquired by a GMPF member must be:
 - i. Accompanied by a signed transfer document. Failure to supply transfer details will cause disqualification. The transfer document must be forwarded to the GMPF Ring Secretary.
 - ii. The responsibility of the member to ensure the GMPF Ring Secretary has received such notification and the pigeon is registered to that member.
- c. All rings on birds transferred to or from an address other than that at which the same are registered must be transferred in the usual manner.
- d. All foreign rings (non GMPF) transferred into this Federation shall attract a transfer fee of \$1.00 for the first bird and 60 cents for each bird thereafter. Flyers will be deemed exempt at the discretion of the GMPF Executive.

10. Young Birds Federation

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

11. Stray Pigeons

- a. Any member of an affiliated club to whose loft a pigeon other than owned by that member may come must at once give notice to the Federation Ring Secretary that the member has such a pigeon. The Executive Body shall have the power to fine or expel any member who fails to comply with this rule.
- b. No member will be held responsible for any stray pigeon after fourteen days of providing notice to the Federation Ring Secretary. After such time the member shall be entitled to take ownership of such bird or seek removal advice from the GMPF.
- c. Any member not contacting the person reporting in 24 hours or claiming a stray pigeon within

fourteen days of receiving notice from the Federation Ring Secretary shall be fined fifty dollars for the first offence and one hundred dollars for each subsequent offence. Multiple offences may invoke suspension by the GMPF Executive Body.

12. Wrongful Possession of Pigeon

Any member found willfully holding a pigeon in his loft or possession that has not been registered to that member or without the knowledge and permission of the registered owner will be suspended for a minimum of three months.

13. Lines of Flight / Release Points

- a. The GMPF will fly annually west, northwest, north, north & northeast
- b. It shall be the duty of the Delegates Committee to determine release points on race routes which will be fixed by 30th September of each year for the following year's race program.
- c. The Executive Body shall have the power to alter or vary the race schedule should the necessity arise.

14. Special Races

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

15. Bird Limits

For the first six races of the Old Bird Series there will be a limit of 40 birds per flyer and for all races after there will be a limit of 30 birds per flyer, except where races are advertised to have a limit of birds that is less.

16. Federation Clock Chairman

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

17. Club Clock Chairman

The Club Clock Chairman shall be elected by each club. The Executive Committee must be notified of the member elected and has to approve that election. In the event the Executive Committee does not accept the club's elected Clock Chairman the club will be required to conduct another election to fill the position.

18. Federation Clock Committee

- a. The GMPF Clock Committee will consist of the elected Club Clock Chairmen who shall be members competent in the knowledge of setting and reading clocks.

- b. The Clock Committee is not required to meet on a regular basis however may be required to meet at the request of the GMPF Clock Chairman or the Executive Committee.
- c. Members are required to show due respect to members of the Clock Committee and its Chairman. Any member whose conduct towards a member of the Clock Committee is deemed to be disorderly or offensive shall be dealt with at Executive level.

19. Authorised Clocks and Inspection

The word clock in these rules applies to both ETS and manual clocks unless otherwise specified.

- a. All competitors in Federation controlled races shall use a manual clock or electronic timing system (ETS) approved by the Federation Executive and made specifically for timing racing pigeons.
- b. The GMPF Clock Chairman shall have the power to view, inspect or impound any member's clock at any time.
- c. Any member of the GMPF Clock Committee shall have the power to view and inspect any competitor's clock at any time during a races progress and impound same if found to be faulty.
- d. All clocks will be set to and verified against Australian Eastern Standard time via the electronic ETS club system which is adjusted to daylight saving time.

20. Owner's Risk

Any risks associated with clocks remains the owners at all times. The Federation will not be responsible for clocks in the event of accidents.

21. Use of Electronic Timing Systems (ETS)

- a. The use of Electronic Timing System is approved by the GMPF for use in all races conducted by the GMPF.
- b. Use of an ETS by an individual GMPF member shall be authorised by the GMPF.
- c. A GMPF affiliated Club shall not make the use of an ETS mandatory.
- d. ETS security:
 - i. In the event that the GMPF Executive determines that an ETS or a system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the GMPF may disapprove the use of that system. The disapproval of any system will be effective immediately upon the resolution of the GMPF Executive and the disapproval will be advised to members as soon as reasonable possibly by personal notice.

- ii. If any race secretary or race official determines that a lack of security exists with any individual unit he shall notify the GMPF Executive and seek an immediate statement as to the validity of the continued system use. The Race Secretary or race official will provide a written statement of the reason for concern to the system owner and to the GMPF Executive.
- iii. Issues of the potential or actual adequacy or otherwise of security will be a matter for determination by the GMPF Executive within its absolute discretion.

22. ETS Compatibility

- a. A member is free to purchase any approved ETS he chooses. A member is responsible for ensuring the system (hardware/software) is compatible with other systems used by the GMPF or the members of a GMPF affiliated Club.
- b. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure:
 - i. The ETS will operate correctly.
 - ii. All updates to software are applied.

23. Use of ETS by Members

- a. Installation of the ETS in a members loft may be inspected and approved by the GMPF before being accepted for competition use within the GMPF.
- b. Every ETS sensor antenna shall be installed wholly within the confines of the competitor's loft. The sensor/antenna of an ETS shall be within the entrance of the loft. This includes an entry into the face wall of the loft, as long it is considered the entrance.
- c. Every sensor/antenna shall be sealed as a fixture at point of entry.
- d. No sensor/antenna may be employed or placed at the loft of another competitor or moved to any other position of the competitors loft without prior application to and approval by the GMPF.

24. ETS Racing Requirements

- a. System control modules or system keys and software used in ETS systems shall be purchased or procured by the system owner. Users of ETS will:
 - i. Use an electronic band scanning system that has a re-programmable electronic band.
 - ii. Use electronic bands that have read/write chips. Currently the use of 64/128 bit chips are approved for use.
 - iii. Use only electronic bands approved or supplied by the scanning system manufacturer.
 - iv. Ensure that all ETS bands are attached to their birds.
 - v. Ensure the correct life ring number is recorded on the system.
 - vi. Ensure accurate bird description, sex, colour and type is recorded on the system.
 - vii. Dual flyers with Benzig Live:

1. Ensure when setting up for a GMPF race the prefix "GMPF" is recorded in the race name section.
 2. Results that do not have the prefix "GMPF" will not be processed. In this event the flyer is to present their clock to the affiliated club.
- b. False scanning lost or stolen ETS bands may be replaced during the season.
 - c. The Race Secretary of each competing GMPF affiliated Club shall secure all individual system control modules or system keys during competitive events. The use and operation of these security controls will only be permitted by the individuals specifically authorized by the GMPF affiliated Club or the GMPF during competitive events.

25. Manual Clocks Pre Race Requirements

- a. All members shall submit their manual clocks they intend using for the season's races at least 7 clear days prior to the date of the first race in which they intend to compete.
- b. Manual clocks are to be submitted at the members club to the Club Clock Chairman and will be adjusted if necessary to keep accurate time.
- c. The Clock Chairman will be empowered to refuse any manual clock that does not pass examination. All manual clocks shall be kept in the custody of the club or the GMPF during membership of the owner except when in the custody of the member when the clock must be sealed.
- d. Manual clocks will be issued to members on the night of setting clocks for the coming race to be used for clocking in on race day then being returned to the Club Clock Committee unopened at the end of each race.
- e. Each manual clock will remain under the jurisdiction of the Club Clock Committee during the whole race series unless permission is gained from the Club Clock Chairman for its removal.
- f. All competing members manual clock tapes will be stamped with an approved ink stamp bearing the name of the club, name of the competitor, race, date of the race and legible signatures of the clock setters.
- g. No member of the GMPF Clock Committee shall under any circumstances be permitted to sign their own manual clock.
- h. No member of the GMPF shall under any circumstances be permitted to set their own manual clock.
- i. All manual clocks must be started at actual time obtained from Australian Eastern Standard Time and a record of the time kept.
- j. All manual clocks used by competitors will be set and sealed. No competitor shall have more than

one clock for each federation race and each clock shall have a tag or label affixed with the name of the competitor and the club thereon.

- k. After the set pull which starts the manual clock, the first pull required for the 1st variation will be at the discretion of the Club Clock Chairman.
- l. Any manual clock that has a first variation of more than five (5) seconds is not allowed to be used for that race, clocks may be reset in such cases.
- m. Any manual clock produced at a club unsealed even if supplied with a jewelers receipt may not be used for one week unless first approved by the Federation Clock Chairman
- n. Any competitor who prior to the clocking of his birds finds the manual clock issued to that member at fault can have it replaced with a clock set by the Clock Committee for that race providing the faulty clock is handed to a member permitted to hold such a clock. The Clock Committee will be responsible for the production of the faulty clock if required by the Executive Committee.

26. Race Entry

- a. All birds entered in Federation events by any competitor will be entered through the GMPF affiliated club in which the member is represented.
- b. All competing members shall basket their pigeons and have their clocks set at the designated GMPF centre nominated by their affiliated club.
- c. Entries in Federation controlled races will:
 - i. Be made by the competing member on official GMPF race entry forms and/or printout of basketing list.
 - ii. Contain details of all marks on life rings and a correct description of the bird entered. Approved abbreviations for the description of birds can be used on the entry form.
 - iii. Include details of the number on rubber race rings on the entry form at the race marking. The ETS chip ring details are automatically recorded on the entry form on print out.
 - iv. All Federation entry forms shall be kept secure under the direct control of the Club Secretary. Entry forms will remain secure until the time appointed when they may be opened for the purpose of checking race markings.

27. Race Entry Fees

- a. All entry fees in all Federation races shall be paid to the affiliated Club Treasurer by cheque or electronic transfer on the night of basketing.

- b. The affiliated Club Treasurer will forward the entry fees to the GMPF Treasurer.

28. Centre Supervisors

All birds competing in Federation events must be basketed as directed by the Centre Supervisor who shall be appointed by the centre executive body.

29. Race Marking

- a. No member will be permitted to handle, scan, race mark or record their own pigeons. Centres must have a minimum of 4 members present.
- b. Where a minimum of 4 members is not present contact should be made with GMPF Secretary and basketing occur at another centre with the required numbers of members present.

30. Fit to Race

- a. No bird will be allowed to compete in any Federation, Club or Special race controlled by the GMPF which the Centre Supervisor considers to be unable to successfully complete the journey for the said event due to poor health or physical impairment. The birds are displaying;
 - i. symptoms consistent with disease or poor care including but not limited to lethargy, breathing difficulty, nasal or eye discharge, pigeon pox lesions, weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting and the like,
 - ii. physical impairment, injured, scaring, bruising, external parasites, inadequately healed wounds and the like or insufficient feathering.
- b. Handlers of the pigeons who form suspicion that the bird is in poor health or there is physical impairment will bring this to the notice of the Centre Supervisor.
- c. The Centre Supervisor may refuse entry, without challenge, on the grounds of poor health or physical impairment where after inspection of the pigeon he forms the following opinion:
 - i. The opportunity for the pigeon to return from the race safely is impaired.
 - ii. The pigeon presents a health risk to other race entries.
- d. Where the Centre Supervisor refuses an entry the matter shall be documented for action if necessary.

31. Use of Performance Enhancing Drugs.

- a. Performance enhancing drugs are prohibited to be administered to any pigeon entered into any Federation, Club or Special race controlled by the GMPF.
- b. Any pigeon found sick or deceased within race baskets at liberation can be sent for analysis.

- c. The GMPF Executive may request random testing of any pigeon entered in a GMPF controlled race for the presence of cortisone or any other performance enhancing drug or substance. If an owner or handler refuses to produce a bird for testing the bird shall be deemed to have produced a positive test result and may be disqualified.
- d. Where any inappropriate performance enhancing substance is detected in a bird entered into a race, the owner or handler will be held responsible.
- e. The matter will be dealt with by the GMPF Executive whose decision will be final.
- f. Any owner or handler found by the GMPF Executive to have willfully and without reasonable excuse under the circumstances administered a performance enhancement drug to a pigeon entered in a GMPF controlled race shall be expelled from membership with the GMPF.

32. Basketing

- a. Clubs will ensure competing pigeons in any Federation controlled race are to be mixed on a proportional basis to the number of entries in the units dispatched.
- b. The space allowance per pigeon in units dispatched to race points shall be;
 - i. for overnight basketing a maximum of 27 birds,
 - ii. at Thursday night basketing a maximum of 22 birds,
 - iii. at Wednesday night basketing a maximum of 19 birds.
- c. All baskets and units dispatched to a race point are to be sealed with a zip tie.

33. Extra Transport Expenses

In the event of any club causing extra expense by delaying the Convoyer such club shall pay the whole of the extra expense.

34. Notification to GMPF of Competing Club's Entries

On dispatch of pigeons to race points club secretaries must forward to the Federation Treasurer a GMPF Transport Sheet declaring the club's name, names of competing members and total number of pigeons dispatched to the race point. This statement can be forwarded digitally or accompany the transporter on leaving the clubrooms or approved basketing centre.

35. Convoyer

- a. The Executive Body shall have the power of appointing and remunerating the Convoyer and making all arrangements and details as to the conveying of the birds.
- b. The Executive body will ensure the Convoyer is advised of all such arrangements and requirements in accordance with the code of practice.

36. Liberation of Pigeons

- a. The President, Secretary or members of the GMPF Liberation Committee shall have the powers in all races to take whatever action they consider necessary to ensure that all pigeons have been liberated at the race point.
- b. The Liberation Committee shall;
 - i. consist of three members nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting and where possible elected members should be from three different Centres or at the very least from two different Centres
 - ii. consist of one as the Main Liberator and two Coordinators that will be responsible for the release of race birds on the day.
 - iii. require the unanimous approval of the three person liberation committee in regards to the place, day and time of liberation after consideration of all conditions relevant to the release of the race birds. If the liberation committee is not unanimous in its decision the main contact must notify the GMPF president who will seek further instruction from the executive body.
- c. All GMPF liberations shall be liberated within guidelines of the GMPF code of practice and or any state or federal regulatory authority codes of practice on the liberation of racing pigeons.
- d. Liberation times will be set by the liberation committee who shall notify the Convoyer of such times.
- e. Any competitor other than the President, Secretary or members of the GMPF Liberation Committee communicating with the Convoyer or in any way interfering with the liberation of the pigeons will be debarred from the said race and future competition in the GMPF for such time as the Executive Body shall determine.
- f. Should weather conditions or any other unexpected condition threaten the welfare of the birds the Convoyer shall have the power to use his discretion to alter the liberation time. The birds must not be liberated before the time set by the Liberation Committee.
- g. Any GMPF member who liberates birds at the race point other than those birds entered in the race will be disqualified for the remainder of the season.
- h. Members of the GMPF competing or not competing in the race shall not loft fly their pigeons during the course of such race. Any offender shall be dealt with by the Executive body.

37. Duration of Race and Hours of Darkness

- a. Where pigeons have arrived home –
 - i. Races up to and including 500 km (300ml) stages, close at midnight on day of liberation.
 - ii. Races at the 600km (350ml) and 700km (400ml) stages close at midnight on the second day of the race.

- iii. Races at the 800km (500ml) stage close at midnight on the third day of the race.
- iv. Races at the 1000km (600ml) stage close at midnight on the fourth day of the race.
- b. 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 shall re-open at sunrise or half an hour before the first pigeon is clocked whichever is earlier.
- c. In the event of a pigeon arriving after the official closure of the race, the race shall re-open on the clocking of that pigeon and shall close 30 minutes later with the same procedure to apply to all birds prior to sunrise.
- d. Any member clocking between sunset and sunrise must contact the GMPF Race Secretary or Clock Chairman prior to midday of the following day to enable calculating hours of darkness.

38. Production of Clocks After Clocking

- a. All clocks competing in Federation races must be produced after clocking at the appointed centre within the time specified in (c) and (d) or otherwise advised by the Clock Chairman and Race Secretary
- b. Clock Chairman and Race Secretary may at their discretion alter clock presentation times. Advice is to be given to club secretaries at the earliest opportunity. The club secretary will inform their members.
- c. In Federation races -
 - i. up to 500 kilometers members must produce their clocks by 4pm on the race day.
 - ii. over 500 kilometers and up to 800 kilometers members must produce their clocks by 6pm on the race day.
 - iii. over 800 kilometers members must produce their clocks by 8pm on the race day.
 - iv. where two or more Federation races held on the one day pullover time will be 8pm.
- d. In races where two (2) bird clocking is allowed and subject to race closure specified in rule 37 –
 - i. members are able to wait for the homing of the second bird but must present the clock no later than 90 minutes or at the designated time in (c) after it is clocked.
 - ii. where few day birds are homed and on the advice of the Clock Chairman and Race Secretary, clock presentation will be at 8pm on the following day.
- e. Exception to these rules;
 - i. applies to those members using ETS Benzing Live,
 - ii. where in the opinion of the Clock Chairman and Race Secretary the circumstances that evolved in a race are deemed to be out of ordinary the Clock Chairman and Race Secretary may change the time of clock presentation without Delegates or Executive approval. Members are to be notified of the change of time as soon as possible,
 - iii. will apply where a member is unable to present his clock when the members loft is located at

a distance from the clocking centre that in the opinion of the Executive Committee places that member at a disadvantage to his competitors in that travelling time is excessive and may not allow the member reasonable time to clock second or third pigeons. Such a member shall;

1. make application for extended clocking time to the Executive Committee,
 2. make the application in writing prior to the commencement of the season to the Secretary of the affiliated club where he is a member,
 3. the members affiliated club shall present the application to the GMPF,
 4. the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final and binding.
- f. Any member failing to comply with the above rules will be instantly disqualified from the race involved unless the Federation Clock Committee representative considers extreme circumstances apply in which case the representative may make application to the Executive Committee to read the clock in question.

39. ETS Evaluation

Members using ETS Benzig Live must evaluate;

- a. within 1 ½ hours of clocking,
- b. in case of two bird clocking within 1 ½ hours of second bird,
- c. if members do not evaluate as in a. or b. the ETS must be presented to their club as per presentation times.

40. Manual Clock Post Clocking Requirements

- a. All birds except those with approved electric timing system chip rings competing in Federation controlled races will;
 - i. carry a rubber race ring which must on arrival be placed in a thimble, approved by the GMPF Clock Chairman,
 - ii. the thimble containing the ring shall be placed in the receptacle in the clock provided for that purpose, or directly in the receptacle in the clock where an approved thimbleless clock is used,
 - iii. only one rubber race ring is to be placed in each thimble, or the approved receptacle in the clock where an approved thimbleless clock is used.
- b. In the event of any manual clock being found faulty on the race bird homing the owner may, if permitted by the Club Clock Chairperson, clock the pigeon in any clock set by the GMPF for that race. The faulty clock must be produced before such clock is used.
- c. On the production of a manual clock or clocks after a race they shall be struck against Australian Eastern Standard Time and thus obtain the total variation which shall be added or deducted in the usual way. In the event of a manual clock gaining at a rate of more than 7 seconds per hour the registered time on the dials will be taken as the time of arrival. In the

event of a manual clock losing at a rate greater than 7 seconds per hour double the slow time is to be added to the registered time.

- d. A manual clock ceasing to work after the bird has been timed in the clock shall be deemed a slow clock.
- e. All manual clocks paper tapes or dials must show the date, number of the clock and the signature of one of the Clock committee. No time shall be given unless the clock opening puncture appears on or after the registered time when the clock was struck against Australian Eastern Standard Time after timing in.
- f. Any competitor whose manual clock on being opened show more than the recognised regulation punctures or print shall have that clock confiscated and forwarded to the GMPF Clock Chairman.
- g. Numbers on a rubber race ring produced from a manual clock must correspond with those on the entry form unless in the opinion of the Executive body a clerical error has occurred.

41. Manual Clock Variation Against Eastern Standard Time

- a. The master timer must conform to Eastern Standard Time via the electronic ETS club system which is adjusted to daylight saving time.
- b. Should a member's clock have varied then it shall be adjusted on the assumption that such variations have been constant and regular from the time the clock was locked to the time of opening.
- c. In the case of members being permitted extra time to produce their clocks allowance must be made for any extra variation incurred.

42. Loss of Race Rings, Rubber or Electronic Chip.

Any pigeon arriving from a race point without a rubber race ring and or electronic chip will be disqualified from taking any position in that race.

43. Compilation of Race Results

All clubs competing in GMPF controlled races shall:

- a. Access Pigeon Racenet and record the member's race results directly online.
- b. For members using manual clocks use the official GMPF Clock Sheet which is to be dispatched to the GMPF Clock Chairman directly after the close of the race together with the clock tapes showing details of all pigeons that have or may have gained federation placings.
- c. For members using ETS ensure the race print out for each member has been forwarded to the

GMPF Clock Chairman directly after close of the race.

44. Velocity System

- a. The Federation prizes and awards will be awarded on the system of velocity proper.
- b. The bird making the greatest velocity and complying with all GMPF rules and regulations will be deemed the winner.
- c. Should any competitor be credited with having made such a velocity that the Executive Body considers impossible on the day the Executive Body shall have the absolute power to disqualify the said bird in the said race even though there may be no evidence to suggest any fraudulent practice of the competitor or any other persons responsible for the marking or dispatching of the birds to or at the race point.

45. Proof of Ownership

- a. Proof of ownership of placed pigeons in Federation races will be checked by the GMPF Ring Secretary who will advise the Race Secretary prior to confirmation of race results.
- b. Proof of ownership in club races can be sought from the GMPF Ring Secretary by the Club Secretary.

46. Verification Procedure

- a. The winning pigeon from each club that gains either 1st or 2nd Federation place is required to be verified within 48 hours of the closing of the Federation event by an official from a GMPF affiliated club.
- b. Should the owner of the club's winning pigeon have other pigeons gaining Federation placings in the same event these pigeons shall also be verified.
- c. On verification of a pigeon the club official should;
 - i. check the race particulars on the verification sheet,
 - ii. inspect the pigeon to ensure the ring number, colour and sex matches with that of the pigeon on the verification sheet and take a photo of the ring and bird,
 - iii. liberate the same pigeon from outside the loft ensuring it flies at least one full arc around the loft so as to validate the pigeon is homing to that loft,
 - iv. upon completion of verification of points (i), (ii) and (iii) the club official shall notify the GMPF Race Secretary of the findings.
- d. In the event of an incorrect verification a nominated GMPF representative will visit the members loft to investigate and legitimate ownership of the pigeon.

47. Declaration of Result

Official results of all races controlled by the GMPF will not be declared until the Race Secretary is satisfied that all birds gaining Federation positions have complied with all rules and regulations applicable to such races. A provisional result will be provided prior to the declared result.

48. Federation Positions

- a. Federation positions are to be set as 25% (or nearest possible) of nominated flyers for the season in all Old Bird Federation races.
- b. Members are permitted to clock one pigeon with the view of gaining a Federation position in all Federation races up to 600 kilometers.
- c. Any race 600 kilometers and above may gain two Federation positions. Points will be gained for the first position only. Both positions gain prize money.
- d. Prize money will be distributed to 10th place.

49. Aggregate Point Scoring

- a. All GMPF races gain point scoring towards aggregate awards.
- b. Should a long race be reduced to a shorter distance the points will be awarded to the original aggregate.
- c. Aggregate awards include short to middle distance, long distance and overall aggregate.

50. Bird of the Year

- a. A GMPF member or their affiliated club may nominate as GMPF Bird of the Year a pigeon registered to that member who has competed successfully in that racing year.
- b. The Bird of the Year award will be won by the pigeon which has gained the most GMPF aggregate points in that racing year.

51. Race Protests

- a. Protests of any description shall be;
 - i. made in writing and signed by the member,
 - ii. made through the club such member is represented within four clear days of the declaration of the race.
 - iii. accompanied by a deposit of fifty dollars.
- b. If considered frivolous by the Executive Body the deposit shall be forfeited.

- c. The matter will be dealt with by the Executive Body whose decision will be final.

52. Race Appeals / Queries

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

53. Alteration of Rules

These rules may only be altered by;

- a. A notice of motion of a Delegates Committee meeting of the Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation.
- b. A notice of motion of a General Meeting of the Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation and voted on by Delegates Committee members only.