

**GREATER  
MELBOURNE PIGEON  
FEDERATION INC.  
A0032191N**

**GENERAL RULES**

**RACING RULES**

**CLOCKING RULES**

**PRINTED 1995**

**Amended May 2012**

**NAME**

**The name of the federation shall be :**

**“ THE GREATER MELBOURNE PIGEON FEDERATION INCORPORATED “**

**The approved abbreviation for the name shall be “ GMPF “**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purposes for which the Federation is established are :

1. The protection and improvement of racing pigeons
2. The promotion and encouragement of Federation races
3. The regulation of the sport and showing of racing pigeons
4. To improve all associated apparatus and appliances applicable to the sport of racing pigeons
5. To promote ongoing improvements in the management and care of racing pigeons
6. To offer protection and advancement in the interest of members in all matters associated with the sport of racing pigeons

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#### **GENERAL RULES**

1. **Membership** The Greater Melbourne Pigeon Federation Incorporated (GMPF) shall consist of clubs and their affiliated members, who shall be governed by an elected Executive Body and a Delegates Committee.
2. **Boundaries** that the GMPF Boundary shall be a 60 kilometer radius from the Dandenong Post Office
3. **Election of members** Any club desirous of becoming affiliated shall make application in writing to the GMPF secretary and shall supply a list of its members names and addresses on the night of application, together with a complete list of its rules ,regulations and constitution, and a current affiliation fee, which shall be refunded should such a club not be admitted. A ballot shall be taken for their admission at the following Delegates Committee meeting . A vote demonstrating a two thirds majority of delegates present being in favour of the application is required for the application to be accepted. A nomination and a seconder must be obtained before a vote is taken
4. **Expelled Members** No club having a member there of who is an expelled member of another club shall be eligible for affiliation with the GMPF, and any affiliated club that shall retain an expelled member of the GMPF for four weeks after due notice has been given by the GMPF shall cease to be an affiliated club of the GMPF
5. **Membership Fees** All clubs are required to pay an entry fee when an application for membership is accepted, and all clubs are required to pay an annual affiliation fee . All financial members of affiliated clubs are required to pay a joining fee on acceptance of application for GMPF membership and an annual affiliation fee. Club and members joining and affiliation fees are determined at the delegates Committee meeting prior to the AGM each year . All club affiliation fees are to be paid prior to the AGM to enable the delegates of each club to take part in the business of the GMPF. Any member belonging to more than one affiliated club may pay only one affiliation fee and no person can be represented on the GMPF through more than one club
6. **Refusal of Membership** The GMPF shall have the power to refuse membership without providing any reason for that refusal
7. **Dissolution** The GMPF shall not be dissolved without the consent in writing of three quarters of the GMPF affiliated members. Disposition of surplus assets would be to all member clubs on a proportionate basis as determined by the Executive Committee
8. **Clearances** Any member of any club leaving his club to join a club affiliated with the GMPF must produce a written clearance from his previous club before being admitted. The clearance must show that all dues payable to the previous club have been paid and that there is nothing known to that club that would be detrimental to his character as a competing member. No new member can compete in any GMPF approved race until this rule is complied with
9. **Conduct of members** Any club member of a club affiliated with the GMPF who in the opinion of the Executive Body is found to be guilty of misconduct or willfully breaking GMPF rules shall be ordered to appear before the Executive Body who shall have the power to fine suspend or expel such a member
10. **Disputes** All questions and disputes not provided for in these regulations shall be decided by the Executive Body whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties

11. **Members to a Non Affiliated Club** An affiliated member of the GMPF shall not seek membership with any other society association or club for the purpose of racing pigeons without first gaining the permission of the Executive Body of the GMPF

12. **Life Members** Any member who has rendered outstanding service to the GMPF may be honoured with Life Membership on a notice of motion signed by a member and presented at a Delegates Committee Meeting for tabling at the next Annual General Meeting. The unanimous vote of all the Delegate Committee members present at the Annual General Meeting is required before the nominated member shall be honoured with life membership . A life member of the GMPF may attend all meetings of the GMPF and has the rights to voice an opinion on any matter concerning the GMPF well being providing that the member remains a member of a club affiliated with the GMPF

13. **Registration of Members** The GMPF Secretary shall maintain a register showing details of all current members of the GMPF

14. **Notices** Any notices required to be served on a member of an affiliated club shall be deemed to have been sufficiently served if the same is placed in an envelope and placed in a receptacle for the purpose of delivering by mail by Australia Post ,and such member shall be deemed to have received such notice in the ordinary course of the postal system

15. **Change of Name** Any club affiliated with the GMPF that should desire to change its name must submit an application to the Executive Body for approval

16. **Management** The GMPF shall be managed by an elected Executive Body and a Delegates Committee these shall consist of

- a. **Executive Body** Shall consist of the President, Vice President , Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary ,Clock Chairman , Race Secretary and two elected members elected at the AGM as reserve executive members
- b. **The Delegates Committee** Shall consist of delegates nominated by the affiliated clubs on the following basis. Affiliated clubs with less than eight financial members shall nominate one delegate, clubs with eight or more financial members shall nominate two delegates

17. **Officers** The officers of the GMPF shall be President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an assistant Secretary, a Ring Secretary and a Race Secretary . These officers shall be elected by nomination at the AGM any person nominated and not present at the AGM must agree to the nomination in writing. All Officers positions will be declared vacant at the AGM all outgoing Officers will be eligible for re election

18. **Vacancies** Where an elected officer is for any reason unable to continue in an elected position that position shall be declared vacant and all member clubs notified of the vacancy. Member clubs can nominate a club Delegate for the vacant position and the vacancy will be filled at the first Delegates meeting after the vacancy occurs. Any Delegates nominated and not present at the Delegates Meeting must agree to the nomination in writing . In the instance of a nominated Delegate being unable to continue in the position of club delegate the club will inform the GMPF Secretary in writing and nominate a replacement . The nomination shall be subject to the acceptance of the Executive Committee

19. **President Duties** It is the duty of the President to preside all Delegate Committee Meetings and Executive Meetings , to preserve order , to give a casting vote upon all questions and motions when required , sign all minutes of the previous meeting when confirmed by vote , and shall have the power to call Special Meetings and sign cheques in conjunction with the Secretary and Treasurer . The President shall retain the privileges of a Delegate but may not move a motion

**20. Vice President** It shall be the duty of the vice president to render assists to the President on all occasions and so perform the duties of the President in his stead when he is absent when he shall be vested such powers of the President

**21. Secretary** It shall be the duties of the Secretary to convene and attend all meetings except from when he is prevented from attending and keep an accurate record of all business transacted . The Secretary shall have charge of all the property belonging to the GMFP including a common seal the use of which will be approved by the Executive Committee ,and will be responsible for the custody of books documents and securities of the incorporated association

**22. Treasurer** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to attend all meetings except where he is prevented from attending ,receive all monies and give receipts for the same . He shall deposit all monies in the bank in the name of the GMFP and sign all cheques in conjunction with the President and Secretary. He shall produce a financial statement at each Delegates Committee meeting showing the details of income and expenditure since the last Delegates Committee Meeting and advise the Delegates of the financial status of the GMFP. He shall also produce at the Annual General Meeting a balance sheet signed by the GMFP Auditors and a detailed statement showing clearly the financial position of the GMFP

**23. Assistant Secretary** It shall be the duty of the assistant secretary to attend all meetings except where he is prevented from attending and assist the secretary in keeping accurate records of all business transacted . The Executive Body will determine when the Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in general administration of GMFP business

**24. Ring Secretary** It shall be the duty of the Ring Secretary to issue closed rings to all affiliated clubs and keep records of all rings registered by or issued to members of affiliated clubs and also to maintain a record on each members ring register and record all rings numbers transferred under the Transfer rule. Also to receive from and report to members particulars of lost and found pigeons and make a check of ring numbers when required under GMFP rules or at the request of the Executive Body

**25. Promotion and publicity Officer** The Delegates Committee shall appoint one or more Promotion and development officers at the AGM whose duty it shall be to represent the Federation to intending new members and/or clubs. They shall also seek to develop growth of the Federation and promote the Federation with the view of gaining new members

**26. Liberation Committee** The Liberation Committee shall consist of three members nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting . One as the main Liberator and co ordinator and will be responsible for the release of race birds with the assistance of the other two where necessary

**27. Income** The income and property of the GMFP where so ever derived shall be applied soley towards the objectives of the GMFP and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend ,bonus or otherwise however by way of profit to the members of the GMFP provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent in good faith or remuneration to any officials or servants of the GMFP ,or to any members of the GMFP for services actually rendered to the GMFP

**28. General Fund** The funds of the GMFP shall be derived from affiliation fees ,donations, race entry fees, levies fines, subscriptions and other sources as determined by the Executive Body

**29. Levies** The Executive Body shall have the power at any time they deem it necessary to make a levy on all members of the GMFP and should any member refuse to pay such a levy or levies within the time specified by the Executive Body that member shall be judged unfinancial and cease to be a member of the GMFP

**30. Financial Year** The recognized year of the GMFP shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December

31. **Arrears** Any affiliated club being one month in arrears shall not participate in any of the privileges of the GMPF until such arrears have been paid

32. **Petty Expenses** The Executive Body shall have the power to approve payment for all petty expenses incurred in the general running of the GMPF

33. **Forfeiture of Rights (1)** Any club retiring from the GMPF before the end of the season must waive and forfeit all rights ,monies etc. deposited with the GMPF and will be held liable for an equal part of any deficit or general expense account

34. **Forfeiture of Rights (2)** Any member found guilty of misconduct and suspended or expelled from the GMPF, or any member withdrawing from the GMPF ,forfeits all claims against the GMPF and its or its members assets

35. **Auditors** The Auditors shall prior to each Annual General Meeting or at any time the Executive Body may direct ,audit and examine all books ,documents and balance sheets and if correct sign and certify the same accordingly. The auditor or auditors shall be appointed at the AGM each year and shall continue as such until the next AGM following such an appointment

36. **Inspection of Books and Documents** Any member wishing to inspect Federation books ,records or documents shall make application to the Secretary detailing the reason for the request. The Secretary shall present the request to the Executive Committee who shall determine if the requested documents be made available to the member should such a request be denied the member will be advised as to the reasons for that decision

37. **Meetings** Meetings of the Delegates Committee will be held quarterly ,or as often as required. Executive meetings will be held as often as required to ensure the GMPF is effectively funded and managed

38. **Quorum** A Quorum for a Delegates Meeting will be attendance of three quarters of the nominated delegates .A Quorum for an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting will be the attendance of three quarters of the nominated delegates with an added condition all member clubs are represented

39. **Proxy Vote** Where a clubs delegate is unable to attend a Delegates Meeting ,an annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting the club may send an approved representative to that Meeting who shall be allowed a proxy vote on behalf of the delegate, providing there is no objection from any other delegates at the meeting

40. **Federation Minutes** Minutes of the GMPF Delegate Committee should be presented by the Delegates to their respective clubs in order to inform affiliated members of the business transacted

41. **Annual General Meeting** The Annual General Meeting of the GMPF shall be held on the first Sunday in February each year for the purpose of receiving the Annual report and Balance sheet , election of office bearers and any other business that may be necessary for the ongoing welfare of the GMPF. That only Delegates from each club shall vote on 'notices of motion' at the Federation annual General Meeting

42. **Special General Meeting** A special General Meeting will be called by the President on written application/requisition signed by 4 delegates representing three or more affiliated clubs specifying objectives of same

43. **Notice of Meetings** Notice of Delegate Meetings will be at the conclusion of each Delegate Meeting where a date will be set for the next Delegate meeting. A minimum of twenty one days notice shall be provided when forwarding Notice of Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings to the secretary of each member club. On forwarding advice of Annual or Special General Meetings the GMPF secretary will also forward notice of motions to be tabled at those meetings

44. **Conduct of Members(Meetings)** It shall be incumbent on all members of the GMFP to pay due respect to the Chairman and to uphold the dignity of the Chair

45. **Urgent Business** In the event of urgent business being required to be dealt with at short notice such business will be dealt with by the Executive Body who shall report details of their actions to the Delegates Committee

46. **Protests and Charges** Protests and charges of improper conduct shall be dealt with by the Executive Body whose decision shall be final. No protest or charge shall be entertained unless lodged within one week ,in writing, of the alleged offence taking place. The protest or charge shall be accompanied by a deposit of twenty dollars which in the event of the protest or charge being considered frivolous may be forfeited to the GMFP

47. **Alteration to Rules** Any member desirous of altering , rescinding or adding any rule or matter or condition affecting the well being of the GMFP shall provided, in writing , through their affiliated club notice of the same to the GMFP Secretary . Such Notice shall be tabled at the next Annual General Meeting and a vote of three quarters of the Delegates present is required to enforce such an alteration, in the case of a split vote the Secretary must record details of all club delegates votes

48. **Alteration of Statement of Purpose** Any club desirous of altering the Statement of Purpose shall provide in writing details of the proposed alteration to the GMFP Secretary who shall table the proposal at the next Delegates Committee meeting. The Delegates will ensure the proposal is discussed and voted on at their respective clubs and will then vote on the proposal at the next Delegates Committee meeting . A unanimous vote of approval is required to enforce the alteration

49. **Disputes and Mediation**

1. The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to all disputes under these rules between

- a. a member and another member ; or
- b. a member and the association.

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 Association ; or

ii. In the case of a dispute between a member and the association, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria ( Justice Department)

5. A member of the Association can be a Mediator.

6. The 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 –

8. The Mediator , in conducting the mediation, must –

a. give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and

b. allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and

c. Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout 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 by law

