

# *Constitution and By-Laws*

*Version – March 3, 2026*

**International Federation of  
American Homing Pigeon Fanciers Incorporated**

**Organized 1881**



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**1.0 OVERVIEW**

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**1.1 Foreword**

(A)The International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers, Incorporated (IF) is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Massachusetts. The mission and objectives of the corporation are set by the members. The management of its affairs is controlled by its constitution and By-Laws (referred to as the By-Laws hereafter).

(B)The members or their elected delegates are vested with the power to, by vote make proposals to change the By-Laws, set certain limitations on the IF's management, and to nominate elected officers. The elected officers, including committee chairpersons, directors and trustees, comprise the Executive Committee which is the policy-making and executive body of the IF.

(C)Except for limitations specifically imposed by the By-Laws and duties set out by the By-Laws to certain officers, the responsibility and power to establish policy and manage all business and affairs of the IF is vested exclusively in the Executive Committee, acting within the limits of these By-Laws. The findings and actions of the Executive Committee are final in all matters.

(D)The IF shall maintain an Errors and Omissions liability policy in the minimum amount of \$1 million to protect the officers and directors in the execution of their duties.

**1.2 Importance Of The By-Laws**

(A)The members of the IF, through adoption of these By-Laws, expressly stipulate the purpose of the By-Laws is to provide a blueprint of the ways its affairs are conducted and that an orderly conduct of the affairs of the IF strictly in accord with the By-Laws is necessary for its success. The members do specifically charge all who have any part in the control or operation of IF affairs to conduct themselves strictly according to the By-Laws without deviation.

(B)Home Rule is an important policy for the membership and the goal is to maintain it as much as possible, but strengthen the IF rules so when the clubs look to the IF for a ruling on an issue there is an available remedy. Each local organization should provide to the IF a current copy of its By-Laws and Race Rules as they are updated so the Executive Committee has all the facts when providing a third party an opinion in a controversial situation.

(C)The IF and American Union (AU) have entered into a reciprocal agreement regarding disciplinary action, so that a flyer barred from AU will be reviewed for disciplinary action by IF Board. The preceding is in the spirit of cooperation.

**1.3 Equal Opportunity Policy**

It is the IF's policy to treat each individual with dignity and respect. Furthermore, the IF's policy is to provide all members of society with an opportunity to enjoy full membership as well as the pleasures of competing in the sport. Discrimination or harassment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, gender, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual preference by any member is not tolerated.

## **1.4 Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the board of directors.

## **1.5 Dissolution**

The dissolution of the IF cannot be done without a two-thirds majority vote of the entire membership. All assets will be divided equally among local affiliates in good standing, prorated on the basis of paid-up membership.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, or officer of the corporation, or any private shareholder or private individual, and no member, trustee, director, or officer of the corporation, or any private shareholder, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any corporate assets on dissolution of the corporation.

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the corporation shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to local affiliates in good standing, pro-rated on basis of paid-up membership as shall qualify under the Internal Revenue Code for similar exempt purposes, subject to an order of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York

## **2.0 MISSION & OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 Mission**

The mission of this organization is to promote the breeding, training, racing and exhibition of pigeons, to instruct and assist novices, to organize districts or clubs, and impart information to promote the sport; perfecting through organization a closer association of pigeon fanciers for their protection and for the development of good fellowship throughout the globe among them. Furthermore, this organization is dedicated to the humane treatment of the animals around which we have formed a common bond.

### **2.1 Objectives**

The primary objectives of the IF are:

- (A) To plan and execute programs designed to advance the IF and the sport.
- (B) To maintain a policy of Home Rule.
- (C) To form local affiliates (Clubs, Combines, Concourses, Centers, etc.) through which the affairs of the IF and its members will be transacted.
- (D) To issue and sell an official, registered leg band.
- (E) To encourage national, state, and local legislation which may be beneficial to the sport, the IF, and its members, and to provide as much legal aid to its members as possible.
- (F) To maintain a limited financial surplus sufficient to protect the IF against times of emergency and to assure its continued operation and perpetuation.

### **3.0 RIGHTS AND POWERS OF MEMBERS**

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#### **3.1 Executive Body**

(A)The members, through their appointed delegates, constitute the ruling body of the IF. In the delegates are vested rights and powers to propose change to the By-Laws by referendum vote at the Annual Meeting, and through the By-Laws to determine and fix the mission and objectives of all IF operations.

(B)The members at large elect by secret ballot the officers of the IF who, acting together with the Executive Committee, constitute the governing body and, in their IF affairs as the authorized representatives of the members.

#### **3.2 Membership**

(A)Any pigeon fancier of good repute is eligible for membership in the IF.

(B)Any person who is not a member of a local affiliate may be an individual member. An application for individual membership shall be submitted to the IF Secretary- Treasurer. A membership card shall be issued to the applicant. Individual members can compete for any IF award.

(C)Any person who is 17 years of age or younger may join the IF as a Junior Member and shall enjoy all benefits of membership within the IF.

(D)Affiliated membership may be obtained by being a member of any of the IF's local affiliates.

### **4.0 MANAGEMENT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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#### **4.1 Definition and Duties**

(A)The Executive Committee consists of the IF Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairpersons and Trustees. It is the Executive Committee's duty to plan and direct the administration of programs designed to advance the mission and objectives of the IF.

(B)Except for limitations specifically imposed by the By-Laws, the responsibility and power to establish policy and manage all business and affairs of the IF is vested exclusively in the Executive Committee. The findings and actions of the Executive Committee are final in all matters.

#### **4.2 Financial Responsibilities and Appropriations**

(A)It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to approve, authorize and manage the fiscal affairs of the IF in accordance with sound fiscal practices to ensure the continued financial health and security of the organization. The fiscal year ends December 31.

(B)Expenditures in the amount of \$5000 or less for the conduct of routine affairs do not require regular appropriations, but are controlled by the Secretary and Treasurer with the approval of the President. All checks will be signed by Secretary-Treasurer and the President.

#### **4.3 Appropriations for Ordinance Assistance**

An appropriation may be authorized by the Executive Committee to assist members who are involved in litigation which may result in denying the right to keep or race pigeons. All such expenditures must be approved by the IF legal advisor and the local affiliate, if any, to which the member belongs. Payment by the IF will not be made until satisfactory evidence of need has been

submitted to the Secretary. The Executive Committee determines the size of the appropriation, not to exceed \$500.

#### **4.4 Meetings and Quorum**

(A) Board and Open Membership Meetings will be held at each annual IF Convention. There will be a minimum of 2 or 3 tele-conference Board meetings per calendar year.

(B) A quorum is required to conduct a meeting and the presence of more than 50 percent of the members of the Executive Committee at a meeting constitutes a quorum.

(C) In an election year, members of the incoming Executive Committee are automatically invited to attend the meeting of the outgoing Executive Committee as guests to better inform themselves of IF affairs of which they will be called on to take charge.

(D) In an election year, the incoming Executive Committee and newly-elected officers are empowered to act officially, upon their formal installation, on all matters concerned with new business of the IF to be administered by them after their official installation.

(E) To conserve the time available to the Executive Committee at meetings, no person other than the members of the Executive Committee, the specific Committee chairpersons, and the IF legal advisor may be present unless specifically invited by the President.

#### **4.5 Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time at the discretion of the President. The meetings may take place in person or via teleconference. A quorum is required to conduct business.

#### **4.6 Special General Meetings of Members**

Special General Meetings of Members may be called by the President whenever in his or her judgment one is necessary, or upon request, in writing, by a majority of the members in each of any three local affiliates.

#### **4.7 Secretary of the Committee, Minutes**

(A) The Secretary-Treasurer acts as recording secretary of the Executive Committee and keeps and causes to be transcribed full and complete copies of all minutes of the Committee with a copy to be made the permanent record of the IF.

(B) The Secretary-Treasurer will provide the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee to the Public Relations Director and President for review prior to posting on the IF Website. Included will be the name of each member who makes or seconds a motion along with the way each member votes on such motion.

(C) Should a dispute be brought before the Executive Committee the record shall be sealed and only the final decision will be published.

#### **4.8 Appointments**

All committee appointments, including chairpersons, will be made by the President, but are subject to approval of the Executive Committee. All committees are considered as working organizations and appointments to committees will be made on the basis of individual qualifications and willingness of the appointees to perform the duties entrusted to them and not as honorary appointments.

#### **4.9 Order of Business**

The following order of business will be observed at all meetings:

- Meeting called to order by President
- Roll call
- Reading of minutes of the past meeting
- Addresses and reports of the members of the committee
- Secretary and Treasurer financial reports
- Unfinished Business
- Presentation of Agenda Communications
- Recommendations to Incoming Committee
- New Business
- President's presentation of Agenda
- President's message outlining program proposed for coming year
- Discussion of President's Program
- Appropriations
- Convention Discussion
- Other new business
- Adjournment

#### **5.0 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, LEGAL ADVISORS & TRUSTEES**

##### **5.1 Number of Officers**

The elected officers of the IF consist of a President; first, second and third Vice Presidents; Secretary, and Treasurer.

##### **5.2 Secretary and Treasurer**

(A) Appointments to the position of Secretary and Treasurer may be either of two classes: A regular appointment via election for a full term, or a temporary, emergency appointment may be made until a successor is appointed.

(B) In the event the position of Secretary and Treasurer becomes vacant for any reason, the position may be filled by a temporary, emergency appointment made by the Executive Committee without notice in any form.

(C) No application for the position of Secretary and Treasurer is valid for a period longer than four months after the date of its filing; but applications may be renewed at the expiration of four months by a simple notice of renewal given to the President in writing. Notice of renewal of applications need not be published.

##### **5.3 Public Relations Director**

The President is authorized to appoint a Public Relations Director, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, to serve four-year tenure.

##### **5.4 Legal Advisors**

The President may appoint one or more legal advisors, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, at an annual retainer to be set by the Executive Committee. The legal advisor or advisors must be practicing attorneys at law who counsel and advise the officers of the IF and

perform such further legal services (such as assisting IF members with ordinance cases) as may be contemplated in the relationship. The IF legal advisor will also keep the corporate charter current as provided by New Jersey law.

### **5.5 Eligibility to Serve**

Persons eligible for election or appointment as officers or directors of the IF must have been members in good standing of the IF for at least two years.

### **5.6 Candidates and Applications**

Eligible members desiring to become candidates for the office of President, First, Second, or Third Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer must file with the Board by May 31 a petition endorsed with at least three Chapter Clubs and 100 signatures. All petitions must state in full the candidate's name, address, the name of the Chapter Clubs endorsing the candidate and the office for which the candidate is nominated. The petition also must be signed by the officers of the Chapter Clubs endorsing the candidate. No member may run for more than one office in a given election year.

### **5.7 Method of Election**

Officers must be elected by the Board.

### **5.8 Vacancy Appointments**

In the case of death, resignation, or removal of the President, the first Vice-President succeeds to the office of President, and he or she exercises the powers and assumes the duties of the office for the remainder of the term.

In case of a vacancy in the office of first Vice President, the Vice Presidents succeed in numerical order to the office, and each will exercise the powers and assume the duties of the office for the remainder of the term.

### **5.9 Term of Office**

The term of all elected officers runs concurrently for four years. There are no term limits a person may serve as an elected officer or appointed director of the IF.

### **5.10 Trustees**

There may be as many as three Trustees consisting of the three most recent Ex-Presidents of the IF. The Trustees assume a general interest in the internal welfare of this organization and they also give attention to the development of the sport and the encouragement of interest in and approval of it by the general public.

### **5.11 Installation of Officers**

All officers will be installed at the IF's Annual Meeting of the Members following their election. Each officer, if present, assumes the position on the rostrum during the annual meeting.

## **5.12 Removal from Office**

In the event an officer becomes incapable of performing his or her duties, or in the judgment of the Executive Committee acts in a willful manner against the best interests of the IF or the sport, he or she may be removed from office by the Executive Committee at its discretion. Or, removal from office must be considered by the Executive Committee at the request of not less than five local affiliates with a membership totaling not less than 200 members. Such requests will be heard by the Executive Committee which will act at its discretion based on the facts presented. The subject officer considered for removal should be requested to attend the Executive Committee meeting to decide the disposition of the office.

## **5.13 Agents**

Officers will, in all matters wherein they are authorized by these By-Laws to act, be deemed to be agents of the IF. The authority of all agents to bind the IF is specifically limited by the provisions of these By-Laws. Any agreements of undertakings entered into by any person purporting to act as an agent of the IF and which exceeds the authority of that person under these By-Laws is not binding on the IF but constitutes a personal obligation of the person purporting to act as an agent, who will be held personally liable and absolve the IF from any responsibility or loss.

## **6.0 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

### **6.1. Duties of the President**

The President presides at all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Members and exercises the usual functions of a presiding officer. The President's position is that of an executive and decisions in all matters pertaining to the By-Laws of the IF are subject to review by the Executive Committee whose findings are final. Additional duties/responsibilities of the President are as follows:

- (A) Sign all papers and documents such as bank checks, agreements, charters, or diplomas that require an official signature of the IF to authenticate them.
- (B) Be custodian of the Secretary-Treasurer's bond and all other bonds as conditions demand.
- (C) Ex-Officio member of all committees, and must be notified of all committee meetings.
- (D) Subject to confirmation of the Executive Committee, appoint all committees necessary for the functioning of the IF. All appointments will be made by January 1st of each year, and all committees will consist of no fewer than three members.
- (E) Approve the selection of toastmasters and speakers for local affiliates entertaining the Annual Conventions.
- (F) Endeavor to have all IF questions arising during his administration settled before retiring from office.
- (G) Receive all communication from whatever source relative to proposed Bylaw changes, appeals, and any business which is to be brought before the Annual Meeting.
- (H) Notify the Ballot Committee when to draft ballots containing nominations or any other proposed business transactions.
- (I) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee within the framework of these By-Laws.
- (J) Provide each member of the Executive Committee with a typed, duplicated copy of an agenda for each Annual Meeting.
- (K) Call Special Meetings whenever deemed necessary or upon request, in writing, by a minimum of three Chapter Clubs and 100 signatures.

(L) Appoint delegates subject to the confirmation of the Executive Committee, or to any meeting or seminar. Provisions for the delegate's expenses will be dealt with as each function arises. All expenses are to be approved by President and Treasurer.

(M) The retiring President will be presented with a suitable citation at a cost not to exceed \$500 as designated by the Executive Committee. This citation will be presented at the Annual Banquet.

## **6.2 Duties of Vice Presidents**

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his inability to act, Vice Presidents in the order of their priority, preside and assume full charge of the President's duties and powers.

## **6.3 Duties of Secretary and Treasurer**

The Secretary and Treasurer are custodian of all funds, bonds, and property belonging to the IF or held in trust by the IF for the membership. All IF funds must be deposited in a National Bank or Trust Company, or other appropriate financial instrument, approved by the Executive Committee in the name of the IF.

In addition, the Secretary and Treasurer's duties include:

(A) Furnish a receipt to the President for such funds and inventory of IF property as are turned over to the Secretary-Treasurer by the predecessor when assuming the duties.

(B) File annual state and federal income tax returns.

(C) Upon retiring from office, transfer all funds and all IF property to the successor in office.

(D) Conduct all general correspondence of the IF as provided in these By-Laws through the Secretaries of the various local affiliates, except correspondence pertaining to matters of policy, appeals or decisions which are to be made by the President or the Executive Committee.

(E) Forward to the President all correspondence bearing on the policy of the IF.

(F) Pay from IF funds all bills, expenses, and other IF obligations when properly authorized as provided in these By-Laws, but make no payment or enter into any contracts to bind the IF until so authorized. All bills in the amount of more than \$750 must be paid by check and be countersigned by the President. Checks must bear the signatures of both the President and Secretary-Treasurer.

(G) Stock sufficient IF forms (diplomas, etc.) to supply the needs of local affiliates.

(H) Sign all contracts for the purpose of leg-bands and supplies.

(I) Attend and keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Annual Meetings of the members, unless excused from these duties by the President, and preserve copies of the same, when approved, for the permanent records of the IF with a copy of the minutes of each meeting to be delivered to the Executive Committee; and make to the Annual Meeting of the Members such reports and records available as may be requested by the President.

(J) Maintain financial records in order that they may be audited at any time to close the fiscal year at a time specified and so an annual audit may be made before each Annual Convention.

(K) Deposit a Reserve Fund in the name of the IF in a CD account each year.

(L) Upon request, deliver to the Auditor all financial records to be audited, as well as statements, vouchers, tax returns, and other information necessary to make a complete audit of the IF accounts.

(M) Retain as an office file as many copies of the By-Laws as necessary to supply requests from current and prospective members and retain two official copies for the permanent records.

- (N) Upon requisition, furnish secretaries of local affiliates all material and supplies necessary to conduct the business of the IF.
- (O) Keep a record of all bands sold for a minimum of seven years.
- (P) Print in *SkyTalk* each year a band list, showing a contact person for each band letter set. All materials for inclusion in the band list for the upcoming year are to be in the hands of the Secretary on or before December first of the previous year.
- (Q) When properly authorized, have printed ballots and By-Laws.
- (R) Prepare and maintain on a current basis a record of all local affiliates with names and addresses of each local affiliate secretary, and the number of members in each local affiliate.
- (S) Transmit to the Public Relations Director applications of candidates for office in proper form and resolutions to be offered as referendums within seven days of receipt for publication in one or more of the national pigeon racing publications.
- (T) Issue diplomas and certificates of records.
- (U) Prepare as of the first day of January an annual report detailing the transactions of the office during the year preceding showing all assets and liabilities, including a complete inventory of all supplies and equipment on hand, and submit this report to the President and board members at the first meeting of the year. In addition, prepare and distribute not later than the 15th of the month detailed quarterly treasury reports as of the first day of April, July and October of each year.
- (V) Perform such other duties as the President may require of him or her within the framework of these By-Laws.
- (W) Ensure that all supplies, forms or equipment are priced so the sale of such does not result in a loss to the IF.
- (X) Maintain a Fidelity bond on the Secretary and Treasurer in the amount of \$250,000 and a Directors and Officers errors and omissions policy in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for the protection of the board members. In addition, the Secretary and Treasurer shall maintain a travel/accident policy for the protection of the board members.
- (Y) Annually file such papers necessary to maintain the nonprofit & corporate status of the organization.

#### **6.4 Duties of the Public Relations Director**

The Public Relations Director is responsible for planning and executing all print, electronic, video, photographic, and special events communication and public policy strategies for the IF. As such, the Public Relations Director is the principal spokesperson to media and outside audiences for the IF and no member, officer, director, committee chairperson, or trustee should communicate with journalists, editors, publishers or reporters or other representatives of the media without first consulting with the Public Relations Director.

The duties of the Public Relations Director include:

- (A) Developing a communication plan subject to the approval of the Executive Committee that furthers the mission and objectives of the IF
- (B) Tracking and measuring the results of the plan as well as updating it annually
- (C) Acting as the spokesperson for the IF to all media
- (D) Drafting and distributing media releases regarding IF news to domestic and international media as appropriate
- (E) Assisting with the management and content of the IF website and *SkyTalk*
- (F) Assisting with the planning and management of special events
- (G) Assisting with planning, management and execution of IF advertising

(H) Providing advice and counsel to the Executive Committee on matters related to communication, business administration, and the public image of the IF

(I) Developing working partnerships with other organizations that may contribute to the mission and objectives of the IF.

## **7.0 REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

### **7.1 President**

The President will be paid an annual stipend of \$1,200 at the Annual Meeting.

### **7.2 Secretary and Treasurer**

The Secretary and Treasurer will receive a stipend to be set by the Executive Committee. In addition, the Secretary and Treasurer will receive monthly stipends to defray office expenses.

### **7.3 Meeting Compensation**

(7.3.1) All Officers will be compensated \$900 annually if they participate in the IF Board Meetings.

(7.3.2) In addition, all officers and directors will receive a mileage expense allowance based upon the current U.S. Internal Revenue Service deduction rate for each meeting they attend. Officers and directors will receive compensation for these meetings following each meeting.

(7.3.3) Travel expenses for officers and board members to board meetings by plane or train shall be reimbursed at actual cost for coach rates. Board members must make a reasonable attempt to secure the most economical fare available. Those members that choose to travel by auto shall be reimbursed at the business mileage rate as set by the I.R.S

(7.3.4) Hotel/Motel lodging shall be reimbursed at actual cost of lodging.

(7.3.5) Approval for I. F. attendance at other than I. F. meetings will be approved by the I. F. President.

(7.3.6) All requests for expense reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts and submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer in a timely fashion and will be reviewed and paid.

### **7.4 Independent Contractors**

The IF does not have any full-time or part-time employees. Officers or directors who receive compensation for their endeavors or expenses do so as independent contractors who render a service to the IF.

## **8.0 COMMITTEES**

### **8.1 By-Laws Committee**

(8.1.1) The By-Laws Committee consists of three members appointed by the President, for a term of two years. The President appoints one of the members as Chairperson.

(8.1.2) It is the duty of the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee to act as

consultant to the President, the Executive Committee, other officers, Committee Chairpersons, and officers of local affiliates on matters related to the By-Laws, and, upon request, to provide them with an interpretation of the By-Laws affecting any question or matter.

(8.1.3) If an infraction of the By-Laws comes to the attention of the By-Laws Chairperson or if, at any time, he or she has reason to suspect a violation may be impending, the Chairperson is specifically charged to call the matter to the attention of the President, in writing with a copy to each member of the Executive and Infractions committees, and to recommend appropriate action to be taken to rectify or prevent such infraction of the By-Laws.

(8.1.4) It is the duty of the Committee to arrange in proper order in the By-Laws the various amendments voted upon and passed by referendum vote, and to make delegations, changes and re-arrangements of other sections of the By-Laws so as to fully implement the overt intent of the changes effected by the referendum. All such changes must be approved by the Executive Committee and communicated to the membership.

(8.1.5) It is the duty of the Chairperson of the Committee to offer suggestions, recommendations and comments pertaining to the By-Laws, and to recommend changes to the President and Executive Committee which are deemed beneficial to the present and future welfare of the IF.

(8.1.6) The Chairperson prepares data, determines the contents and approves printer's proofs for reprinting the By-Laws, if and when requested by the President to do so.

(8.1.7) The Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee should attend the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee and present to the Executive Committee a report of the condition of the By-Laws, recommending such interpretations as may be required and to make suggestions and recommendations for changing the By-Laws. At the request of the President, the Chairperson discusses and explains any matter connected with the By-Laws or their interpretation before the Annual Meeting of the Members.

## **8.2 Legislation**

The Legislation Committee consists of a Chairperson (normally the IF Attorney), all officers and the Public Relations Director. It is the duty of this committee to handle all matters relating to federal, state and municipal laws, ordinances or ruling which may affect the sport of pigeon racing. It also is the duty of the Chairperson to prepare and present at each Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee a report showing the needs for such legislation and accomplishments and programs made during the year, with recommendations for programs, plans or courses of action to be undertaken in the future. The Chairperson, at the request of the President, presents a resume of these matters to the General Meeting of the Members.

## **8.3 Awards**

(8.3.1) The Awards Committee will consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President from the membership at large for a term of two years.

(8.3.2) The Awards Chairperson will devise an appropriate awards program recognizing accomplishments in the sport by IF members and recommends these awards to the Executive Committee for approval.

(8.3.3) The chairperson will list all the awards offered by the IF in *SkyTalk* and on the IF Website ([www.ifpigeon.com](http://www.ifpigeon.com)).

(8.3.4) The winners of IF awards will be announced on the IF Website and *SkyTalk* and offered for publication in national magazines.

(8.4.5) The Awards Chairperson will post application forms on the IF Website

which must be properly executed by the applicant in order to be considered for the award. Award application forms will be included in *SkyTalk*

(8.3.6) The requirements for eligibility for National awards (i.e. the minimum distance required for a nominal race) will be defined by the Awards Chairperson in the rules published in *SkyTalk* along with the application.

#### **8.4 Youth**

The Youth Committee consists of a chairperson appointed by the President for a term of two years. The Chairperson selects two additional members to assist.

This committee endeavors to increase youth interest in the sport. The Chairperson makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of any program or activity in which the organization should participate to increase youth participation and interest in the sport. The Committee meets at least once each year, on the call of the President, to take up any matters pertaining to their activities.

#### **8.5 Infractions Committee**

The Infractions Committee consists of two members appointed by the President plus the By-Laws Chairperson, for a term of two years. The President appoints one of the members as Chairperson. It is the duty of this Committee to investigate complaints against members and local affiliates, to determine violations of the By-Laws and policies of the IF, to conduct necessary hearings and summon members to give written, telephone or in-person testimony. Based on its findings, the committee will render findings and recommend to the Executive Committee disciplinary actions and sanctions for any violations it finds. This committee will also make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding revisions to the Rules of Conduct and Discipline Article of the By-Laws (see Article 20, Rules of Conduct and Discipline).

### **9.0 IF OFFICERS**

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#### **9.1 IF Board Appointment**

Petition the Board for an IF Officer appointment. Must have a minimum of 3 years as an IF Committee Chair before holding an IF Officer appointment. Must have a minimum of 3 years as an IF Officer before being eligible for IF President.

#### **9.2 Eligibility**

Must be a member in good standing for a minimum of 3 years for eligibility of appointment as an IF Committee Chair.

### **10.0 LOCAL AFFILIATES**

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#### **10.1 Definition**

A local affiliate is a homing pigeon organization, with three or more members, chartered by the IF to administer the affairs of the fancy for the IF in a certain geographical area or a territory. A local affiliate may be a club, combine, concourse, or center. A Combine or Center is an affiliation of two or more clubs. The affiliate (club) can compete for IF diplomas and awards on a combine or center level if active membership falls below five members during the race season. In the event that there

are less than three members present to ship a race, those members must ship with another club. They will not be eligible for club awards, but will be eligible on the combine or center level.

### **10.2 IF Charters/Chapter Clubs**

Three or more fanciers may make application for an IF charter. The application fee is \$25.00. All applications must be accompanied by current dues for each member to cover dues for one year and be sent to the Secretary on a form furnished by the IF. A charter will be granted if the application receives the endorsement of the President and the Secretary.

A local affiliate may at any time apply for a change of the name of its organization by forwarding to the Secretary its charter accompanied by \$25 and a properly executed resolution setting forth reasons for such change with the local affiliate's President's and Secretary's signature affixed.

### **10.3 Administration**

Local affiliates must conform to the provisions of the IF By-Laws and embody them in their rules. However, each local affiliate will have full power to frame its own constitution and By-Laws. All issues not covered by the IF By-Laws are a matter of "home rule." (See Article 21, Home Rule)

### **10.4 Delegates to the IF**

It is the duty of each local affiliate to appoint or elect one authorized delegate, to interface with the executive board ,to represent the local affiliate.

### **10.5 Duties of Local Secretaries**

Local affiliate secretaries must thoroughly inform themselves on all IF matters. They should be able to answer all questions pertaining to the IF and its administration. Local secretaries must keep a complete list of the names, and mailing addresses and e-mail addresses, if available, of all affiliated members and forward a copy to the IF Secretary at the time dues are remitted. Secretaries should provide an e-mail address for the Club's Band Secretary for publication in *SkyTalk* as a minimum. Upon receipt of local affiliate dues the IF Secretary shall forward membership cards with and ID number to the local affiliate Secretary.

### **10.6 Hosting IF Conventions**

Any local affiliate may submit a bid to host an IF Annual Convention. The request for a Convention should be in writing to the IF President or Convention Committee. Local affiliates hosting a Convention conduct these events in accordance with the By-Laws. (See Article 13.4, Host Affiliate Responsibilities for more detail).

## **11.0 ASSETS**

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The assets of the IF consist of all supplies, furniture and equipment required for the operation of the administration of the organization, and all supplies on hand for sale or distribution in the transaction of the business of the organization. Assets also include all cash on hand or on deposit in banks, which must be invested in U.S. Government Bonds or other suitable and secure financial instruments

## **12.0 DIPLOMAS**

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### **12.1 IF Diplomas**

I.F. diplomas are certificates awarded to affiliated members in recognition of performance made by pigeons competing in races sponsored by local affiliates. Diplomas issued by the I.F. bear seals with the official mark of the I.F. Each diploma bears the signatures or facsimile of the President and Secretary of the I.F. Blank diplomas are available that are compatible with the RMS-10, Winspeed and Speed Fancier software packages.

### **12.2 Standard Diplomas**

The IF issues the following standard diplomas: individual race; series of races which are known as "Average Speed "; champion bird; & champion loft diplomas.

### **12.3 Position Diplomas**

Blank IF diplomas designated 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & other, based on one diploma for each 3 lofts competing or major portion thereof, are available for purchase from the IF secretary. They may be filled in manually or by using the RMS, Win speed or Speed Fancier computer programs.

### **12.4 Purchase of Diplomas**

Diplomas for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and other positions, Champion Bird, Champion Loft and Average Speed Diplomas can be obtained from the IF Secretary for 50 cents each (including shipping).

### **12.5 Eligibility for Diplomas**

Only affiliated members of the IF in good standing are eligible to compete for diplomas. A member competing in two or more local affiliates is eligible to compete for diplomas in each local affiliate where he or she is a member. Diplomas may be awarded on the basis lofts competing in a race or local affiliates may offer diplomas based on a percentage of birds entered.

### **12.6 Responsibility for Diplomas**

The responsibility for requisitioning diplomas rests with the secretary of the local affiliate on forms provided for that purpose. Each local affiliate has the responsibility of determining the winners of diplomas in its own races.

### **12.7 Figuring Race Speeds**

Following is the formula for correcting clock times and for calculating the yards per minute of race birds if the club does not use a race software system

Correction of clocking time. First determine the clock variation (as to how fast or slow) by the last stamp on the tape, i.e., the STOP TIME. (For example, a clock was 44 seconds slow if the last stamp printed 7:29:16, and STOP TIME was 7:30 P.M. or 19:30 hours.

The formula for correcting the clocking time is a simple math problem based on the following decimal figure: Take the time the clock ran (elapsed seconds) until EACH bird was clocked from START to CLOCKING TIME.

Then take the TOTAL time the clock ran from START to STOP time (elapsed seconds). Example: Clock start time at 8:00 P.M., Clock Stop time at 7:30:00 P.M. the following day. The total elapsed time is 84,600 seconds.

Divide the TOTAL time the clock ran (number from 15.06 ) into the time that the first bird was clocked. This will result in a decimal figure. The decimal figure is then multiplied by the clock variation. Example From Chart Below: 69,734 seconds of time occurred when the first bird was clocked, divided by 84,600 seconds the total time the clock ran, resulting in a decimal figure of 0.824113475.

Multiply the decimal by the amount the clock was slow or fast. The clock variation in this instance is 44 seconds slow. 44 seconds times 0.824113475 equals 36.260 seconds variation to the first bird clocked. Each succeeding bird clocked would have a slightly different variation based on the elapsed time. The formula is: (Clock run time until each bird was clocked in seconds, divided by the total time the clock ran in seconds, then multiplied by the clock variation).

If the result is not a whole number, it is: 1) rounded up for SLOW clocks and then added to the time of clocking a bird, or 2) rounded down for FAST clocks and then subtracted from the time of clocking a bird. You now have the corrected clock time(s). Note: Since the clock was slow, the 36.260 seconds was rounded up to 37 seconds and will be added to the clocking.

Time of Flight (Elapsed Time) The next step in the process of speed calculation is to determine the time of flight (elapsed time in seconds). This figure is found by subtracting the corrected clock time(s) from the time of liberation.

Determining the Mileage or Airline Survey The next step in speed calculation is to divide the distance (in 1/60 yards) by the time in seconds (1/60 minutes); the speed derived will be a figure in yards per minute. Note: distance in miles is easily converted to the 1/60 yards figure by multiplying the miles number by 105,600 (1760 yard/mile x 60 = 105,600).

Find the total distance in miles, or the distance in 1/60 yards, of each bird's race. If the miles figures are used, multiply the total by 105,600. Example: 313.008 survey miles X 105,600 = 33,053,644)

Figure the total time of each bird by calculating the time of flight (elapsed time), in seconds.

Divide the total distance in 1/60 yards by the total seconds; the result is the average speed in yards per minute. Example: 33053644 yards divided by 25671 seconds of flight time equals 1287.586 Yards Per Minute. Perform this calculation for each bird clocked.

Time Out for Darkness (Dead Time) shall be considered for any race not closed out on the day of liberation. Closing of races of each day shall be one-half hour after the official local sunset. The starting time each morning shall be one-half hour before the official local sunrise. The period between the sunset and sunrise times is defined as "dead time". Organizations that are geographically spread out may use sunrise and sunset times at a central point for determining dead time. A bird that

is clocked before midnight during dead time shall be awarded 1st day status. A bird that is clocked after midnight during dead time shall be awarded 2nd day status. Although a bird clocked after midnight in dead time is not considered a day bird, it should be given a speed sufficient to beat the arrival of the first bird clocked the following morning.

Calculation Summary: Figure the corrected clocking time for each bird. Determine flight seconds for each bird.

Figure the Mileage based on the survey miles.

Divide mileage (1/60 yards) by the elapsed time of flight seconds of each bird giving the yards per minute.

### **12.8 Calculating Average Speed**

When calculating average speed, the speed is determined by totaling the fancier's airline miles for all races eligible for average speed, multiplying the total miles by 1056 and dividing the product (reduced distance) by the total seconds for the fancier's first bird clocked for all races.

NOTE: In totaling the seconds for each race, be sure that the same seconds are used as those that were used to compute the speed for the race after any clock variation adjustments. Should a fancier be competing for more than one diploma in any average speed category, use the same procedure described above except that the total seconds for the second bird in all races should be used. Short average speed includes all regularly scheduled races (not including special or futurity races) from 100 to 350 airline miles in distance. Long average speed includes all regularly scheduled races greater than 351 miles airline distance. Overall average speed includes all regularly scheduled Old Bird races. Championship average speed includes all regularly scheduled Old and Young bird races. Young Bird average speed includes all regularly scheduled young bird races. To be eligible for these awards a flyer must ship all scheduled races

## **13.0 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

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### **13.1 Convention Dates**

An Annual Convention will be held under the auspices of a local affiliate on a weekend between the first week of November and the first week of December.

### **13.2 Convention Hosts**

The selection of the local affiliate to host IF conventions will be by a vote of the Executive Committee. Local affiliates wishing to make bids as convention hosts should present their bids to the Executive Committee by letter directly to the IF Secretary.

If there is no bid or solicitation for the following year's Convention and if the question of the host affiliate is still open by April 1st, then the President will designate where the Annual Meeting will be held, not later than June 1st. Also, pending approval by the Executive Committee, the Annual Convention may be sponsored by the IF, if no bid or solicitation is received. Any profits or debits thereby incurred from an Annual Convention sponsored by the IF will be reported in the Annual Financial Report.

### **13.3 Appropriations**

A request in writing by June 1<sup>st</sup> is needed for the intention to hold an IF Convention. The IF Board will vote and make the final decision on the IF Convention location.

The Convention hosts will submit a deposit of \$500 to the IF when they declare their intentions to host the convention. This deposit should be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the year in which they will host the convention. At the time of the Convention a remaining \$1500 will be paid to the IF, for a total of \$2000.

### **13.4 Convention Host Responsibilities**

(A) Affiliates hosting the convention must arrange for a banquet to be held on Saturday evening of the convention week.

(B) Arrangements for toastmasters and speakers will be made by the host affiliate committee and will be subject to approval by the President.

(C) Host affiliates will also arrange loft tours, auctions, seminars, special races and activities of interest to guests of members who may not be pigeon fanciers.

(D) Host affiliates must contact the I.F. directors prior to publishing the convention agenda and schedule for approval by the board.

(E) Convention must be an affiliated IF Club, Combine, Concourse or combination thereof. Convention will be held on a weekend, between the first week of November and the first week of December.

(F) The Host Club will maintain a web page that will be linked to the I.F. web site; the website will have all current information regarding Hotel, Handlers, Race information and any other Convention activities. The Host club will post a Temporary Results sheet immediately after the convention race, followed as soon as possible with an official Results sheet with the names of all breeder & handlers of convention birds listed. The official Results are also sent to the IF Secretary for publishing. The web page will be linked November 1<sup>st</sup> in the year preceding the convention

(G) A System of interface between breeders and handlers should be set up for the Convention Race. This will allow breeders to be informed of the status of their race entries from handler distribution, loft settling, training, and any race results prior to the Convention Race.

(H) From the beginning of the calendar year in which they will host the Convention, the Convention Chairman will update the IF Board periodically of the convention arrangements as needed. These updates may be informal phone calls to President or his designated representative.

(I) The Convention Chairman will ensure all handlers of convention race birds are current, paid I.F. Members.

(J) The Host Club will be given two full pages of advertising in the Sky talk magazine. Advertisements are Due December 1<sup>st</sup> in the year preceding the Convention

### **14.0 ANNUAL DUES & MEMBERSHIP**

**14.1 Amount and Deadline** Membership dues are January to January. Membership is \$20.00 per year for adult members, \$10.00 per year for Junior Members and \$30 per year for International members. All dues must be collected and forwarded by the local affiliate secretary to the IF Secretary no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>. Any member joining the IF via a local affiliate after April 1, must pay IF dues on acceptance by the local affiliate and the secretary will forward dues money to the IF Secretary within 10 days after a new member joins. Any person who is elected to membership is required to pay dues for the full year regardless of the month membership takes place.

An Individual IF Member is defined as either an individual member or partnership whose birds are registered and countermarked to compete in a particular event sponsored by an IF-affiliated organization.

#### **14.2 Membership in More Than One Club**

A fancier who belongs to more than one local affiliate pays dues only once if he or she shows a current IF membership card to the second club. However, members holding membership in more than one club are entitled to only one vote on IF business matters such as the election of officers.

#### **14.3 Partnerships**

When two or more partners are members of a local affiliate, each partner will be assessed the annual IF dues and will be entitled to all privileges of an individual member. In competition, a partnership will be considered as one loft.

#### **14.4 Dues & Awards**

In order to be eligible for IF awards, dues must be paid by April 1st to be eligible for Old Bird Awards and paid by August 1st to be eligible for Young Bird Awards. Award applications available on the web at [www.IFPIGEON.com](http://www.IFPIGEON.com) or in the SkyTalk, or by contacting the IF Secretary.

(A)The IF will recognize as an Official race for awards any competition in which race birds are countermarked and entered with surveyed lofts at three (3) separate, physical loft locations. All of the competing members need not clock birds in the competition for it to be declared official. A separate loft location is defined as an address commonly recognized by the US Postal Service as a mail, or parcel pick up or drop off location, or one that is a regular scheduled delivery point for the mails. Under this rule and for the purposes of determining a count for Official race status, a partnership (regardless of the number of members in the partnership) constitutes ONE (1) member.

(B)Clubs ship a race with “minimum-presence” of two (2) competing members for the shipping process, as long as there are actually three members competing.

(C)To close a race, a club must have a minimum of two (2) competing members present, from separate loft addresses, in order to knock off clocks. The two competing members must be from the same competing organization. Such clubs, that enjoy combine or similar affiliation, may ship a race for awards at the combine level.

(D)If a club fails to meet the three (3) member minimum competition requirements for club competition, the race shall not be recognized for IF Awards.

(E)A bird that does not home to the loft of the competitor entering it shall not be included in any race results.

(F)No competitor or representative of the competitor may handle their own birds during the countermarking or scanning in process.

(G) A competitor (including Race Committee members) cannot write countermark numbers or operate the countermarking machine for his or her own race entries.

(H)The shipping crates will be sealed with a tie wrap, seal, or locked in a secure manner to ensure security for the birds while in transit.

### **15 .0 LEG BANDS**

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#### **15.1 Leg Band Markings and Type**

(A) All birds must be banded with seamless aluminum, plastic-coated seamless aluminum, or other composite material seamless bands of 8mm diameter with permanent, legible identifying letters and

numbers issued by the IF or other recognized national organizations. Open bands or enlarged bands are not permitted.

(B) No bird with a current year band (Young Bird) may compete against birds with previous year bands (Old Bird) or vice versa

(C) A bird banded with two bands not issued in the same year may not compete against Old Birds or Young Birds during the current year in which the most recent band has been issued.

(D) Flyers must be able to show positive proof of ownership for any bird entered in any race if requested by the race secretary or challenged by another fancier. Failure to provide proof will result in the disqualification of the fancier from the race. Appeals may be made to the race committee

(E) No member may keep or detain in his or her custody any pigeon that is not his or her property. All members are responsible for proving ownership of all pigeons in their loft, including pigeons without bands and pigeons bearing bands issued by clubs of which the flyer is not a member. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory ownership within a reasonable time will subject the fancier to disciplinary action by the club.

(F) No old bird may be entered in a young bird race, or released with young birds in a young bird race. An old bird is defined as a yearling or older banded bird (i.e. a bird banded as a 2023 bird and entered in a 2024 young bird race). A young bird is defined as a bird hatched and banded since January 1st of the year in which the young bird race bird series is conducted.

(G) Birds banded with IF, or any other Racing Organization band may be entered in an IF race and be eligible for IF Awards and Diplomas. NPA banded birds with 8mm bands may be raced as old birds only.

(H) The IF does NOT recognize “duplicate or counterfeit” bands for ANY IF sanctioned event. All 2023 IF Bands and newer must have that year’s “secret” symbol in front of the letters IF. All bands must be UNALTERED.

## **15. 2 Orders**

All bands must be ordered through their respective local affiliate secretaries and such secretaries are required to keep an accurate record to whom bands are sold or issued. Personal or vanity bands are permitted and may be ordered through local affiliate secretaries or directly from the IF secretary.

## **15. 3 Price of Bands**

IF leg bands are sold each year at a price fixed by the Executive Committee for that year. At each annual meeting of the Executive Committee, the President, who may receive recommendations from the Finance Chairperson, recommends to the Executive Committee the price at which bands will be sold during the coming year. The price will be fixed by the Executive Committee and may or may not, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be in accordance with the recommendation.

## **15.4 Distribution of Bands**

(A) The Secretary has the responsibility to ensure that leg bands are available to all local affiliates by January 1st of the respective year.

(B) All IF bands for resale must be obtained directly from the IF Secretary.

(C) All IF Bands will be mailed in time to ensure receipt of bands by affiliates by January 1. Bands are not too distributed by the club secretaries until January 1 of the respective year.

## **16.0 APPROVED CLOCKS, TIMING SYSTEMS, CAPSULES & COUNTERMARKS**

### **16.1 Clocks**

S.T.B. - To qualify as a capsule-less model, this clock must have a "continental cover". This is a solid, heavy cover, with only one hole exposed, and no other hole can be seen. This clock may also be used as a capsule model.

Benzing (Wooden case 1,2,2A) - All are capsule models, unless the holes are covered with a "flip-up" door and a heavy plate on top of the drum.

Junior - All models may be used with or without capsules. Benzing Comatic - All are capsule-less.

Benzing Paloma - All models may be used with or without capsules.

Benzing - (Plastic case 261, 301, 126) - Must have the flip-top drum to be used as capsuleless timer.

Benzing Computer Clock - All models can be used without capsules.

Bricon Computer Clock - All models can be used without capsules.

Tauris Computer Clock - All models can be used without capsules.

Junior - Quartz computer T3 models may be used with or without capsules.

Heirman - All models may be used with or without capsules.

La Ledoise - Drum must have flip-flop or slide top to be used without capsules. Plasachaert - Capsule type only.

Jundes - Capsule type only. Toulet - Capsule type only. Isgus - Capsule type only.

Race Master - All models may be used with or without capsules. Easy Way - Capsule type only.

### **16.2 Capsules and Countermarks**

(A) Each countermark must be in a regulation capsule except in those clocks designated by the manufacturer to be used without capsules.

(B) Clocks manufactured and approved for use without capsules are permitted for competition, unless the competing organization requires the use of capsules in their By-Laws. A smaller capsule may be required in these timers.

(C) If a competing organization requires the use of capsules in all clocks, the organization must include this requirement in its local race By-Laws.

(D) Hinged-type capsules must be in the hole with the hinged end up. Telescoping capsules can be placed in the hole with either end up. Open-end capsules, which are not recommended because the countermark can fall out during clocking, must be placed in the hole with the open end down. If a hinged-type capsule is not used correctly, the time corresponding to that capsule *will* be eliminated.

Note: The next time stamped on the tape may be credited to that bird since its porthole has then moved out of range of potential fraud.

(E) In the event an exterior countermark number is not readable or ascertainable, the second (inside) countermark number must be verified with the inside number on the countermark slip assigned to the competitor.

(F) The presence of a countermark not of that race in a clock porthole will cause the time stamping corresponding to that hole to be crossed off on the tape and not read for a position, unless an official race countermark for the current race is also present in that hole. In this case the countermark of that race will be good for record and prize.

(G) Countermarks (without capsules) that are not properly or completely placed in the clock porthole will be disqualified and no time allowed for the entry.

### 16.3 Race Timers and Rules

The I.F. Race Rules do not, and cannot cover every issue. The I.F. Board is receptive to, and encourages input and suggestions for improvements. Submit your ideas in writing to the bylaw Chairman for presentation and review by the board of directors.

- (A) Only continuous running timers are permitted.
- (B) No timer is permitted that runs more than 12 seconds fast or slow per hour. Timers running more than 12 seconds fast or slow per hour will be disqualified.
- (C) Each fancier is responsible for the operation of their own timer.
- (D) No fancier is permitted to use more than one timer in any race without approval of the club's Race Committee.
- (E) The race committee has the power to substitute any timer in place of a member's timer at any time or on any race.
- (F) If available, the race secretary will set at least one spare timer for each race in case member's clock becomes inoperable. The secretary's permission is required prior to using the spare clock. All inoperable mechanical clocks which are normally sealed, must be brought to the club with the seal intact
- (G) All clocks must be set and knocked off with the same master timer.
- (H) A flyer may not time an entered race bird in any clock other than the one bearing the seal assigned to him or her. In an emergency, the fancier may use the club's spare timer or use the timer of the nearest competitor and must notify the race secretary before knock off.
- (I) A timer which stops after one or more pigeons have been clocked is disqualified.
- (J) A timer which has had the seal removed or tampered with is disqualified.
- (K) Evidence of tampering with a timer is sufficient cause for disqualification of the member by the individual club race committee.
- (L) Timers must be set or checked by the race committee of three members. In the event that there are less than three members present to ship a race, those members must ship with another club. They will not be eligible for club awards but, will be eligible on the combine or center level.
- (M) A timer may only be opened by a member of the race committee and in no case may a member open his or her own clock. Normally, three members should be present to open any timer (see (14.4 A).
- (N) Timers that use paper tapes for recording are disqualified if the tape is torn into two pieces. However, a tape torn after check bump is acceptable.
- (O) If a printing timer fails to record the time in a legible manner, the clock's owner will be given 1 yard-per-minute after the time of the last loft's reported speed.
- (P) In a race where all prizes are not won on the day, timers may be reset.
- (Q) Clocks set on other than the first hole by the clock committee will be permitted if the owner agrees.
- (R) Clock seals may be sealed and removed by the race committee only.
- (S) Each club shall elect one person as the Race Secretary. This person shall be responsible for supervising and ensuring the integrity of each race. The Race Secretary shall have the authority to audit, verify, question or halt any action that might compromise the integrity of any race.

## 16.4 Electronic Band Scanning Systems

(A)The use of certain Electronic Band Scanning Systems (EBSS) has been approved by the IF. In the event the Executive Committee determines that a system or system design does not provide adequate security or presents a potential security question, the IF may disapprove the use of that system.

(B)The disapproval of any system will be effective upon publication in *SkyTalk*. Local affiliates are free to buy any EBSS system they choose. Individual members within the organization are responsible for ensuring system (hardware/software) compatibility with other systems in use within the organization.

(C)The antenna shall be installed at the loft entrance. Placement of the antennas shall be subject to inspection by the club and is monitored by Home Rule.

(D)For computer clocks, when the competitor has a distance to travel to the club, a member may be allowed to report remotely by sending a report to the Race Secretary. This report may be used to compute the race. The club will have the option of whether or not it will allow this form of a report. If remote reporting is allowed, after clocking a race the competitor may print out his arrival sheet without releasing the race from the clock. He would then fax or email this report to the Race Committee. If the computer clock data cannot be printed; or printing will release the race; or take the clock out of race mode; but the clock display shows the complete race data, a report of the display may be manually generated (read and written down) and sent or read to the Race Secretary. The report shall be used to compute the race in the manner of a printout from the clock. Reports so generated *must* be certified the following week by a minimum of two Race Committee members or two racing competitors with an actual Knock-off and print out from the clock. In such cases, all data must be compared and matched to certify the race results. Any discrepancies will result in a disqualification of the competitor. The clock of members reporting remotely must stay in race mode until knock-off by the Race Committee. The race results will not be finalized until the clock is actually presented for knock-off, normally at the shipping of the next race.

(E)Clock malfunctions.

(1)If a digital clock display is not functioning (display out completely or partially), the clock may be knocked-off in an unopened condition. If at all possible, the data shall be downloaded and recorded manually by the Race Secretary or a Race Committee member. This data shall be used for calculating race results. Data may be printed out and evaluated only if the data is complete and in the correct chronological order. The Race Secretary shall perform verifications on any computer clock malfunctions.

(2)Clock data cannot be printed -- If the computer clock data cannot be printed but the clock display shows the complete race data including knockoff, a report of the display shall be manually generated. This report must be certified by a minimum of two Race Committee members or two racing competitors. The report shall be equivalent to a printout from the clock. A report generated by the owner of the clock prior to system failure may be used to generate a report. In such cases, all data must match the clock display and certified as above. Clocks that fail to print and are manually read to complete a race may not be used again in a race until the clock is repaired.

(3)Printing problems -- If the clock printout shows incomplete or random data, the clock should be connected to another printer. If the reviewed printout continues to show irregularities, a display report shall be manually generated as described above. The report generated from the clock display may be used when all reported data have been generated correctly and in proper chronological order. If a complete report cannot be generated or if the data cannot be interpreted, the entries shall not be included in any race results.

(4)Only the Race Secretary or an authorized representative may communicate with the liberator-conveyor during their duties with the race birds.

(5)Should one or more birds escape in transit, or at the liberation point before the official race release, an inventory shall be performed to account for the missing bird(s). Those birds identified as missing shall be disqualified. If an inventory of the remaining birds in the crate(s) from which the birds escaped is impractical, and if there is NO other independent method to determine which birds were in the affected crate(s), such as by a crate designation on the organization race entry form, the entire race shall be declared as NO CONTEST.

## **MEASUREMENTS**

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### **17.1 Measurement Requirements**

(A)No flyer can compete for prizes or diplomas without official measurements, either airline survey (Bowens), or GPS latitude and longitude. Only WAAS-enabled GPS units may be used. Bowen and GPS loft measurements shall not be mixed in a race.

(B)No competitor may use another flyer's measurements.

(C)Each member must have an official copy of his or her measurements on file with the club secretary.

(D)Only a club officer or race committee is permitted to take measurements of a fancier's loft. Two or more club officials must be present at the time measurements are taken, unless measurements are taken by GPS unit, then, only one official is required.

### **17.2 Taking Measurements.(Non-GPS)**

(A)When taking measurements of a loft, two measurements are required on a hand drawn or official municipality map.

(B)The shortest distance from the loft centerline of the points of entry to the loft to the center of the nearest adjacent street, boulevard or alley, and

(C)from the centerline of the street, boulevard or alley to the centerline of the nearest intersecting street.

(D)The distances must be taken as accurately as possible and under no circumstances should they be approximated.

(E)Any member who relocates his loft by more than twenty-five feet must obtain new measurements.

(F)All measurements are at the member's expense.

(G)All members must obtain new measurements from the liberation point if the liberation point is changed.

### **17.3 GPS Measurements**

GPS (global positioning system) is a very accurate system of surveying lofts and is acceptable as long as all flyers in the club are surveyed using GPS. The following are guidelines for taking GPS loft surveys:

(A)The GPS unit used must be a WAAS enhanced unit, *with WAAS Enhancement enabled*.

(B)The unit should be on for a minimum of 5 minutes prior to the survey being read and must have good satellite reception.

(C)The survey should be done on a clear or partly cloudy day. Surveys may be conducted on overcast days if good satellite reception exists.

(D)The latitude and longitude will normally be set to read in degrees, minutes, and thousands of minutes (i.e., DDD MM.mmm). These are the units accepted by

Winspeed for GPS readings. Note: The settings on both Winspeed and many GPS units can also read out in DDD MM SS.s (Degrees, Minutes, Seconds and tenths of seconds). These readings are just as accurate and acceptable as long as all readings are input into race software in the same unit format.

Ensure the units are properly set by following the directions of your particular GPS unit.

(E)The GPS Unit should be placed or held as close to the stalls as possible, normally on the landing board, taking care to place the unit out from under an overhanging roof for good satellite signal reception. If more than one set of stalls are used, then the unit should be placed in a central location between the sets of stalls. If it is necessary to move out from the stalls to get a good fix, this distance should be kept to a minimum, and be no greater than 10 feet.

(F)Once at the loft, if the GPS unit has a margin of error reading, this should be observed to ensure that the lowest margin of error possible is obtained. Frequently, a margin of error below 10 feet can be obtained in most locations. Allowing the GPS unit to steady up for a few minutes (normally less than 10 minutes) before reading, will often bring the margin of error down. If the margin of error is still above 25 feet after 10 minutes, moving the GPS unit slightly to unblock satellite reception may help. Sometimes trees or other objects will block the signal. Raising the GPS unit up above the loft roof line, or slightly to the right or left, while keeping it as close to the stalls as possible will often dramatically improve reception. Readings with 25 foot margin of error are acceptable if this is the lowest margin of error obtainable after all of the above have been tried. If the margin or error is greater than 25 feet, the reading should be attempted on another day with less cloud cover. If the reading is still above 25 feet margin or error, this should be reported to the club along with the reading and the actual margin of error obtained for their review and acceptance.

(H)Record the latitude and longitude. The latitude and longitude should be provided to the loft owner to record at the time of the survey. The club secretary should maintain a record of all GPS readings for club members.

## **18.0 SPOUSE'S AUXILIARY**

A social affiliate of the IF known as the Spouse's Auxiliary may be established which has its own headquarters and officers. The auxiliary consists of the husbands, wives, daughters, sons, and significant others of affiliated IF Members. The purpose of the Spouse's Auxiliary is to encourage the participation in IF events and activities of the family and friends of pigeon fancier members.

The Spouse's Auxiliary governs, operates, and maintains itself under the jurisdiction of the IF Executive Committee only.

## **19.0 RULES OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE**

The IF and American Racing Pigeon Union (AU) have entered into a reciprocal agreement regarding disciplinary action. A flyer barred from one organization shall be reviewed for barring from the other. Sanctions or disciplinary action imposed against a member or local affiliate of one organization will normally be honored by both organizations

### **19.1 IF-Related Prohibited Acts**

No member shall engage in the following acts in connection with any business, event or activity sponsored by the IF or local affiliate:

(A)Commit a criminal act as defined by local, state or federal laws

(B)Engage in any act which is detrimental or harmful to the IF or local affiliate

(C)Discriminate against or harass another member because of race, color, creed,

religion, national origin, citizenship, gender, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual preference

(D) Intentionally engage in or threaten physical violence or cause physical harm to another

(E) Engage in lewd or profane language that offends a person of usual sensibilities

(F) Refuse to comply with the By-Laws or of any rule of the IF or of a local affiliate

(G) Refuse to comply with the will of the majority as expressed by a valid vote of the voters of a local affiliate

(H) Misuse funds or assets of the IF or of a local affiliate

(I) Falsify information in connection with application for membership with the IF or local affiliate

(J) Violate IF policies or rules regarding the administration of a prohibited substance to any pigeon

(See Article 22, Performance-Enhancing Drugs)

(K) Intentionally tamper with or use an altered or modified clock, timer, computer or other device in connection with timing a race unless the use of the device has been approved for use by a local affiliate race secretary

(L) Intentionally tamper with a clock seal, tape or countermark belonging to any member

(M) Enter false or incorrect information on a score sheet, race sheet or other record in connection with the timing of a race

(N) Intentionally enter into an IF sanctioned race a pigeon known to be injured or diseased

(O) Intentionally submit false information in connection with an application for an IF or local affiliate award

(P) Intentionally provide false information to the Infractions Committee in connection with an investigation of an allegation of a violation of the By-Laws or falsely accuse a fellow member of a violation of the By-Laws

## **19.2 Non IF-Related Prohibited Acts**

No member shall engage in the following acts at any time whether or not in connection with any business, event or activity sponsored by the IF or local affiliate:

(A) Intentionally keep a pigeon without providing reasonably adequate shelter, food, and water, or to treat a pigeon in an inhumane manner

(B) Intentionally deliver to a buyer of a pigeon a false or inaccurate race record or pedigree

(C) Intentionally fail to comply with regulations of the US Postal Service regarding shipments of pigeons or live birds including the use of non-approved containers for shipments

(D) Engage in any act which brings the sport of pigeon racing into disrepute

## **19.3 Care of Race Birds During Transportation**

It is the responsibility of all IF-affiliated clubs and combines to ensure the proper care and welfare of race birds during transportation.

### **Shipping crates must provide:**

- Adequate space to prevent overcrowding
- Proper ventilation to ensure sufficient airflow
- Enough room for birds to move and maneuver comfortably
- Clear access to water troughs so birds can drink as needed

Overcrowding is strictly prohibited. Birds must have sufficient space to reach water and remain in good condition throughout transport.

### **For any overnight travel with next-morning release or two-day transportation:**

- For overnight releases birds must be watered on the morning of the release.
- Ample time must be provided to ensure all birds have sufficient opportunity to drink before release.
- Birds must be properly fed and watered during two-day transportation.

These measures are mandatory to protect the health, welfare, and performance of all race birds.

### **19.4 Defenses**

Ignorance of the By-Laws is not a defense to disciplinary action for violations. Reliance on a written interpretation of the By-Laws by an IF officer or member of the Executive Committee of a rule or policy may be a defense provided the accused can prove the IF official was fully and fairly informed of all relevant facts and can produce a copy of the written opinion.

### **19.5 Statute of Limitations**

No action regarding a violation of the By-Laws will be brought if the violation occurred more than four years prior to the date of receipt by the Infractions Committee of the charge or complaint.

### **19.6 Operating Rules**

(A)The Infractions Committee, its investigators and all persons associated with its activities must treat all information related to cases before the committee as confidential and have a duty not to disclose any aspects of the case until the final outcome has been published in accordance with these By-Laws.

(B)Any member of the Infractions Committee associated with a local affiliate or is a fellow member of a fancier under investigation will not take part in proceedings that present a real or perceived conflict of interest.

(C)The Infractions Committee will not consider information or evidence from anonymous sources unless it is independently corroborated by other reliable sources.

(D)The Infractions Committee will make reasonable efforts to process allegations or complaints in a timely manner.

(E)The committee has jurisdiction only over IF members, local affiliates and IF officials.

### **19.7 Submission of Charges or Complaints**

(A)The Infractions Committee is authorized to investigate all charge or complaints against a violation of any provision of the Rules of Conduct or other article of the By-Laws. The committee may initiate an investigation on its own when it has reasonable cause to believe a violation has transpired.

(B)A complainant does not have to be an IF member to file a complaint. All complaints must first be filed verbally and in writing with the officials of the local affiliate (club, combine, concourse or center) having jurisdiction over the accused member or local affiliate. If the aggrieved party does not receive a response within 45 days or claims denial of a fair hearing, the complaint may be filed with the IF Infractions Committee.

(C)The complainant must file charges verbally and in writing with the Chairperson of the Committee. Should the complainant need assistance putting the charges in writing, the Director of Public

Relations is authorized to assist the complainant. Written complaints must contain the following information:

- Name, phone number and address of complainant
- Date of filing
- Name and affiliation of the accused
- Brief statement of the complaint (IF By-Laws Article violated)
- Copy of written complaint filed with the local affiliate having jurisdiction over the charges, if applicable
- Description of outcome of filing with the local affiliate
- Statement of why local affiliate ruling is not fair

(D)The committee may exercise discretion to reject a complaint, accept a complaint or refer a complaint back to the local affiliate having jurisdiction for resolution.

### **19.8 Hearings**

(A)Any member who may be affected by a hearing conducted by the Infractions Committee is entitled to written notice of the hearing at least 10 days prior to the hearing date. The notice will state the place, time and date of the hearing and describe the nature of the complaint or charge being heard.

(B)Notice to the president of a local affiliate will be considered the same as notice to the entire organization.

(C)The Committee shall attempt to schedule hearings at locations which are convenient to the members, parties and witnesses as well as to the committee members, but has no obligation to conduct hearings in any particular locale.

(D)How hearings are conducted is up to the Committee's discretion. The Committee may elect to have a meeting in person with all parties involved or may elect to conduct meetings via teleconference call or other means.

(E)The committee may elect to call witnesses, conduct interviews via telephone or consider affidavits or other statements from credible witnesses.

(F)The Committee shall make recordings of all hearings and will furnish transcripts of the recordings to parties to the proceedings upon request, providing the person making the request pays the costs of producing the transcripts in advance.

### **19.9 Rulings**

(A)The Committee will resolve all issues associated with any case before it within 30 days of the last day of any hearing conducted in connection with the case or within 30 days of receipt of the last written communication considered by the Committee. If the Committee is unable to resolve a case within this time frame, it will notify all parties of the reason and provide an expected date of resolution.

(B)The Committee shall notify in writing all parties involved with cases before it of its decisions and rulings. In its discretion, the Committee may prepare written findings of fact supporting its ruling.

(C)All rulings by the Committee are final and there is no right to appeal. However, the Committee may entertain a motion for a rehearing if compelling evidence is brought before it which suggests factual errors in the Committee's decision.

(D)Determinations and rulings by the Committee will be made in the form of a recommendation to the Executive Committee. At its next regularly scheduled meeting following the Committee's ruling, the Executive Committee will review the ruling and take action within 30 days.

(E)Unless the Executive Committee finds evidence does not exist to support the

Infraction Committee's ruling or finds reversible error, the Executive Committee will notify all parties that the Infraction Committee's ruling is adopted.

### **19.10 Sanctions**

(A) A member may be placed on probation for a period of not more than five years for a violation of the By-Laws.

(B) A member may be suspended from membership for not more than 5 years for a violation of the By-Laws. At the end of the suspension, a member may apply for reinstatement provided he or she has not engaged in additional violations of the By-Laws.

(C) A member may be expelled from membership. Expelled members may not reapply for membership.

(D) A member who has been found guilty of a violation of the By-Laws may be ordered to restore property or monies which were wrongfully acquired.

(E) A member may be ordered to pay compensation or make restitution to another member who has suffered loss or damage as a result of prohibited conduct.

(F) The Executive Committee may issue a private reprimand to any member found to have violated the By-Laws if the Executive Committee determines this action is in the best interest of the IF. Private reprimands will not be published in *SkyTalk* or racing pigeon publications and minutes of hearings concerning the member reprimanded will remain private and confidential.

(G) The Executive Committee may issue a public reprimand describing the member involved and the violation of the By-Laws and publish it in *SkyTalk*.

(H) The Executive Committee may choose to discipline a member by restricting future rights to engage in specific activities in the sport or in connection with any organization, race or event. For example, the member may be barred from serving as a club officer or liberator. Such a restriction may be for any period of time up to and including forever.

(I) The IF may take action in any form against any club, center, combine or concourse with it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to expulsion, suspension and revocation of the organization's charter, compelling the replacement of the organization's officers, modification of its By-Laws, making restitution to injured parties and the like.

(J) A member or affiliate organization found guilty of a violation of the By-Laws may be ordered by the Executive Committee to reimburse the IF for expenses incurred in connection with investigating, hearing and determining charges and complaints.

## **20.0 HOME RULE POLICY**

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### **20.1 Home Rule Policy**

Home Rule is the IF's policy which gives to its members the right to govern themselves so long as their affairs are conducted in a manner not detrimental to the sport or the IF.

### **20.2 Model Rules**

Every IF local affiliate governs itself with regard to training and racing pigeons and services to be secured in connection with training and racing programs or schedules. Each may establish its liberating stations, select its own race course and liberating stations, select and procure its own liberator, establish its own entry qualifications and select and secure its own telephone or other communications media, select and determine its own facilities for housing pigeons, select, determine and own its own race equipment, with timing machine or timers owned by members or purchased and owned as local affiliate property, publish or have published its race results in a form prescribed

by themselves, advertise or publicize its own membership, local affiliate, race program or social activities, and any other function authorized by these By-Laws, except administering the affairs of the IF.

**Given the policy of Home Rule, the following are offered as models and guidelines for local affiliates to consider in conducting their affairs:**

### **20.2.1 Diplomas**

- (A) There is no limit on the number of diplomas a member may win in any one race.
- (B) The club may award average speed diplomas for each of the following categories:
  - Old Birds -- short, long, overall
  - Young Birds
  - Championship (Old and Young birds combined)
- (C) A club may elect to offer diplomas based on the percentage of birds entered in a race (i.e. Top 5 %).

### **20.2.2 Restrictions on Flying Methods**

No restrictions on the method or technique employed to prepare pigeons for races is acceptable as long as the member complies with all rules. This includes widowhood, light and dark systems, and various trapping systems, for example.

### **20.2.3 Entry Sheets**

The club secretary is responsible for providing all required entry sheets. Entry sheets must provide the following information and must be completely filled out by the entrant:

- Entrant's name and address
- Date
- Race station
- Airline measurement in miles to three decimal places
- Complete band number, color, and sex for each bird entered

### **20.2.4 Race Course**

The decision to change the race course must be determined by a majority of members attending the local affiliate's Annual Meeting.

Should it become necessary to change a liberation point for any reason, the club officers have the power to substitute the next nearest liberation point for the remainder of the season, provided it is as near as possible in distance to the discontinued liberation point.

### **20.2.5 Race Schedule**

(A) Each club may submit only one schedule for each of the Old Bird and Young Bird series. Races not included in calculating average speed must be noted on the schedule

(B)The race schedules must be determined by a majority of members attending the local affiliate's Annual Meeting.

(C)A race may be scheduled on any day of the week approved by the membership.

### **20.2.6 Shipping Crates**

(A)All openings on all crates must be properly sealed before leaving the club, using at least one seal for each small opening and three seals for each large opening. One seal should be placed near either end, and one at the middle of the top edge of the opening. After openings are sealed, they should be checked by a member of the race committee to ensure no birds or countermarks can be removed.

(B)In races involving pigeons from more than one club, each crate must be inspected at the central shipping point to ensure crates are properly sealed. Any crate not properly sealed will be refused shipment. Refused crates may be returned to its club for complete checking and listing of each pigeon contained by band number and countermark, and returned to the central shipping point for entry *provided* it arrives in time for the dispatch of the shipment. Further inspection of all crates should be made at the liberation point by the liberator and crates found improperly sealed will be barred from competition.

(C)All shipping crates must be in good condition and must be free from openings, breaks or other damage that permit the removal or escape of a pigeon, or may injure a pigeon.

(D)It is the responsibility of each club to ensure water pans and feed trays are available in each crate for every race.

(E)The number of pigeons permitted to be shipped in a crate must be limited such that each pigeon has ample space for its comfort and well-being.

(F)Each club must label its crates with the club's name.

### **20.2.7 Liberation**

(A)A liberation time must be chosen to allow birds to complete races less than 300 miles in airline distance before darkness. Consideration should be given to weather conditions, wind velocity and direction, and other factors that may affect homing speeds.

(B)Liberation should take place as early in the day as possible, but not prior to sunrise. In case of a holdover, birds will be liberated as early as possible. If weather does not permit liberation at a reasonable time, the birds will be brought back to the central shipping point.

(C)The liberator must telephone the race secretary from a point near the liberation point to ensure the liberation was made at the proper station.

(D)The responsibility for the liberation and safety of the pigeons rests with the club's secretary/liberator. He or she must check current and projected weather forecasts using the best means possible and communicate with the race liberator prior to each liberation. The secretary must also ensure that food and water are available for the liberator at each race.

(E)If the liberation cannot be made at the appointed station, the birds may be returned to the next shorter station for liberation. If the next shorter station is not acceptable, they must be moved in turn to each shorter station until the decision is made to either liberate the birds or cancel the race and return them to the central shipping point.

(F)For any race where the speed of the winning bird is less than 30 miles per hour (880 yards-per-minute), the secretary will prepare a written report describing: the weather encountered in transit; weather at time of liberation; weather predictions prior and during the race; weather encountered by the liberator following liberation; behavior of the birds at liberation; date, time and place of liberation; weather conditions at home; liberator observations and comments; deficiencies with the

transport vehicle; exceptions to the race rules; and recommendations regarding prevention of future smashes.

(G)The secretary is responsible to ensure adequate transport vehicles are provided for each race, and that the liberator is trustworthy and qualified.

(H)It is the member's responsibility to obtain liberation time of each race from the club secretary.

### **20.2.8 Master Timers**

(A)Master timers are to be set with standard time from a satellite clock, GPS receiver, radio station, telephone service or other uniform means such as the National Time Standard (Telephone number: 303-499-7111). The time used must be to the exact hour, minute and second.

(B)Master timers must not run more than one second fast or slow per hour. It is the club secretary's responsibility to ensure master timers are accurate. Any master timer not meeting these requirements, and on proof of variation from this rule, will disqualify the club from any combine, concourse or federation prizes for the race in question and all future races until the requirements are met.

(C)Master timers must be continuously running timers. If a continuous running master timer is not available, another device may be used as long as it can be set to a standard time source.

### **20.2.9 Countermarks**

(A)All birds entered in any race must be countermarked using an appropriate numbered band placed on one leg of the pigeon or be fitted with an EBSS computer chip band. After countermarking or scanning by an EBSS, the pigeon must be immediately placed into a shipping crate. Old countermarks or temporary identification bands must be removed before placing the new countermark on the leg of the pigeon.

(B)A pigeon returning from a race without a countermark or EBSS computer chip band is disqualified from the race.

(C)A pigeon detected without a countermark or EBSS computer chip band in a race crate that has been sealed is disqualified from the race. Each pigeon in the crates should be checked to ensure they are properly countermarked prior to acceptance for shipment to the race.

(D)It is the responsibility of each secretary to ensure countermarks are securely kept and properly accounted for prior to the race to prevent misuse for unsportsmanlike purposes.

(E)All countermark numbers -- inside and outside -- must correspond to the related tab.

(F)A bird's numerical number (IF 07 SCHOLAR **1234**) only needs to be recorded on the countermark tab. The full alphanumeric band number should be written when one or more fanciers have two birds with the same number (IF 07 SCHOLAR 1234, IF 07 A 1234). A band number that may be easily confused (for example, 919 and 616) should be underlined.

(G)The Race Committee will settle all issues on questionable countermarks that may be torn, mud covered or faded.

(H)Countermark tabs should be kept in a small container with the fancier's name on the outside and sealed. After countermarking, these containers should be kept secured and opened only by a three-member race committee at reporting time.

### **20.2.10 Clocking**

Fanciers may clock as many birds as allowed by their clubs and all birds are eligible to win prizes and diplomas.

### **20.2 11 Sick or Injured Pigeons**

The Race Committee has the responsibility to reject any bird that is unfit to participate in a race. No pigeon visibly suffering from disease or injury may be accepted for entry in a race.

### **20.2.12 Tossing Pigeons**

The Race Committee has the discretionary right to toss any bird at the owner's loft within 72 hours after the closing of a race to establish ownership.

Failure by a fancier to produce a bird that has won a prize or failure of a tossed bird to trap satisfactorily at the prize-winner's loft results in automatic disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes and diplomas.

### **20.2.13 Shipping Costs**

Each club has the right to determine its shipping costs in order that per bird costs and other expenses can be met.

### **20.2.14 Reporting Time**

(A) A competitor must bring the clock to the reporting point within the time frame determined by the club, after clocking the first bird.

(B) In all cases, it is each fancier's responsibility to become informed of the required reporting time.

(C) Members failing to comply with reporting time rules are disqualified except in cases where permission has been received via telephone or some other means of communication from the club secretary to exceed the reporting time limits.

### **20.2.15 Closing a Race**

A race is considered closed when either, all diplomas and prizes have been won, or at the specified shipping time for the next regularly scheduled race, whichever occurs first. In the event all prizes have not been won at the close of the race, it is up to the Race Committee's discretion to determine how the remaining prizes will be distributed.

### **20.2.16 Verification of Race Results**

The secretary should completely recheck the speeds of all birds which won diplomas or prizes on reporting day. All clock tapes should be kept for a minimum of one week in case of a protest.

### **20.2.17 Combine Race Committees**

(A) The race committee consists of the officers. The secretary serves as the chairperson of the race committee.

(B) The race committee decides and resolves questions that arise concerning these race rules.

(C) The secretary only votes on questions when the race committee vote ends in a tie. Majority vote decides all issues.

### **20.2.18 Shipping Times**

(A)The secretary specifies the time birds will be picked up for shipment to each race in order that the birds arrive at the central distribution point on time, if one is used, or that the birds can arrive at the liberation point before sunrise.

(B)The race committee designates the time each club ships and closes their crates. Non-compliance with this rule is cause to reject a club's birds.

(C)Consideration should be given in cases of emergency and other extenuating circumstances. Telephone communication or other means of pre-arranged communication to the secretary to receive permission to ship late is permissible.

#### **20.2.19 Violations and Protests**

(A)It is the duty of every member to ensure these rules are observed. A member noting violations should immediately bring it to the attention of the club secretary. If a member is not satisfied with the manner in which the violation is addressed, the member may file a protest. (Also see Article 20, Rules of Conduct)

(B)Further, a member having a complaint or protest of any kind should make the protest verbally to the club secretary followed by a signed written protest that includes all details within 48 hours after the race is closed.

(C)It is the duty of the race committee to thoroughly investigate the protest and render their findings and judgment in writing. The race committee's decision is final and binding.

#### **20.2.20 Shipping Limits**

(A)Each organization shall determine the number of birds that a loft may ship to a race. This should be determined by space available on the means of conveyance and may or may not include birds for special races (i.e., 1 or 2 bird races.).

(B)The organization may set different limits for members paying reduced fees such as Junior members or new flyers that are being allowed to fly with no shipping fee.

(C)Members flying from more than one location shall be subject to the shipping limits imposed by the organization and must submit a list of the band numbers of the birds flying from each loft to the Race Secretaries at the club and combine levels.

#### **20.2.21 Global Positioning System**

As stated in section 17.0, GPS (global positioning system) may be used provided all members of the club are using this type of measurement and have been surveyed accordingly.

## **21.0 DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL**

The purpose of this section is to establish regulations and procedures to prevent the use of substances, (prohibited substances) considered to harm racing pigeons and give unfair advantages to pigeon flyers. Abuse of drugs in the sport will cause the following side effects and health problems with pigeons: Premature sterility, lack of adequate feathering, immune system break down, damage to liver, kidneys, and sudden death among others.

A pigeon flyer can obtain extraordinary performances from very ordinary pigeons by raising the birds' endurance thresholds, slowing the molting process, enhancing muscles and strength, aiding in the prevention of specific illnesses and increasing metabolic conditions. There is doubt whether the winner won on his own ability or was aided with drugs to achieve the great performance. Thus, drugs deprive fame and fortune from the honest birds and trainers that achieved their success through effort, preparation and their own abilities.

The World Anti-doping Code, which outlines rules and regulations for athletes, has a section for animals that includes:

“ In any sport that includes animals in competition, the governing bodies for that sport should establish and implement anti-doping rules for the animals included in that sport. The anti-doping rules shall include a list of classes of prohibited substances, appropriate testing procedures and approved laboratories for sample analysis.”

The owner of the racing pigeon, which will be called the “pigeon flyer”, will be held responsible whenever the improper use of prohibited substances is administered to their pigeons. The use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons means exposing racing pigeons to substances, of whatever

nature, found to be harmful to racing pigeons or that may be expected to be harmful in excessive quantities and/or concentrations. It should be noted that there are many drugs such as antibiotics and anti-viral drugs that do have therapeutic effects on racing pigeons and will not be deemed prohibitive. It is however the responsibility of the pigeon flyer to make sure that there are no other prohibited substances included in these therapeutic drugs. It is also the responsibility of the pigeon flyer to be able to identify all chemicals in those products that do not contain information on the labels, as they may also contain prohibited substances. The pigeon flyer may contact the manufacturer or distributor to request a written analysis of the ingredients in the unlabeled product. The pigeon flyer will at all times be held responsible, whenever the improper use of prohibited substances is administered to their pigeons.

To overcome the doping problems in racing pigeons it requires reliable methods to detect illegally medicated drugs. The following classes of substances will be considered prohibited in racing pigeon competition:

I. Drugs which mask pain and injury: These drugs have pain killing characteristics.

A. Narcotic Analgesics: Powerful pain killers such as Opiates, Morphine, etc.

B. Anti-inflammatories, both Non-steroid, and Corticosteroids: Procaine is one example.

Corticosteroids which are common in eye drops, delay a pigeon's molting, enabling it to train harder and race later in the season. They also have anti-inflammatory effects.

II. Drugs that unfairly improve performance: These drugs enhance the athletic ability of the bird by enhancing physical characteristics and increase the heart rate and respiratory rate.

A. Beta-agonists and other Bronchodilators: Both open birds' respiratory tract and improve breathing by adding oxygen to the blood.

B. Anabolic steroids: Anabolic steroids build up a pigeon's muscles, boosting performance. (Boldenone, is one of many)

III. Drugs which stimulate the nervous system, by increasing heart rate and pressure:

A. Amphetamines, or closely related substances of any kind.

IV. Drug Masking Compounds:

A. Masking Agents: which are used purposely to interfere with detection of prohibited drugs in the pigeon.

The \_\_\_\_\_ has adopted a drug testing protocol that all pigeon flyers must familiarize themselves with. The owner of racing pigeons will be referred to as the "pigeon flyer", and will at all times be held responsible, whenever the improper use of prohibited substances is administered to his or her pigeons.

The effects of different drugs and drug types are constantly being researched, which means that the list of prohibited drugs can be changed at any time, and the pigeon flyers will be notified of these changes. It is important to understand that the classes of compounds that are prohibited have many

brand names, and it is up to the pigeon flyer to be aware of these. Most of these are products that would not ordinarily be found in most supply houses and pet shops, however, be aware that some eyedrops list a steroid on the bottle and are sold over the counter. Any questions regarding the legality of substances being used can be referred to the drug testing committee. Improper use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons means the exposure of racing pigeons to prohibited substances for the purpose of:

Influencing the performance of the racing pigeon participating in or being prepared for participation in a race.

At the beginning of each race season every pigeon flyer must sign a written declaration that they understand, and follow, the protocol outlined in this document. Any pigeon flyer who does not have a signed declaration is prohibited from flying any race affiliated with the \_\_\_\_\_. It is the responsibility of the club secretary to keep a record of all signed petitions, and to bar any individual from shipping a race, who does not have a signed declaration on file. This declaration will pertain to all races flown by clubs belonging to the combine, including: FUTURITIES, BOND RACES, DERBIES, and other SPECIAL RACES. All pigeon fliers should keep a record of products used. In the case of a positive test for the presence of a prohibited substance, a pigeon flyer will be able to determine the origin of the substance in the unlikely event that he or she is unaware of its origin. This will not release the pigeon flyer from any responsibility and or consequences that might be levied for the prohibited substances found.

ANY CLUB THAT REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO A REQUESTED DRUG TEST, WILL RECEIVE NO COMBINE HONORS FOR THAT WEEK, AND WILL NOT BE LISTED ON ANY COMBINE RESULT SHEET. THE ENTIRE CLUB WILL BE BANNED FROM SHIPPING ALL FUTURE RACES SPONSORED BY THE COMBINE, UNTIL THEY SUBMIT TO THE DRUG TESTING. IF THAT PARTICULAR CLUB REFUSES FUTURE TESTING, THEN THAT CLUB WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE L.I.C., SUBJECT TO DECISIONS MADE BY THE L.I.C. DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE.

ANY INDIVIDUAL FLYER WHO DOES NOT SUBMIT TO A REQUESTED DRUG TEST, WILL LOSE ALL HONORS AND PRIZES ASSOCIATED WITH THAT PARTICULAR RACE. ONCE THIS OCCURS, THE HONORS AND PRIZES FOR THAT PARTICULAR RACE CANNOT BE RECOVERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL FLYER. IT IS UP TO THE PARENT CLUB TO ENFORCE THIS RULE. NO PRIZES OR HONORS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE CLUB SECRETARY, UNTIL THE TEST RESULTS FROM ANY RACE ARE RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND THE RACE SECRETARY FOR THE CLUB SPONSORED RACE IS NOTIFIED. IF THAT PARTICULAR FLYER REFUSES FUTURE TESTING, THEN THAT FLYER WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_. SUBJECT TO DECISIONS MADE BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE.

ALL, AND ANY DRUG TESTING WILL BE PERFORMED, AND EVALUATED BY THE DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ ONLY.

ANY INDEPENDENT DRUG TESTING DONE BY ANY CLUB OR ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE \_\_\_\_\_ DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID. THE CLUB ATTEMPTING TO PERFORM SUCH TESTS

WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_. AT THE DISCRETION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_. DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE. THIS PERTAINS TO ALL CLUBS ASSOCIATED WITH THE \_\_\_\_\_, AND ALL SPECIAL RACES SPONSORED BY THOSE CLUBS INCLUDING BONDS, FUTURITIES, DERBIES, AND ANY OTHER SPECIAL RACES.

ANY CLUB OFFICER MAY REQUEST A DRUG TEST FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_. DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE FOR ANY RACE SPONSORED BY THAT CLUB. ANY \_\_\_\_\_. MEMBER MAY ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEASON TO VOICE ANY CONCERNS PERTAINING TO DRUG TESTING. ANY CLUB THAT IS FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO PAY FOR DRUG TESTING SHOULD VOICE THAT CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE.

## **22.0 DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE**

- All samples will be collected under the responsibility and supervision of previously appointed “samplers”. The appointed sampler will follow the protocol outlined in this document.
- All collected samples will be stored under frozen conditions at the club or in a secure pre-determined location.
- Instruments and equipment used for the collection of samples required for determining the presence of prohibited substances will be supplied by the designated sampler.
- All instruments and equipment must be kept clean and used in such a manner as to prevent cross contamination, and to protect the integrity of the sample. This could include cages, sealed bottles, wooden spatulas, disposable gloves, plastic sheeting, metal seals, sealing wire, security bags, spoons, stationery etc.
- Non- absorbent sheeting will be used for each test and will be changed after each test.
- All documentation will be carefully prepared by the sampler and completed for all tests conducted.
- A previously prepared sampling kit made up by the sampler, will be opened for each test conducted. The pigeon flyer or a designee and a sampler, must be present to witness the opening of the kit and observe the testing the procedure. If there are any complaints by the pigeon flyer pertaining to the procedure of the test, he or she must voice and write those concerns at the time of testing. The pigeon flyer must sign off on the procedure if everything goes according to protocol. The pigeon flyer who owns the birds, (or a designee), and the official samplers are the only people to be in the testing room at any one-time during sample collections.

- On the morning of the identified race, (which is only known to the sampler), the sampler can contact the club secretary to schedule a test for the first, second, and third place lofts, and possibly any big pool or board winner, at the request of the club secretary. **MULTIPLE POSITIONS BY THE SAME LOFT WILL BE SAMPLED AS ONE TEST.** The day following the race results, the first, second and third place lofts, as well as any identified pool or board winner must be present with their pigeon at the designated club to be tested. **ANY FLIER WHO FAILS TO SHOW WITH HIS BIRDS WIL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM ALL HONORS AND PRIZES,** as described in the protocol above.
- The drug testing committee will also have the option of having a predetermined list of all pigeon fliers to be tested for any particular race, and to conduct a test the night of shipping. It is up to the sampler, to determine the number and names of the particular pigeon flyers to be tested. All pigeon flyers scheduled to be tested for a particular race will be notified upon entering the club house or shipping building. They will be escorted to the drug testing room with their entire race entry. It is left up to the discretion of the samplers to choose which particular pigeons, and how many pigeons are selected from the total entry to be placed in cages and tested. A new testing kit will be used for each different loft tested. This will include a new set of gloves used by the sampler.
- The entire band numbers of tested pigeons must be noted on the data sheets supplied. The filled sample bottles are immediately sealed, seal numbers are recorded, and samples are immediately placed in a secure freezer by collectors. Any remarks about the sampling process, by either collectors, or the pigeon flyer must be noted at this time. The samplers and pigeon flyer must sign the sampling form indicating compliance with the protocol. Sealed samples are stored in a secured freezer for shipment at the soonest mailing available.
- Samples are sent out at the soonest mailing available to a registered lab testing facility:
  - a. TVMDL – College Station  
PO Drawer 3040  
College Station, TX 77841-3040
- After testing is completed the pigeon flyer with his pigeons must be escorted by someone assigned by the club representing the race, directly to the designated shipping area for drug tested bird where the flyer will immediately register birds and have them placed in shipping crates. An extra station for tested fliers would be desirable, however if none is available, tested fliers will be given priority on the shipping line. If for any reason the birds do not go directly to the shipping table, that particular flyer and all of that particular flyer’s birds, will be disqualified from shipping that particular race.

### **23.0 DRUG TESTING – POST TESTING PROCEDURES**

- The drug testing committee must notify the pigeon flyer of positive results within 5 business days after receiving notification by the lab of a positive test for prohibited substances and be provided a copy of the lab report.
- The pigeon flyer will be summoned before the drug testing committee, at which time he may discuss the report findings, and have a prepared rebuttal, and or a means of defense. All pigeon fliers must be afforded this opportunity in the face of a positive test for a prohibited substance.
- Any prizes and race positions won by the pigeon flyer in the race tested will be suspended until a decision by the committee has been reached, in accordance with the testing protocol. This could

potentially delay race and combine results. Upon testing positive for a prohibited substance, and after there commendation of the drug testing committee, a pigeon flyer found guilty of a violation of the regulations outlined in this document, will be subject to the following sanctions:

- The first offense will be the forfeiture of any prizes associated with the race in question, along with all honors associated with that race, in addition:
- The pigeon flyer in violation will have to pay for all expenses associated with their testing when their pigeons are selected for future tests.
- The second offense will be suspension, not exceeding 12 months from the day of the violation. In addition, there will be the forfeiture of any prizes won in the race, along with all honors associated with that race, in addition:
- The pigeon flyer in violation will have to pay for all expenses associated with their testing when their pigeons are selected for future tests.
- A third violation could result in expulsion from the combine, this will be determined by the drug testing committee. Behavior that may be seriously harmful to the ethics, and objectives of the club, may also suggest expulsion.

**All decisions of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the drug testing committee are final and binding and shall not be subject to review or appeal of any kind, including legal proceedings.**

#### **24.0 DRUG TESTING – DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE BY PIGEON FLYER**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ H.P.C. declare on this day, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ that I have read, understand, and will cooperate fully with procedure, and abide by the conditions set forth in the document entitled “Drug Testing Protocol”, which explains the use of prohibited substances in homing pigeons. I agree to comply with the conditions and procedures of said document, including consequences associated with positive test results. I agree that I will not administer any prohibited substances to any of my pigeons. I also agree to entrust my pigeons with whomever the club hires to transport, feed, and water the race birds. I accept that all precautions and care will be taken to ensure that there will be no tampering while collecting samples, or with sealed crates, and that the introduction of any prohibited substances on route to a race is remote and unlikely.

I hereby indemnify the \_\_\_\_\_, against all and any form of prosecution, or the institution of any legal actions, and accept the procedures and consequences outlined in the

document as being a reasonable and fair way to control the use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons.

Flyer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

## **25.0 DRUG TESTING – NOTICE OF POSITIVE TEST FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

With regard to the drug test administered on \_\_\_\_\_, sample number \_\_\_\_\_, which was assigned to your racing pigeon sample. Your sample tested positive for the following substances: \_\_\_\_\_

A copy of the drug testing document sent by the lab is enclosed. All honors and prizes associated with this race will be suspended until you appear before the drug testing committee to discuss the results.

You may prepare a rebuttal, or a means of defense for the meeting. At this meeting, the committee will decide according to the parameters set forth in the Drug Testing Protocol document any action, if any, that will be taken. Any sanctions against you will begin immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

Please note that any private contact or direct communication with the laboratory is prohibited. You have 5 business days to schedule a meeting with the drug testing committee regarding this positive test. After this time, the committee will assume that you do not wish to discuss the findings, and the committee will rule accordingly. You will be notified by phone or certified mail of any sanctions against you. Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at phone number \_\_\_\_\_ to schedule the meeting within 5 days of your notification about this matter.

Sincerely,

The \_\_\_\_\_ Drug Testing Committee

### ***The History of the International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers, Inc.***

***This History was prepared with the help of a previous written article by Gil Hunsinger (deceased) & Val Matteucci (deceased)***

The International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers, Inc., better known as the IF. Was first structured as a temporary organization in 1880 by Edward T. Steele of Philadelphia as President. On November 6, 1881 in Philadelphia, PA. The federation was organized and began to function actively. The 12 organizing fanciers of the newly formed Federation Of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers were from Newark, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, Brooklyn, NY, New York, NY, Fall River, MA, Jersey City, NJ and Hoboken, NJ. Edward T. Steele of Philadelphia, was the first President of this fledgling organization. It was ironical that six of the initial organizers took turns being President of the IF from 1881 to 1896. In 1896, there was reorganization under the name of National Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers. In 1906, the Organization was named International Federation Of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers.

From 1881 to 2009, the IF has had 53 Presidents from various towns and cities, mostly along the Eastern Seaboard. H.E. Nelson wrote an interesting article, "Fifty Years and the IF," which appeared in the April 1935 American Racing Pigeon News. He notes three important developments during the administration of I. Fred Goldman, IF President from 1895 to 1897. First, was the issuance of the seamless band, this helped a great deal in record keeping and identification purposes. Secondly, Goldman was instrumental, with the help of generous and prominent fanciers who advanced their own money, in making it possible for the Federation to purchase timing machines, which were rented

to the members. This was the real start of racing homers in this country. Thirdly, I.W. Sprangdehl, a New York City lithographer, presented the organization with a stone from which the present-day diplomas are made, and they were classed as the prettiest ever presented. Almost from the inception of the IF in 1881, the early leaders began to set down on paper the rules and regulations of the organization. Every few years, these regulations were looked at and revised to fit the needs and requirements of the IF at the time. A number of these same rules and regulations are found in the operational documents of our local clubs, combines and concourses. Ed Topaleski, of Glassport, PA, revised the By-Laws in 1980. The current By-Laws are updated on a yearly basis by the By-Laws Chairperson, Scott Landry, and his committee. They are available for reviewing and/or downloading on the IF website, [www.IFPigeon.com](http://www.IFPigeon.com).

Up until the late 1930s, the IF Convention was attended mostly by men to transact the business of the organization, renew friendships and visit a few outstanding lofts. In recent years, the IF Convention has become a mixture of business, education and pleasure. We now notice that the fancier puts the convention on his vacation schedule and brings his wife. There is a full schedule of women's activities at the convention-bus tours to local places or interest, luncheons, fashion shows, bingo, etc. Attendance of the "little lady" may contribute to harmony back home when the husband is busy training and flying the birds in the races. A wonderful by-product of the convention is the fellowship and friendships that are developed.

Another important development in recent years in the IF has been the increased involvement of women in our sport; that has changed for the better. Starting at the top, the IF has had three women as National Secretary/Treasurer; namely Faith Inglis, Nona Feuerbach, and Marie Rotondo. In addition, women's auxiliaries are the backbone of the social aspects of the club and IF conventions. The IF will continue to strive to be a "Big Brother" to all clubs and provide guidance or direction as required. Our goal is to educate the public and elevate the sport so that it will be accepted by the members, through advertising, personal contact, exhibits, seminars, charity auctions and whatever other avenues might be available to us.

***Herein are the fanciers who took time out since 1880 to serve as Presidents of the IF:***

1881	Daniel S Newhall	Philadelphia, PA
1882	Joseph R Husson	New York, NY
1883-1884	George V Cresson	Philadelphia, PA
1885	William Verrinder Jr.	Jersey City, NJ
1886	E.S. Raymond	Fall River, MA
1887-1888	Jacob C. Bockius	Philadelphia, PA
1889	Joseph R Husson	New York, NY
1890	John Shepherd	Philadelphia, PA
1891	S.G.Morton Maule	Philadelphia, PA
1892	W.B.Garrabrante	Newark, NJ
1893	L.W. Spangehl	Philadelphia, PA
1894	James Work	Philadelphia, PA
1895-1897	T. Fred Goldman	Brooklyn, NY
1898	F.H.S. Morrison	Elizabeth, NJ
1899	William R. Kuell	Milwaukee, WI
1900-1901	Harry Robertson	Brooklyn, NY

1902	Charles Baug	Staten Island, NY
1903-1904	Louis J Kengott	Buffalo, NY
1905-1908	George F Kuett	Patterson, NJ
1908-1909	James Male	Buffalo, NY
1910-1911	George J Hallock Jr	Brooklyn, NY
1912	John P Young	Brooklyn, NY
1913-1917	Charles Ellsworth	Cincinnati, OH
1918-1919	John C Smith	Cleveland, OH
1920-1921	Frank B Lucke	Brooklyn, NY
1922	Arthur T Nelson	Baltimore, MD
1923-1924	James R Ingram	Newark, NJ
1925	John H Holmead	Washington, DC
1926	Charles H Therien	New Bedford, MA
1927-1930	Harry C Burke	Washington, DC
1931	Earl M Henderer	Wilmington, DE
1932-1933	David H Nesbitt	Springfield, MA
1934	William Hunrath	Brooklyn, NY
1935	Benjamin Russello	Brooklyn, NY
1936-1938	Charles J Love	Norristown, PA
1939-1940	Paul Huber	Hillside, NJ
1941-1943	John Kaiser	Oceanside, NY
1944-1945	Joseph Femminella	Hempstead, NY
1945-1947	Lawrence G Rebham	Baltimore, MD
1948-1949	Arthur C Wheatley	Boonton, NJ
1950-1954	Dr. Arthur S Williams	New Shewsbury, NJ
1955-1957	John J Inglis Jr.	Metuchen, NJ
1958-1962	Gilbert L Hunsinger	Bloomfield, NJ
1963-1969	Clarence E. Martin	Richmond, VA
1970-1971	William Walling	Long Branch, NJ
1972-1975	Harry Hansen	Lindenhurst, NJ
1976-1977	William Walling	Long Branch, NJ
1978-1982	Ben Feuerbach	Central Islip, NY
1983-1985	Nick Schiavone	Philadelphia, PA
1986-1988	Joe Lizik	Pittsburg, PA
1989-1995	Matt Reilly	Elmont, NY
1996-1998	Val Matteucci	East Meadow, NY
1999- 2019	Richard Smith	Valley Stream, NY
2020-Present	Kevin Williams	Braintree, MA



