

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **VICTORIAN RACING PIGEON UNION INCORPORATED**

#### **NAME**

1. The name of the incorporated association is “The Victorian Racing Pigeon Union Incorporated.” (In these rules called the VPU)

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSES**

2. The purposes for which The Victorian Racing Pigeon Union Incorporated is established are: -

- a) To encourage the breeding and racing of racing pigeons;
- b) To encourage the staging of combined races between all affiliated clubs;
- c) To encourage an interest in and increase participation in the sport of pigeon racing;
- d) To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship and honesty in the sport of pigeon racing;
- e) For the protection and improvement of pigeon racing and encouragement of Federation races.

#### **STATEMENT OF RULES**

#### **INTERPRETATION**

3. a) In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears: -

“Committee” means the Executive Committee of the VPU.

“Chairman” means person chairing a meeting.

“Financial year” means from the 1st of January to the 31st of December

“Member” means a member of the VPU.

“The Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

“The Regulations” means the regulations under the Act.

b) In these Rules, a reference to the Secretary of the VPU is a reference:-

(i) Where a person holds office under these Rules as secretary of the VPU – to that person; and

ii) In any other case, to the public officer of the VPU.

c) Words or expressions contained in these rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 and the Act as in force from time to time.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

4. The VPU shall consist of financial members of affiliated clubs who shall be governed by the Committee.

5. a) Any club desirous of becoming affiliated shall make application to the VPU Secretary and shall supply a list of at least six of its member's names and locations on the night of application. A vote will be taken for their admission at the following Committee meeting. The Committee, whose decision will be final, shall consider the application for acceptance. In the event of an application being rejected, three months notice in writing, must be given before such club can be again submitted for membership.

b) Any person desirous of becoming a member shall make application to the appropriate club secretary who shall forward the application together with loft location. A vote will be taken for their admission at the following Committee meeting. In the event of an applicant being rejected, three months notice in writing, must be given before such person can be again submitted for membership.

c) No club may have as a member an expelled person of another recognised homing club or Federation. Any affiliated club that retains as a member any expelled person from a recognised homing club or Federation, after being given due notice, shall cease to be an affiliated club of the VPU.

6. Any club retiring from the VPU before the end of the season must waive and forfeit all rights, monies, etc., deposited with the VPU and will be held liable for an equal part of any deficit on general expenses account.

7. All clubs must submit a list of their office bearers to the VPU Secretary for the current year prior to the old bird series. These positions shall include President, Secretary and Clock Chairman.

8. All racing partnerships should have the name of the flyer whose location is being flown from as the first name in such a partnership.

### **ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS**

9. Any club desirous of nominating any VPU member for Life Membership must in the first instance submit such a nomination to the Committee for consideration. The Committee reserves the right not to recommend, without any reason, any nomination, but if any nomination is not recommended by the Committee then the club making such a nomination shall be notified.

### **CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**

10. It shall be incumbent on all members to pay due respect to the Chairperson, and to uphold the dignity of the chair. Any member disobeying the Chairperson's ruling and continues to disobey will have his conduct referred to the Committee, which will have the power to deal with such a member.

11. Any club or member of a club affiliated with the VPU who, in the opinion of the Committee, is guilty of misconduct or of breaking the VPU Rules, may be fined \$50.00, or be liable to suspension or expulsion.

12. The Committee shall decide all questions and disputes of whatever kind arising not provided for in these Rules and By-Laws.

### **OFFICERS**

13. The Officers of the VPU shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary. The duration of appointment of such officers shall be for twelve months with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer where the appointment shall be for three years.

14. The Committee of the VPU shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary and a further seven members who were nominated by their respective clubs and duly elected by ballot by all affiliated VPU members. All members of the committee, except for the Secretary – Treasurer and Assistant Secretary shall be honorary positions.

15. It is provided however that the neglect or failure of any affiliated club to nominate a representative shall not in any way prejudice or limit the rights or powers of the Committee consisting of said Office bearers and such members who may have been nominated by their clubs and elected by VPU ballot to the Committee.

16. The name of each club's nominees to the Committee shall be in the possession of the VPU Secretary-Treasurer by the 31st December of each year. Only three members per club may be nominated.

17. President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the VPU, to preserve order, to give a casting vote on all questions when required, sign the minutes of the previous meeting when confirmed by vote, he shall have a casting vote and he shall have power to call special meetings and sign cheques in conjunction with the Secretary-Treasurer and the Vice-President.

18. Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to attend all meetings and render assistance to the President on all occasions and to perform the duties of President in his stead, when he is absent, when he shall be vested with all the powers of the President.

19. Secretary-Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to convene and attend all meetings, except such as he may be excused by the meeting from attending and keep an accurate account of all business transacted. He shall have charge of all property belonging to the VPU and shall keep in his custody or under his control all books, documents, and securities of the VPU. He shall also produce a Balance Sheet, signed by Auditors, at the Annual Meeting, or at any time when he is requested to do so by the Committee. He shall also have for the information of the Committee a statement of the indebtedness of each affiliated club of the VPU at each meeting. He shall deposit all money in the Bank in the name of the Victorian Racing Pigeon Union and shall in conjunction with the President or Vice-President sign cheques. He shall also, at the

Annual Meeting render a detailed statement, showing clearly the financial position of the VPU.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a register of members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member and the register shall be available for inspection by members at the address of the Public Officer.

20. Assistant-Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary to attend all meetings, and make an accurate record of the business transacted thereat. He shall also assist with the calculating of velocities in connection with VPU races.

21. Auditors: The Auditors shall prior to each annual meeting or at any time the VPU may direct, audit and examine all books, documents and balance sheets, and if correct, sign and certify to same accordingly.

22. Ring Registrar: It shall be the duty of the Ring Registrar to record each new season's ring issue and to keep an up-to-date record of the transferred pigeons and reported strays.

23. All the property of the VPU real and personal shall be vested in the VPU and managed by the current VPU committee. The committee shall deal with the property of the VPU as directed by a resolution of the members at an annual general meeting or a special meeting called for this purpose.

#### **CLOCK COMMITTEE**

24. a) There shall be a clock committee comprising the President, Secretary-Treasurer and one member from each affiliated club. Each member of the committee shall be appointed by his club. The committee shall decide any question in respect to any time record. Three members of the committee shall form a quorum.

b) All due respect shall be shown to the Chairman and the members of the Clock Committee on clock setting and race days and any member whose conduct is deemed disorderly or offensive may be fined \$50, or be liable to suspension or expulsion.

#### **CONVOYER**

25. It shall be the duty of the convoyer to take charge of race birds as soon as accessible and attend same until liberation. A VPU liberation report form will be completed for each race by the convoyer and given to the Secretary – Treasurer within 7 days.

#### **GENERAL**

26. The Committee shall have the power to deal with any business arising between meetings that may not be covered by the Rules or By-Laws.

27. The Committee shall have the power to frame By-Laws for the conduct of all Federation and Special races, and the 'Federation' in such regulations shall be deemed to be identical with the VRPU herein.

28. The VPU shall not be dissolved without the consent, in writing, of three-fourths of the clubs affiliated as aforesaid, such consent to be given by a majority of the members of said respective clubs.

29. The Committee shall have the power to recommend changes to the Rules or Statement of Purposes of the VPU but no such alteration shall take effect until the same has been confirmed at the Annual Meeting or a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. The Committee shall have the power to make By-Laws, Regulations and Conditions (not inconsistent with these Rules), as it may from time to time deem necessary. Half the elected members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

30. It is provided that the President and Secretary-Treasurer shall not have any deliberate vote in any matter under discussion at any Committee meeting, but in the case of the President, he shall have a casting vote if necessary. It is further provided that the President and Secretary-Treasurer shall attend all Committee meetings when possible to act in any advisory capacity to the Committee

31. Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as required, with a minimum of 6 meetings per year.

32. On the death or resignation of any Officer of the VPU or of any member of the Committee or if an Officer of the VPU or member of the Committee shall be removed from the office by a resolution of the Committee, the Committee shall appoint an Officer or Officers of the VPU or member or members of the Committee to fill any vacancy or vacancies so occurring. All such appointees shall hold office or be members of the Committee as the case may be until the next Annual meeting.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

33. The Annual Meeting shall be held in March for the purpose of receiving the annual report and balance sheet, presenting certificates and special prizes won during the past season, and such other business as may be necessary for the welfare of the VPU.

34. The President will call a Special General Meeting on written requisition signed by four clubs specifying the object of it. At any Special General Meeting called by the President twenty (20) members shall form a quorum.

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

35. a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding an Annual or Special General meeting of the VPU, cause to be sent to each member of the VPU at his address appearing in the register of members, a notice

by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

b) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.

c) A member desiring to bring any business before a meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling for the next general meeting after the receipt of the notice.

d) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of at least twenty (20) members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.

### **PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS**

36. All business that is transacted at a special general meeting and all business that is transacted at the annual general meeting with the exception of that specially referred to in these rules as being the ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be deemed to be special business.

37 If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting, a quorum of at least twenty (20) members is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairmen at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place and if at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 3) shall be a quorum.

38 a) The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside as Chairman at each general meeting of the Association.

b) If the President and Vice-President are absent from a general meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairman at the meeting.

c) The Chairman of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

d) Where a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given in the case of the general meeting.

39 The Committee shall have the power to deal with any business arising between meetings.

### **VOTING**

40. A question arising at a general meeting shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration

by the Chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute

41. a) If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than three members, it shall be taken at the meeting in such manner as the Chairman may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting in that question.

b) A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith and a poll that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairman may direct.

42. a) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all monies due and payable by him to the VPU have been paid, other than the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the current financial year.

b) Each financial member is only entitled to one vote.

c) Only one financial member of any partnership is entitled to vote on any matter arising

43. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as his proxy by notice given to the secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.

44. These Rules together with the Statement of Purposes of the VPU may be added to repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting called for the purpose provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting.

45. Notice of Motion to alter or rescind any Rule must first be forwarded to the Committee who shall make certain recommendations to a Special General Meeting called for the purpose or to the following Annual Meeting.

#### **SEAL**

46. a) The Common Seal of the Committee shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary Treasurer.

b) The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the VPU.

#### **ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES**

47. These rules and the statement of purposes of the Union shall not be altered except in accordance with the Act.

## **NOTICES**

48. a) A notice may be served by or on behalf of the VPU upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member's known address.

b) Where a document is properly addressed prepaid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

## **WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION**

49. In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the VPU, the assets of the VPU shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

## **FUNDS**

50. The funds of the VPU shall be derived from entrance fees, annual subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the Committee determine.

## **RACE CONDITIONS**

51. The Committee shall have the power to frame Regulations for the conduct of races between pigeons belonging to various Clubs in affiliation with the VPU, and 'Federation,' in such regulations, shall be deemed to be identical with the Victorian Racing Pigeon Union herein.

52. It shall be the duty of the Committee to provide a series of races on four routes, West, North West, North and North East. They shall have the power to alter or vary the race schedule or race route or the day the race will be conducted at any time should the necessity arise. Race schedules for the subsequent year shall be presented to clubs not later than the AGM each year.

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

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

55. The VPU shall not be responsible for any loss or damage of any birds at any time under any circumstances whatsoever.
56. The VPU, in all races, shall provide food and water for all race birds under their charge where necessary, and in accordance with the code of practice.
57. The birds are to be fed a mixture of 50% dun peas and 50% maple peas whilst in the care of the convoyer.
58. All pigeons should arrive at the race point a minimum of three hours prior to being liberated in all VPU races, or within a time as decided by the liberation committee
59. For birds to be eligible to compete in any Young or Old bird race the ring must be registered in the name of the owner, seven days prior to the commencement of the respective Young or Old bird season.
60. Registration lists for the forthcoming racing season to be forwarded to Ring Registrar prior to the 1st of March for Young bird flyers and the 1st of June for Old bird flyers.
61. Unless, in the opinion of the Committee, a clerical error has occurred, the numbers on the rubber race ring, produced in clock, must correspond with those on the entry form.
62. Any competitor other than the VPU President and Secretary-Treasurer and any member of the liberation committee contacting the Convoyer or in any way interfering with the liberation of birds shall be debarred from the race and future competition in the VPU for such times as the Committee may determine.
63. Any member of the VPU sending birds for liberation to the race point on the day of races, otherwise than through his Club, shall be disqualified for the remainder of the season.
64. All birds competing in Federation races must be basketed as directed by the VPU.
65. No pigeon, which in the opinion of any member of the Committee or elected room steward, is in any way unfit to compete, shall be allowed to compete in any race conducted by the VPU. Any pigeon showing signs of pigeon pox shall be refused entry into race units.
66. Any member desiring to inoculate their racing pigeons with pigeon pox serum must complete the inoculation by the second weekend in May. Any birds inoculated after this date without the written approval of the VPU Committee will be ineligible to compete in that season's Old Bird Series.
67. Statements as to entry numbers, pools etc are to be forwarded to the VPU Secretary on the night of basketing. The VPU will accept late entries for nomination races at a cost of \$2.00 per bird extra to normal entry fees.

68. All self-contained Federation races with the exception of the 5 bird race, 800km, and 960km races will race for prize money as follows - 50% to open fed and 50% to section. Section prize money will be allotted pro rata to the number of birds sent in each section.

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

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

71. Up to two VPU members may compete and fly their birds to the same loft or premises. Each member is entitled to compete under the same rules and fees that apply to members competing individually to their own loft or premises. Each VPU member must all the races they compete in during the season to the same loft or premises, unless they are incapable of doing so by a change of residence or otherwise, in which case the Committee may grant to fly their birds to another loft or premises.

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

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

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

75. The Federation prizes and awards will be awarded on the system of velocity proper i.e. the bird making the greatest velocity and complying with all the VPU Rules and Regulations to be deemed the winner.

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

77. Should only one flyer get a bird home within the time limit he or she shall be entitled to all the prize money, but should two or more competitors home birds within the limit, they shall be entitled to divide all surplus prize money. This does not include pool money, unless one of the birds is entered in a particular pool.

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

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

80. In the case of races extending over one day where there are no pigeons homing on the day of liberation, the closure of the race shall be sunset and re-opened at sunrise. In the event of a pigeon arriving after the official closure of the race, the race shall re-open on the clocking of that pigeon and close 30 minutes later. The same procedure to apply to all birds clocked prior to sunrise.

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

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

### **AGGREGATE**

83. The VPU shall award a trophy to the winner of the Short Distance, Long Distance and combined Old bird aggregates.

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

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

### **PROTESTS**

86. Protests of any description must be submitted in writing and received by the Secretary within 14 days of declaration of race.

### **FEDERATION**

87. There shall be 10 Federation positions awarded in the Young Bird series and 20 Federation positions awarded in the Old Bird series, with prize money allocated to the first 15 positions only in the old bird series. The VPU shall award a trophy to all young and old bird federation winners.

### **CLOCKS**

88. All competitors in Federation Races must have a clock specially made for timing homing pigeons, the same to have the approval of the Committee and no alteration shall be allowed to any clock, other than may be sanctioned by the Committee.

89. All clocks used by competitors in Federation races must be set and sealed as decided by the Committee and shall have a number thereon. No competitor shall have more than one clock for each Federation race, and shall have the name of the competitor thereon.

90. In the event of a clock ceasing to function after a bird has been timed in, the clock Committee shall disqualify such clock from such race but the owner of such clock may take the stopped clock to the Club Clock Chairman who has the power to open such clock and transfer the rubber ring and thimble to another clock and stamp the time of such transfer. The time recorded at such transfer is then accepted as the time of arrival of the pigeon. The faulty clock to be retained by the club clock chairman and presented to the Clock Committee for inspection the same day.

91. All birds competing in any Club, Federation or Special race conducted by the VPU must carry a rubber race ring. Only one rubber race ring can be placed in the recognised thimble, which must be then put in the clock provided for that purpose. For thimble-less clocks only one rubber race ring can be placed in each clocking hole. If more than one rubber race ring is placed in the thimble or thimble-less clock hole that competitor will be disqualified and no time will be given to any bird flown by that competitor in that race.

92. The VPU Committee shall have the power to view any competitors clock at any time during the progress of a race and impound same if found to be faulty. In the event that a flyer uses a clock specifically designed to be operated thimble-less and the Committee has approved that clock, that flyer does not have to use a thimble.

93. Benzing computer clocks are approved for use in VPU Federation events. As these clocks do not have a paper tape in them, the code number inserted for each particular race is to be recorded on the clock sheet at the time of clock setting and checked at the time of clock presentation. It is the sole responsibility of the flyer that uses this type of clock to produce a printer on race days so a readout can be retrieved for race calculations. In the event that it is impossible to produce a read out tape for a particular race then the flyer will be given no time.

94. Where dolometers are present on clocks they are to be checked annually. Dolometers are to be reset at zero for each race. Any clock on being returned with a dolometer reading of 5 or above, will be penalized one minute for each full gradient of 5 showing on the dolometer. The penalty shall be added to the clocking time.

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

96. a) All clocks to be started at actual time, obtained from a chronometer, and a record of the time kept. Hole 2 to be showing when leaving the rooms.

b) In the event of a clock when compared against the chronometer after clocking showing a variation in excess of five (5) seconds to the hour either way, fast or slow;

i) In the event of a fast clock the full proportion of variation (5 secs each hour) up to the time of clocking be deducted from the clocking time and any variation in excess of five (5) seconds shall remain the actual clocking time.

ii) In the event of a slow clock the full proportion of variation (5 secs each hour) up to the time of clocking shall be added to the clocking time and any variation in excess of five (5) seconds each hour shall be doubled and then added to the clocking time. The foregoing rules cannot be so construed as to prevent the Clock Committee from exercising the powers invested in it and any member whose clock varies in excess of ten (10) seconds to the hour must notify the VPU Secretary or a member of the Clock Committee before clocking.

c) All paper rolls must bear the name of the race, the club, flyer's name, number, setting date and two signatures, at least one a Clock Committee member. If paper roll is incomplete no time will be given.

d) In all Federation events a competitor may clock pool birds as well as Federated birds but only the first competing bird clocked shall under any circumstances be entitled to compete for the Federation event.

e) Pool birds must be entered on the entry forms in the section provided for pool birds, and verified in the usual manner. All pool birds can be clocked and be eligible to take pool prizes providing they have leading velocities.

97. a) Any competitor who shall, prior to the clocking of his bird, find the clock issued to him at fault, can have it replaced with a clock that has been set by the Clock Committee for the race, by the club clock chairman or representative, who shall be responsible for the production of the faulty clock, as required by the Committee.

b) In the event of any clock being found to be faulty on a race bird homing, the owner may, if permitted, clock his bird in any clock that has been set by the Clock Committee for the race. The faulty clock is to be produced to the VPU Clock Committee at clock checking for the race before such clock is used again.

98.a) Any member, after clocking, desirous of having his clock checked and his variation recorded, may make application to the Chairman of the Clock Committee for such purpose. A fee for this service shall be \$10.00.

b) The VPU shall not accept responsibility for damage sustained to any clock under any

99 The VPU have adopted new electronic timing system rules as published on the VPU website [www.vrpu.com](http://www.vrpu.com)

### **CLOCK PRODUCTION**

100. In all young bird Federation races clocks are to be produced at the VPU rooms within 90 minutes of clocking or as otherwise directed by the Committee.

101. In all old bird Federation races up to and including the 600km races clocks are to be produced at clocking centres within 90 minutes of clocking or as otherwise directed by the VPU Committee.

102. For all races over 600km clocks are to be produced at the VPU rooms at 8:00pm on the day of liberation or on the day following the day of liberation or as otherwise directed by the Committee. The only occasions that these times can be exceeded are when a member is still within 90 minutes of clocking.

103. In races where birds are clocked on weekdays, clock production will be at the VPU rooms at 8:00pm or as otherwise directed.

104. Failure to produce clocks at the nominated time without a valid reason, that competitor may not be granted any time for that race or fined a penalty of \$50.

105. All clocks competing in Federation events must be produced at the clock checking rooms at the time appointed with all seals intact. Any competitor failing to comply with this Rule may be fined \$50.00 or not granted any time or both.

### **GENERAL**

106. VPU members are reminded that it is a Federal offence to liberate pigeons within close proximity of any airport.

107. All areas of the VPU rooms are smoke free areas in line with Government laws and duty of care.

### **HIRE OF UNION ROOMS**

108. A fee of \$100 will be charged for any financial VPU member of club using the VPU rooms for pigeon sales. A fee of \$200 will be charged for any non-VPU member or club wishing to hire the rooms. An extra fee of \$50 will be charged for setting up sale pens and the cleaning of rooms if required. Any pigeon shows or other non-profit activities conducted by clubs will not be charged for.

### **STRAY PIGEONS**

109. a) Any member whose loft a pigeon other than his own may come, shall at once give notice to the Ring Registrar that he has such a bird. The Ring Registrar will immediately inform the owner of the lost bird.

b) The owner of the lost bird, upon being notified by the Ring Registrar as to its whereabouts, shall be compelled to arrange for the recovery or disposal of the said bird within seven (7) days of receipt of notice.

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

### **TRANSFER OF PIGEONS**

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

### **LIFE RINGS**

112. a) No life rings shall be issued by the VPU prior to the first day of July in each year.

b) All VPU rings must be sold in multiples of ten, except for Special event rings, which may be sold individually.

113. All birds competing in Federation races must be rung with an intact life ring not defaced

in any way. Only VRPU rings or rings approved by the VPU will be accepted. No overseas rings will be recognized by the VPU.

114. All young birds competing in Federation young bird races must be rung with VRPU, VHA, WPF or MELB rings of the current series or any other recognized rings issued after the 1st July and approved by the Committee.

### **BOUNDARIES**

115. The boundaries of the Union shall be as follows. All that area west of Plenty Rd in the North until the junction with Darebin Creek at Kingsbury, then west of Darebin Creek until it meets with Heidelberg Rd. North of Heidelberg Rd until Hoddle St, then west of Hoddle St/Punt Rd and north of Kerford Rd at St Kilda. There are no Western or Northern boundaries.

116. There will be two sections in the VPU, namely the East section and West section, which are arrived at as follows. The East section to be all that area within the VPU boundary east of Sydney Rd/Hume Hwy. The West section to be all that area within the VPU boundary west of Sydney Rd/Hume Hwy.

#### **BIRD OF THE YEAR**

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

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

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

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