



INTRODUCTION

The Vaal Pigeon Union (hereafter referred to as the Union) to which several clubs are affiliated has undertaken to recall the present constitution and to replace it with a new constitution which will incorporate sections which fall under the auspices of SANPO and the Gauteng Province Sports Council, and to make the new constitution available in both English and Afrikaans versions. (The proposed new constitution is to be presented at the Union AGM which is scheduled to be held on the 9th April 2022)

1. Recall

The existing constitution is hereby recalled and this constitution will replace it as from a date yet to be determined by the Management committee. New matters arising as well as existing outstanding matters will be dealt with in accordance with this new constitution.

Any un-ratified rules and/or decisions made according to the old constitution and which are recalled will as far as possible be implemented if it is not in total conflict with requirements of the new constitution and will be considered as having been made under corresponding regulations of this constitution.

CONSTITUTION OF THE VAAL PIGEON UNION

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1. DEFINITIONS

The following terms and phrases, shall have the meaning as indicated:

- 1.1 **UNION** the **Vaal Pigeon Union-(VPU)**;
- 1.2 **CONSTITUTION** this constitution of the **VPU**;
- 1.3 **SANPO** the **South African National Pigeon Organisation**;
- 1.4 **MEMBERS** the organisations affiliated with the **VPU** as set out in **Clause 5.1**;
- 1.5 **RULES/REGULATIONS** - the rules and regulations adopted by the **VPU** or decided upon by the Management Committee, in the terms of the constitution, for the management and administration of the Union;
- 1.6 **SASCOC** the **South African Sport Council and Olympic Committee**;
- 1.7 **GPSC** the **Gauteng Province Sports Council**;
- 1.8 **RSA-** **Republic of South Africa.**
- 1.9 **PROVINCIAL RACES** races in which all the **MEMBERS** participate.

2. NAME

The name of the Union will be the **Vaal Pigeon Union (VPU)**.

3. INCEPTION AND LEGAL PERSONALITY

The Union will come into existence upon acceptance of this constitution by the Members.

The Union will have legal personality, be independent and shall:

- 3.1. Exist in its own right, separate from its members;
- 3.2. Be able to own property and other possessions;
- 3.3. Be able to sue and be sued in its own name;
- 3.4. The organisation will continue to exist even when its membership changes and there are different office bearers;
- 3.5. Member or office bearers of the organization do not have rights over things that belong to the organization.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Union are the following:

- 4.1. To initiate, develop and protect the **VPU** as a Pigeon organization, for the benefit of all pigeon fanciers in the **Vaal Triangle and parts of the Northern Free state**.
- 4.2. To accommodate, develop and encourage the participation in all kinds of pigeon sport, including but not limited to pigeon racing, and show racing pigeons.
- 4.3. To generally grow and foster the love, keeping of and competing with pigeons.
- 4.4. To create a unity, common understanding and cooperation amongst all racing pigeon fanciers in the **VPU**, firstly amongst all members but also for the general benefit, quality improvement, better health and better organised competition in the racing pigeon sport.
- 4.5. To educate and create a better understanding of the domestic racing pigeons generally.
- 4.6. To engage public participation and interest in the domestic racing pigeon sport, in the **VPU**.
- 4.7. To develop structures, rules and norms with the help of management, sub-committees and members in general, for the proper, effective and non-profitable participation in domestic racing pigeon sport amongst members within its boundaries.

- 4.8. To affiliate to **The Gauteng Province (GPPF)**, **SANPO**, **SASCOC**, Gauteng Sports Confederation, and all other relevant organisations for the proper and legal management of all pigeon sport.
- 4.9. To engage and develop a better relationship and cooperation with the **SPCA**, to the benefit of the domestic racing pigeon specifically and all parties concerned.
- 4.10. To help and assist the management of all clubs, that form part of the membership of the **VPU**.
- 4.11. To apply and promote, good, sound and proper financial management and financial practices, in the VPU and amongst all its members.
- 4.12. To organize and manage fair participation in competitions.
- 4.13. To provide or facilitate and manage cost effective transport arrangements.
- 4.14. To make and promote rules for the proper and respectful conduct, as well as “fair play”, amongst all members and fanciers, as well as the public at large.
- 4.15. To investigate and take the necessary action, in the event of irregularities that may occur in the VPU, or among its members.
- 4.16. To adjudicate, decide and pronounce on all appeals lodged within the VPU.
- 4.17. To promote and apply the principle of no discrimination against any race, gender, disability, religion, political orientation or any other aspect whatsoever.
- 4.18. To recognize and acknowledge achievement of excellence in competition, administration, management and exceptional contributions, towards the VPU pigeon sport in general.
- 4.19. To manage and keep proper records of all management decisions, meetings, administrative functions and performance in competition, by members and fanciers.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1. The following clubs are currently members of the **VPU** in alphabetical order.
 - 5.1.1. **Emfuleni Posduifklub (EPK)**;
 - 5.1.2. **Heilbron Posduifklub (HPK)**;
 - 5.1.3. **Koppies Elite Posduifklub (KEPK)**;
 - 5.1.4. **Playfair Uitnodigings Wedvlugduiweklub (PLF)**;
 - 5.1.5. **Overvaal Poduifklub (OPK)**;
 - 5.1.6. **Parys Posduifklub (PPK)**;
 - 5.1.7. **Supreme Flightklub (SFK)**;
 - 5.1.8. **Vanderbijlpark Posduifklub (VPK)**.

- 5.2.** Any pigeon club with a minimum of 4 (four) independent members who want to keep, breed and/or race pigeons, may obtain membership within the VPU, on condition that such organisation, undertakes to also affiliate as a member of **GPPF** as well as **SANPO** and to comply, adhere and apply this as well as all relevant and applicable legislation, ordinances and by-laws of each constitution.
- 5.3.** Applications for membership must be made to the **Management Committee (MC)** who will consider the application. The application will be decided on at the next **AGM**. A Member remains a member of good standing on condition that it remains properly constituted, pays all fees applicable, adheres to the provisions of this constitution and was represented at the last **AGM**.
- 5.4.** A new applicant to a club in the **VPU** to produce a letter of “good standing”, indicating that he/she does not have any outstanding commitments towards his/her previous club or union.
- 5.5.** A first-time applicant must complete the necessary application form of a specific club/union for consideration as a member.
- 5.6. Junior Members**
- 5.6.1. Any person under the age of 18 can be considered as being a junior member and can race under the status of a junior member;
- 5.6.2. Junior members must be allowed to race at costs determined by the **VPU AGM**. They may however not be allowed to participate in where prize monies are involved “money race”;
- 5.6.3. A Junior Member may not be considered as a member of the **MC**;
- 5.6.4. The number of pigeons that a Junior Member may race is five (5);
- 5.6.5. The pigeons residing under the Junior Members name for each specific year may not be transferred to another fancier for entry and participation by that fancier in any races in that specific year.
- 5.7. Participating lofts**
- 5.7.1. Where two (2) persons from the same club have the intention to race from one loft but each individual uses his/her own clock such a decision must be declared fourteen (14) days prior to commencement of season;
- 5.7.2. Both such members as in 5.7.1 will be held responsible for full membership fees of the **VPU, GPPF** and **SANPO**;
- 5.7.3. Each of the two (2) shall be responsible for his /her full transport costs.

5.8. Partnerships

- 5.8.1. Where a loft is in partnership and controlled as such, both members shall be eligible for full membership fees to the **VPU, GPPF and SANPO**. Transport costs to be determined by the number of pigeons to be raced i.e., 10/15/20 per race;
- 5.8.2. Any disciplinary action shall be enforced on both members of such a partnership whether single entity or not.

6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 The **Management Committee (MC)** will consist of the following and be elected by the **AGM** for a four (4) year term to coincide with the four (4) year term of **GPPF & SANPO**. The organisation will continue to exist even when its membership changes and there are different office bearers.

6.2 **Chairperson;**

Responsible for all activities in the VPU according to rules and regulations as per constitution;

6.2.1 Delegate instructions, control at all time;

6.2.2 Ensure these are executed in accordance with constitution and to the benefit of the racing pigeon sport in general;

6.2.3 In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman is to chair all **MC** meetings.

6.3 **Vice Chairperson;**

Ensure that he is up to date with all activities in the **VPU** enabling him to assist the Chairman as well as acting on his behalf if required.

6.4 **Secretary;**

Ensure all notifications with regards to meetings are properly and timeously communicated. (Ref to 9.2);

6.4.1 Updating and distribution of minutes of meetings;

6.4.2 Control general communications to/from the **VPU** and its members;

6.4.3 Ensure that the VPU constitution is kept up to date;

6.4.4 Keep a database of all members of the **VPU** and communicated to relevant MC members;

6.4.5 Ensure communication to and from **GPPF** and **SANPO** is properly coordinated amongst members and **MC** of the **VPU**.

6.5 Race Secretary:

6.5.1 Updating of all race liberation points and distances;

6.5.2 Collecting of all race entry forms from each individual club;

6.5.3 Reconciliation of results of each race point;

6.5.4 Control of all Union as well as Combine race liberation points;

6.5.5 Together with the Transport Secretary ensure the safe and timeous liberation of racing pigeons;

6.5.6 Inform Clubs if and when a liberation point or time of liberation changes.

6.6 Treasurer;

6.6.1 Proper bookkeeping;

6.6.2 Collection of all money;

6.6.3 Settlement of accounts;

6.6.4 Collection and settlement of all prize money payable;

6.6.5 Budgeting for year ahead;

6.6.6 Preparation of auditable financial reports of financial transactions in the **VPU**.

6.7 Ring steward /Supply official

6.7.1 Proper control of stock;

6.7.2 Ordering, selling, distribution of stock amongst clubs;

6.7.3 Ensure Treasurer receives a just report of all transactions;

6.7.4 Trace and report any lost pigeon in and amongst members of **VPU**.

6.8 Transport Officer.

6.8.1 Ensure proper condition of truck and the trailer of the **VPU**;

6.8.2 Collecting and distributing of racing baskets on days of basketing amongst different clubs within the **VPU**;

6.8.3 Ensure enough food and water on truck for racing pigeons;

6.8.4 Together with the Race Secretary ensure the safe and timeous liberation of racing pigeons;

6.8.5 Inform Race Secretary if and when a liberation points or time of liberation changes.

6.9 Publicity Officer

- 6.9.1 Ensure proper sound publicity with regards to racing pigeon events in the **VPU** amongst the pigeon fraternity;
 - 6.9.2 Maintain and update the **VPU** racing pigeon website (<http://vpupigeons.co.za/>);
 - 6.9.3 Publish joint basketing, prize giving functions, results and all good standing events within the **VPU**.
- 6.10 The **Daily Management Committee (DMC)** shall include the following Management Members and Office-Bearers, who shall manage the day-to-day functions and matters of the **VPU**, under supervision of the **MC**:
- 6.10.1 Chairperson;**
 - 6.10.2 Vice Chairperson;**
 - 6.10.3 Secretary**
 - 6.10.4 Treasurer**
 - 6.10.5 Race Secretaery**
 - 6.10.6 Ring steward**
 - 6.10.7 Transport officer, and**
 - 6.10.8 Publicity Officer**

7 POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND DAILY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The **MC** and **DMC** has the power of attorney and authority, to take all and any necessary decisions, actions and steps, for the proper management of the **VPU** and the fulfilment of the **Aims/Objectives** contained herein and the following authority, shall rest in them:

- 7.10** To ensure true and honest bookkeeping, of all transactions and the proper keeping of financial records and the annual submission thereof at the **AGM**, full annual, auditable financial statements, for the previous financial year of all transactions conducted.
- 7.11** To provide a preliminary race programme for each season containing all information such as race point, date thereof, distance, basketing date, liberation time, transport and entry fees. This program to be presented to the **members**, for approval, at least 14 days prior to commencement of the first race by the **AGM**.
- 7.12** Determine borders of the **VPU** and present this to members for approval.
- 7.13** To refer any subject, matter, appeal or review back to original club to re-open or re-trial if deemed necessary.

To be able to approve the transfer, lending or investing of the funds of the Union in any way deemed to be in the interest or promotion of the Union. Manage all the assets of the **VPU** on behalf of its members. Decisions regarding issues that could

affect the assets will only be implemented after proper consultation with all its members.

- 7.14** Compensation to any **(MC)** or other VPU members can only be done if the transaction was performed in the interest of the VPU and approval obtained via standard and good management practices.

Exercise the power of attorney on behalf of the VPU by means of a resolution and signed by any two of the following committee members:

- The Chairman;
- Vice Chairman;
- The treasurer;
- Secretary.

For approval that will include any of the following - cheques, transactions or contracts.

- 7.15** To keep, safeguard and provide for administrative record and databases, all steps and actions taken, including but not limited to, all agendas, minutes of meetings, correspondence, appeal records, the constitution, rules and regulations.
- 7.16** In general, to be able to negotiate, trade with any of the assets of the **VPU** to its benefit and extension.
- 7.17** Determine on a yearly basis the membership and transport costs. Special levies can be implemented throughout the year if and when necessary.
- 7.18** If and when necessary draw transfer money from the **VPU** bank account for honorarium or bonus to **MC** members.
- 7.19** Appoint, delegate responsibly and powers to a committee compiled by the Chairman, vice Chairman and 2 (two) elected members of the **MC**. These to report back during the next meeting with regards to handling of any issues identified.
- 7.20** Attend any of the clubs in the **VPU's** meetings when basketing takes place, take clock readings to ensure all requirements of this constitution are adhered to. This competency can be delegated to any member of the **MC**.
- 7.21** When required request a special general meeting.
- 7.22** Appoint any person, an employee or officer on behalf of the **VPU**, determine such salaries and be able to terminate these services at any time.
- 7.23** Consider/react/deal with any issue not covered in this constitution keeping in mind that this should always be in the interest of the sport.
- 7.24** Ensure the necessary means are in place to stay affiliated to **SANPO**.

- 7.25** Affiliate with any organization with the aim to improve the racing pigeon sport in general. Such a decision to be approved by the **MC**
- 7.26** Ensure yearly dope testing is done as per requirement of 1 (one) test per 20 (twenty) members.
- 7.27** To investigate and make enquiries, into the misconduct, dishonesty violation or infringement by any Member and/or person/s and/or clubs of any Member, and to impose fines, suspension penalties or other appropriate sanction and to take the necessary steps, to uphold and enforce the compliance of this Constitution, decisions by the **MC** or rules and regulations in terms of this Constitution.
- 7.28** To communicate exclusively, by letter, email, fax, social media, phone or otherwise with Members, **GPPF, SANPO, SPCA, SASCOG**, the Public at large and all other parties on behalf of the **VPU** and the Pigeon Sport within its region in general.
- 7.29** To convene and hold meetings, to ensure proper management of the **VPU** and its Members, in terms of this Constitution.
- 7.30** To prosecute, institute or defend legal proceedings, appoint legal representation, obtain legal advice, enter into contracts and agreements, appoint employees, contractors, auditors, and all other necessary persons and/or professionals.
- 7.31** To organize and control races, championships and competitions and decide on the prize format, trophies to be awarded, costs, participation and rules thereof.
- 7.32** To open, control and manage bank accounts and investments, in the name of the **VPU** and to draw, receive and deposit money or make payments, electronically or otherwise, issue cheques, invoices, receipts, accounts, bills of exchange, guarantees and all other applicable, financial institutions or documents.
- 7.33** To obtain / negotiate sponsorships, funding and finance necessary, in the discretion of the **MC**.
- 7.34** To hear and adjudicate appeals by and against Members.
- 7.35** To compensate pre-authorized expenses, incurred by Members and/or persons for travel, lodging, administration or otherwise, on behalf of the **VPU**.
- 7.36** To dismiss any Member/s from the **MC**.
- 7.37** To co-opt additional members or person/s deemed necessary to provide services and/or expertise, to the benefit of the **VPU** or the Pigeon Sports in general.

8 MEETINGS OF MANAGEMENT

- 8.10 MC Meetings**, shall take place, as and when required if called upon by the **Chairperson**, at a venue, date and time, as determined by the **Chairperson**.
- 8.11** A quorum for any **MC** meetings shall be seventy five percent (75%) representation.
- 8.12** Notice of meetings, accompanied by the agenda, setting out the matters to be discussed, at such a meeting, shall be given by the Secretary, to the **MC**, whichever is applicable, in writing, at least one (1) week prior to the meeting, in the event of a **MC meeting**, by fax, email or phone text message.
- 8.13** All decisions and or proposals during a **MC** meeting shall be accepted purely by a majority vote. The **Chairperson**, will direct the procedure followed at a meeting, on condition that every member of the **MC** shall have one (1) vote and the **Chairperson**, presiding over the meeting, shall have a casting vote in the case where a deadlock ensues.
- 8.14** If any member of the **MC** is not able or does not want to attend such a meeting the remaining members may appoint or co-opt a representative with the only reservation that a club has not more than 2 (two) representatives.
- 8.15** Any 3rd (third) party being used, within any management position of the **MC**, to attend such meetings if required.
- 8.16** If deemed necessary, by the **Chairperson**, the **MC** meetings, may be held by conference call, telephone or skype.
- 8.17** The **Chairperson**, or in his absence, the **Vice-Chairperson**, or if both are absent, any member of the **MC** so nominated by the members present, shall be the **Chairperson** at such a meeting.
- 8.18** Minutes of meetings shall be circulated to all members of the **MC**, within fourteen (14) working days, from date of the Meeting and shall be approved at the next meeting.

9 GENERAL MEETINGS

9.10 Notice of Meetings:

- 9.11** An **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** or **Special General Meeting (SGM)**, shall be convened by the Secretary, with twenty-one (21) working days prior, written notice to all Members, either by email, fax, registered post or phone text message,

accompanied by an Agenda and Minutes of the previous **AGM**; An AGM shall be scheduled to take place before end April of each year.

9.12 The periods set out in **9.2** above, may be shortened to no less than seven (7) days, if deemed necessary, by the **Chairperson**.

9.13 Failure to receive notice, by any Member/s, shall not declare the notice or meeting, invalid.

9.14 Representation at Meetings:

Every Member, in good standing, present at an **AGM**, shall be allowed to participate and vote at General Meetings. Each member shall have **one (1)** vote and decisions will be taken, by majority vote, on condition that the **Chairperson** presiding, will have a casting vote in the case of a voting deadlock “equal number of votes”.

9.15 Quorum:

A minimum of **50%, plus one (1)** nominated representative, of Members in good standing, shall constitute a quorum at any General Meeting. If a quorum is not present, the meeting will be adjourned for **seven (7) days**, to a venue, date and time directed by the Chairperson, and all members then present, shall constitute a quorum.

9.16 Procedure at General Meetings:

9.16.1 The **Chairperson** or **Vice-Chairperson**, or in their absence, a **Chairperson** then elected by the Members present, for the meeting, shall preside as **Chairperson**;

9.16.2 At an **AGM**, the following procedure shall be followed:

9.16.2.1 Determining a quorum;

9.16.2.2 Opening and welcoming of Members present;

9.16.2.3 Joy and Sorrow;

9.16.2.4 Approval & adopting minutes of previous meeting;

9.16.2.5 Hearing and adopting of **Chairperson’s** report;

9.16.2.6 Consideration and adopting of Treasurer’s or Audited Financial report for previous financial year;

9.16.2.7 Election of Management (if applicable);

10 DISMISSAL OR FORFEITURE FROM OFFICE

- 10.10** A member of management, may be dismissed from office by the **MC**, if he/she fails to comply with duties, imposed by this constitution or management, or is found guilty of misconduct or of any act of which dishonesty is an element;
- 10.11** If a member of management, is absent from **two (2)** or more successive meetings, without leave, it shall be presumed, that such a member, has forfeited his/her office.

11 RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The **MC**, shall develop and implement a code of conduct for all Members and rules and regulations for racing, clocks, basketing, transport, release of pigeons, as follow:

11.10 CODE OF CONDUCT – Annexure “A”;

11.11 RACING – Annexure “B”;

11.12 CLOCKS – Annexure “C”;

11.13 BASKETING – Annexure “D”;

11.14 TRANSPORTING – Annexure “E”;

11.15 RELEASE – Annexure “F”;

11.16 DOPING – Annexure “G”.

11.17 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS – Annexure “H”

and such other rules, as the **MC** may deem necessary, or decide upon.

12 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If a dispute arises between Members, or between a member/s and the **VPU** on any issue, the dispute may be referred for resolution. The following procedure shall then be followed:

12.10 The aggrieved party shall declare a dispute, by notifying the other party in writing, within **seven (7)** days after the dispute has arisen, setting out the full particulars thereof;

12.11 The addressee shall answer to the dispute, in writing within **seven (7)** days from the receipt of the notification.

12.12 The **MC** to act or appoint someone as a Mediator.

12.13 The appointed Mediator, shall informally discuss and if possible, meet with the representative/s of both parties together, study the written dispute, this Constitution, and all other relevant information and documentation, to resolve the dispute, within twenty-one (21) days.

12.14 No remuneration shall be payable to such Mediator, but his/her fair and reasonable travel and lodging expenses, applicable, shall be paid, by the parties equally, upon request;

12.15 In the event that the dispute is resolved, a written resolution of settlement, shall be drawn up, which shall be signed and binding on both parties, and sent to the Secretary, for recording purposes.

12.16 In the event that the dispute is not resolved, either or both parties shall be entitled to lodge an appeal as per Addendum "D".

12.17 No legal representation shall be allowed in the dispute or during the mediation process.

13 APPEAL

Appeals, by any Member, shall be lodged within the **VPU**.
The following procedure and rules, shall be applicable:

13.10 The **MC** to appoint a sub-committee (**SC**) to assist in resolving the appeal.

13.11 Appeals shall be submitted in writing, to the Secretary, within **fourteen (14) days** from the date of the decision, appealed against.

13.12 The appeal shall set out the decision appealed against and the grounds thereof;

13.13 An Appeal shall be accompanied by payment of the appeal administration fee of **R500-00 (FIVE HUNDRED RAND)**, payable to the Treasurer.

- 13.14** The Secretary shall determine a date for adjudicating the appeal and the **SC**, must finalize the appeal, within **thirty (30) days**, from date of lodgement of the notice of appeal.
- 13.15** The unsuccessful party shall be ordered and be liable for payment of the appeal adjudicating costs, in the amount of **R500-00 (FIVE HUNDRED RAND)**, payable within **seven (7) days**, from finalization of the appeal.
- 13.16** The **SC** dealing with the appeal shall have the following powers:
- 13.16.1** To clarify any uncertainties concerning the appeal with the relevant parties;
- 13.16.2** To confirm, set aside or alter the decision or conviction;
- 13.16.3** To confirm, set aside or alter the action taken or the sanction imposed.
- 13.16.4** To refer the matter back to the **MC** panel/committee/Member for a retrial with regards to any conviction or sanction.
- 13.17** Any party, who feels aggrieved by the outcome of the appeal, shall be entitled to appeal to **GPPF**, in terms of the latter's constitution, within **fourteen (14) days** from receiving the outcome, in writing, from the Secretary of the **MC**.

14 FINANCES (MEMBERSHIP & TRANSPORT FEES)

- 14.1 The organisation may not give any of its money or property to its members or office bearers. The only time it can do this is when it pays for work that a member or office bearer has done for the organisation. The payment must be a reasonable amount for the work that has been done.
- 14.2 The VPU financial year will extend from **1 March of each year through to 28 February of the next year**.
- 14.3 Every Member, shall pay an annual Membership & transport fee, to the **VPU, GPPF, SANPO** as determined from time to time by each applicable body, payable annually, in advance, on or before **end April of each year**;
- 14.4 All payments are to be submitted to the specific club to which the members are affiliated to. The clubs will in turn deposit the accumulated fees into the VPU banking account which is presently held at the Standard Bank of South Africa.
- 14.5 Non-payment, shall result in a Member, not being considered as being in good standing and be able to participate at the **AGM**, or any other activities, of the **VPU**;
- 14.6 The **MC**, shall also be entitled to impose a penalty fee, for late payment and in the case of long outstanding or repeated non-payment, suspend or cancel the membership, of such non-paying Member.

15 AMENDMENTS

- 15.5 This Constitution, shall only be amended by an **AGM** the latter held for the purpose of amendment, of the Constitution.

- 15.6 Notices of proposed constitution amendments shall be entered into the agenda, of the **AGM**.
- 15.7 Such notice of proposed amendment, shall specify the relevant clause of the Constitution, it is to be amended and a full motivation therefore.
- 15.8 Amendments shall only be made by **75% (SEVENTY-FIVE PERSENT)** majority of Members, in good standing, present at the **AGM**.
- 15.9 Approved amendments, shall immediately be effective and circulated in writing, to all Members by the Secretary and noted with the **VPU**.

16 INTERPRETATION

Any doubts as to the interpretation of any clause contained in this constitution, or any Annexure thereof, the correct and binding interpretation, shall be that of the **MC**. No clause, rule or regulation shall however be interpreted in such a way, that it contradicts any other Clause, rules or regulations or contrary to common sense and the accepted legal framework, in the Republic of South Africa.

17 DISSOLUTION OR WINDING UP

- 17.5 The **VPU** may be dissolved by way of a majority resolution (**75%**) **seventy five percent**, taken at an **AGM**, the latter held specifically for that purpose.
- 17.6 An application for the dissolution of the **VPU** may be brought to a Court of Law, by the **MC** or a Member, in the case where the liabilities of the **VPU**, exceed its assets, or if the Union is unable to pay its debts.
- 17.7 When the organisation closes it must pay off all its debts. After doing this, if there is any property or money left over it should not be paid or given to members of the organisation. It should be given in some way to another non-profit organisation that has similar objectives. The organisation's general meeting can decide what organisation this should be.

SIGNED AND ACCEPTED AT VANDERBIJLPARK ON THIS _____ DAY OF

_____ of 20_____.

ANNEXURE A – CODE OF CONDUCT

WHEREAS the principal effect of this CODE OF CONDUCT is to ensure that the welfare of the pigeons is the prime consideration in all activities associated with our sport.

NOW THEREFORE, through its membership to the **VPU**, all MEMBERS undertake to adhere to the following:

1. The mission statement and values as set out in this Constitution under the heading AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.
2. The policies and procedures as set out in this Constitution.
3. Compliance with any regulations set out in this Constitution.
4. Any administrative or disciplinary actions undertaken in terms of this Constitution.
5. To promote the positive aspects of the sport of racing pigeons.
6. To always consider the wellbeing and safety of our pigeons.
7. To always have the best interest of our pigeons in mind.
8. To never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
9. To follow all guidelines laid down by **SANPO**, **GPPF** and the **VPU**.

10. To recognise and appreciate the efforts made by the **MC** or any other appointed decision-making body within the sport of racing pigeons.

ANNEXURE B – RACING

WHEREAS SANPO, in paragraph 3.1.2 of its Constitution, states that its objective is: “*To provide assistance in the prescription of **uniform rules and regulations** for the control and protection of pigeon racing without affecting the autonomy of **Members**.*”

NOW THEREFORE the following racing rules shall also apply to the **VPU**, and its members:

1. The number of pigeons allowed to be entered in a race may from time to time be changed by the **MC**.
2. Prescribed GPS coordinates taken by the Race Secretary in the presence of the member. Such coordinates to be noted and used as distance calculator for each race end point of each member. A member to sign for such coordinates as witness that it is correct and just. The determining of such coordinates shall be accompanied by a payable amount or R150.
3. The racing programme for each season, compiled by **MC** and approved by **AGM**, as well as details of the release points, times, transport costs, registration fees, basket dates, and release dates shall be made available to every club member no later than 14 days prior to the first race.
4. Each race shall be calculated according to the system of speed calculation over a straight distance (WGS-84 method) and the time elapsed between the releasing time and the clocking in time, minus the night hours where applicable. The winning pigeon shall have flown the greatest number of meters per minute, and the next places in sequence according to the greatest number of meters per minute flown.
5. A race shall terminate in accordance with the distance flown and the clocking in time of the winning pigeon plus the number of hours mentioned hereunder.
6. A race shall terminate if and when the speed of the clocked pigeon is less than **450mpm**. All entries having a speed lower than **450mpm** shall be excluded from the race result.
7. A race shall be cancelled only following a decision by the **MC**.
8. Pigeons that compete in races must be the bona-fide property of the club member who registered them, and every pigeon must be rung with the official registration ring issued via SANPO.

9. Only pigeons with the official derby ring of the **VPU** organization, issued for the purpose to participate in said race, and registered in a member's name, may participate in derby races. If a club member becomes a member of another organization, he may register a series of rings as Derby's before 1st April. The cost due per ring must be paid. It is for the **MC** to accept it or not.
10. Only rings issued by the **VPU** on its issue date which is the 1st of May will be able to participate in Young pigeons races, provided that, if registration rings from another recognized organization are used, the rings are not issued before the date of the **VPU's**.
11. In the case of foreign rings, a certificate stating that the rings were not issued before 1st May, must be received from the organization that issued the rings. If such rings are issued before the 1st May of each year such pigeons may only be entered during Open races.
12. No races may exceed 1200km.
13. If no pigeon is clocked on the day of liberation night hours shall be the time between thirty (30) minutes after sunset and fifteen (15) minutes before sunrise the following day. If a pigeon is clocked during the night hours his arrival time shall be noted as fifteen (15) minutes before sunrise.
14. If required a winning pigeon of a race to be checked by a nominated participating list of people noting the ring number, colour of pigeon and liberated it more than twenty (20) meters from its loft to determine whether it returns to its loft. A form to be completed by controlling members in this regard – or determined otherwise by the nominated controlling members.
15. A list of all pigeons shall be handed to the secretary of his club at least 14 days prior to the start of the races. This list must be handed to the racing secretary of each **CLUB** who, upon acknowledgement of receipt, stores the list in his file for record purposes. Additional lists may be handed in during the season. When such list signed by the club member is handed in, the club member by implication states that he is the *bona fide* owner of the pigeons on the list.
16. Rings shall display the info, together with its year of issue, as determined by the **MC** with a numerical order up.
17. A pigeon may only wear a single permanent mark ring.
18. A Ring Register must be kept by the **VPU's Ring Steward or Supply official** that issues the rings to its club members. The ring numbers and details of the club member, with his address and telephone number, must appear in the register.

19. No rings shall be issued by the **Ring Steward or Supply official** to any member thereof unless all amounts owing is paid. No issued rings may be sold or issued to any non-members or to any **Member** or club member whose membership fees are in arrears. **VPU's MC** shall be entitled to impose a penalty for transgression of this rule. **Members** shall fix the date on which rings shall be made available to their membership but not earlier than 1st May of each year.
20. Any rings that are stretched or tampered with/damaged disqualify the pigeon for participation in races. Any infraction invalidates the right to prizes, places, and further participation in races. It is strictly prohibited to participate in races with stray pigeons. Any stray pigeon and its full ring identification particulars must immediately be reported to the official ring steward of the **VPU**.
21. All pigeons must be vaccinated annually against Newcastle Disease (ND) Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PPMV), and Pigeon Pox (PP) with the last vaccination having been done at least 30 (thirty) days before the racing season starts.
22. A certificate confirming vaccination had been done and signed, by the relevant member as well as two fellow club members, containing the batch number and expiry date of the vaccines used, should be made available. Each club member / club / organization must have such a certificate or a copy thereof available at all times.
23. NO club shall be allowed to organise any race without the explicit approval of the **MC**.

ANNEXURE C – CLOCKS

All rules and regulations of SANPO in respect of ERS systems, as amended from time to time shall apply to the use of ERS systems in the VPU.

Electronic Ring Scanning Systems hereafter referred to as ERS systems, can be used in place of the traditional mechanical/quartz clocks and rubber rings. The following rules are applicable to ERS systems and must be read and used together with the SANPO clock rules as detailed in appendix E of SANPO's Constitution.

In particular MEMBERS are informed of the following:

1. Only makes of ERS systems and associated software releases approved by the SANPO Board, hereafter referred to as SANPO, and listed in rule 5.19 of the SANPO Constitution, must be used by **Member** organizations.

1.1 Only branded electronic rings that appear on the official SANPO list of approved electronic rings must be used with ERS systems.

1.2 SANPO reserves the right to withdraw the approval of any ERS system at any time. To request the removal of an ERS system from the list of previously approved systems, affiliated organizations must submit a written justification to SANPO. The removal request must be formally approved by SANPO and all **Member** organizations must be informed in writing before the removal from the list becomes effective.

1.3 **Member** organizations may use ANY approved ERS system. Individual club members are responsible for acquiring all the system hardware components required for the correct functioning of all systems used within a club. It is however the club's responsibility to ensure that all systems are used in the prescribed manner as detailed in the club's manual issued by the manufacturer of the ERS system.

1.4 A **Member** organization may not refuse to allow the use of an approved ERS system, except when all the required hardware components for the correct functioning of the system are not available.

1.5 The users of ERS systems shall be required to:

- a) Use the unique register ring of the ERS system to program at least three identity figures or letters during basketing/entering;
- b) Use only ERS system approved electronic rings;
- c) Use only the read/write type electronic rings during a race;
- d) Generate printout of race data direct to a printer;

- e) Basketing antennas and control keys and software used in the ERS system shall be purchased or procured by the system owner;
- f) All ERS systems must be used in accordance with the owner manual as issued by the manufacturer of the ERS system.

2. SEALING OF ERS SYSTEMS:

- 2.1 Sensors need not be sealed.
- 2.2 In the case where changes are necessitated by new components such as a new clock, additional or new loft antennas or new numbered seals due to repairs to a member's system, such changes need to be controlled and approved by the club, and the information in the register updated prior to any race in which a member utilizes additional or new equipment

3. INSTALLATION OF ERS SYSTEMS AT THE LOFT:

- 3.1 Where a clock can be used as a loft antenna, such as in the case of a Benzing Express, only the assembly frame which houses the clock is required to be sealed in an approved placement position at the loft.
- 3.2 Antenna needs to be "FIXED TO THE LOFT"

4. ELECTRONIC RING REGISTRATION AND COUPLING:

- 4.1 The attachment of electronic rings to pigeons must be checked by the Race Secretary or designated official of each club to ensure that the electronic rings are securely engaged. This process must be continually performed before the commencement of a race.
- 4.2 Before the start of a racing season, the identification ring details of every pigeon that will be entered into races, must be coupled to an electronic ring. After this coupling process has been completed, the Race Secretary or designated official shall produce two copies of a printout of the coupled details for every competitor. The two copies must be signed by both the Race Secretary and the competitor and each must retain and file a copy as proof of the eligible pigeons that may be entered into races by the competitor. The signed copies of the printout may also serve as a pre-season registration form of all racing pigeons, where such registration forms are required by the organization.

4.3 The process of coupling identification ring data to electronic ring data may be updated during the racing season, but a new printout of coupled details must be produced and filed after every update.

4.4 The Race Secretary or designated official of a club may randomly produce printouts of coupled details from any competitor's clock and compare the printout thus obtained with the official filed list to ensure that no unauthorized changes of coupled details have taken place

4.5 The current ERS systems that are approved by SANPO for use by the affiliated organizations and the software releases to be used with these systems are:

ETS Name	ETS Company	Clock Model	Clock S/W Version	SANPO Approved
BENZING	BENZING	M2 & M3	V1.15 ZA 8	YES
		M1	V4.32	YES
		G2	V4.35	YES
		Benzing LIVE	V2.7	YES
		Benzing SmartHub 3/4/5	V5.5	YES
		ATIS Top	V5.9	YES
		EXPRESS	V3.02	YES
		Club System	V4.7	YES
Unikon	Deister	Clock Module	V3.3.2	YES
		Club System	0	YES
Tipes	Motz	MC2100	V2.52 INT	YES
		MC1100	V2.52 INT	YES
		TBB100 (Old Clock)	V2.02b INT	YES

		Club System	V2.35	YES
TauRIS	Rüter	Terminal maXX with sensor adapter (TM with AS)	TS-ZA 9.12-10	YES
		TauRIS Terminal kompakt (TC)	TS-ZA 8.23	YES
		TauRIS Terminal kompakt+ (TC)	TS-ZA 9.12-10	YES
		TauRIS Terminal kompakt XL (TC)	TS-ZA 9.12-10	YES
		TauRIS Terminal World (TW)	TS-ZA 9.12-10	YES
		Club System	CW-ZA 1.52	YES
		PC Software for Remote Strike	RKC-INO 1.05	YES
Bricon	Bricon	Speedy	V 3327FF	YES
		Speedy Xtreme	SA V 2.02	YES
		Xtreme	SA V 1.82	YES
		Club System	SA-01	YES
Mega	Mega	Mega Star System	V4.2	YES
		Mega 3000 System	V4.2	YES
		Mega Black	V4.2	YES
		Mega Club system	N/A	YES
iPigeon	TOPigeon	iPigeon V8	V8.57	YES
		Club System	V8_EU_TC	YES
		Home evaluation / transmission	V8 - 8.70	YES

4.6 Every club will appoint a clock coordinator.

4.7 Clock to be set by GPS for start of race. Settings may only be done each quarter hour, half of an hour or on the hour itself.

ANNEXURE D – BASKETING

All rules and regulations of SANPO in respect of basketing procedures, as amended from time to time shall apply to the basketing procedures in the VPU.

In particular MEMBERS are informed of the following:

1. Basketing and ringing of pigeons may not start before at least four members of whom at least two must be unrelated, are present. These four members do not indicate the size of the club. Club size is determined by the organization's constitution.
2. All pigeons taking part in races must wear electronic rings.
3. The clubs may decide whether a club member or his deputy may be allowed to handle his own pigeons for the purposes of attaching rubber rings or to place them in the racing basket.
4. No club member and/or his partners may read out the numbers of his own pigeons, when the rubber ring numbers are attached to his pigeons during basketing. The year, ring number and the letter indicating a specific race (e.g. "D" for Derby) as well as the letters that are to be indicated by the organization/club, must be read. The letters as determined by the organization/club must be limited to a maximum of four (4) letters. The letters ZA need not be read or endorsed on the entry form. Readers of ring particulars must always be mindful that the letters ZA appear on the pigeon's ring (SANPO Constitution clause 7.4.3).
5. When pigeons are placed in specific basket, the basket official or another nominated member must control and ensure that the pigeon's electronic ring that fits properly around its leg. The club member must also ensure that the pigeon is placed in the correct basket. Pigeons may, under no circumstances be placed in another basket than the one with the ascribed number. **Cocks and hens must be basketed separately as far as possible.**
6. No pigeons may for whatever reason be removed from an ascribed basket without the approval and supervision of the club racing secretary or his deputy.
7. The registration form must be completed in full, correctly, in duplicate, and mention the name of the club, the club member's name and the racing point. Upon completion the form must be signed by the club member or his deputy.
8. Faulty or absent ring particulars, as determined by rule D4.5 of the SANPO Constitution, may lead to the disqualification of such pigeons for that particular race.
9. As soon as basketing is completed, all the original race registration forms of each club must be addressed, posted or delivered in a sealed envelope to the relevant **VPU's** Race Secretary.

10. Before pigeons are placed in a basket for a race, the large release door of the racing basket must be sealed with seals e.g., Clip or un-numbered seals on the one side and a proper cable tie. Once all the pigeons are placed in the basket and before the baskets are removed from the basketing place, the entrance door of the basket must also be sealed with a seal e.g., Clip or Lead seals.
11. If, before liberation time of a race, it comes under the attention by the racing secretary or any member that an individual has loaded more than the allowed number of pigeons, such pigeon shall be scratched from the race in consultation on the entry form and signed by two (2) members indicating that that such a pigeon has been disqualified from the race.
12. From the time the basketing started until the baskets are loaded in the vehicle that transports the pigeons, the baskets must continuously be supervised by at least four competing members.
13. The method of calculating the velocity of a pigeon regardless whether one pigeon or no pigeons were clocked on the day of the race, must be determined by the **Race Secretary** appointed during the **AGM**.
14. Applications for distances must be directed to the **Race Secretary** of the **VPU**.
15. If a club member's loft is moved more than 20 metres, he must re-apply for the distances.
16. Only distances calculated by a competent person with a GPS shall be accepted. Organisations must have their club members' distances calculated with the same method and type of GPS and preferably by the same person.
17. All racing pigeons must be properly allocated to the different racing baskets. No single fancier can basket his/her pigeons in one basket.
18. The **Race Secretary** or **designated official** shall synchronize every Club Unit (CAN) with an official time signal when basketing may commence. This time signal must be the time signal of a GPS system. The same time signal must be used by all affiliated members of any one organization. Benzing "Live system" clocks are also synchronised via the Club Unit.
19. A duplicate official entry form must be used in all cases where the basketing printout produced by the ERS system does not show all the particulars required by the organization.
20. When required, the **Race Secretary** or **designated official** shall set and synchronize the competitor's clock with the CAN and execute all other official procedures as prescribed by the makers of the relevant ERS system, before the basketing of the competitor's pigeons may commence. Check strikes are not compulsory when using ERS

systems.

21. The **Race Secretary** or **designated official** may request a competitor at any time during basketing to place his hands over the CAN and may also use the CAN to detect the presence of illegal electronic rings.

22. Before a pigeon is placed in a race basket, the electronic ring must be held over the CAN and the details of the identification ring as displayed on the clock must be compared and match the details of the identification ring on the pigeon's leg.

23. A competitor may be instructed to nominate a fellow competitor to carry and enter his pigeons. All safety, security and basketing rules will then transfer to this nominated competitor.

24. A basketing list shall be printed for each race under one race point after all the pigeons of a competitor for the specific race have been basketed. The basketing list serves as record of the pigeons entered and is signed by the Race Secretary or a committee member, as well as the competitor, as verification of the entry. In cases where official entry forms are in use, the printout shall be attached to the official entry form. Where no official entry forms are in use, the printout acts as the official entry form.

25. The CAN (Club Antenna) or Basketing unit must be safely secured by the Race Secretary or designated official when not in use.

26. When a deviation error occurs during the setting and synchronization of a competitor's clock, the deviation in the time and/or date of the incorrect setting must be recorded and added or subtracted from all times and/or dates recorded during the race period. This allowance is necessitated by the fact that a clock cannot be reset after the basketing of the first pigeon of a race.

27. When a member realizes that his electronic clock is not showing the correct time before the pigeons arrive, he must, in the presence of two club members (of which at least one member must be a clock committee member) on the same approved time signal register two different training pigeons twice e.g., at 09h00 and 10h00 on the clock to determine the variation. If the variation is correct the clock may be accepted. If there is a difference in the variation the clock may not be accepted.

28. If a competitor's clock is not available, for whatever reason, to record the arrival of pigeons from a race, or if the data contained in the clock, becomes defective, erased or corrupted between basketing and before the completion of the printing of the arrival list for a race, the competitor shall be disqualified from that specific race.

29. If a competitor intentionally corrupts or destroys the electronic data of another competitor, the guilty competitor shall be dealt with according to the disciplinary rules of **VPU**.

30. After closing a race, the Race Secretary or a clock committee member shall print an arrival list for every race of every competitor. Once all the arrival lists of a competitor have been successfully printed, the electronic data contained in the clock of the competitor may be transferred to a computer for processing of the race results.

31. Should it not be possible, for whatever reason, to print an arrival list, the Race Secretary or designated official shall endeavour to display as much data as possible on the LCD display of the clock. Should sufficient data be displayed to positively identify arrived pigeons, their arrival date and time and the clock variation, a velocity may be calculated for such pigeons and they may, at the discretion of the organization's management committee, be accepted as part of the race result.

32. Arrival list printouts or the identification of pigeon data on the LCD display of a clock, must be produced within a reasonable time limit laid down by each organization. When available, the assistance of the formal representative in South Africa of the manufacturer of an ERS system may be called upon to assist to produce a printout, or to display pigeon and race data on the LCD display of a clock. The assistance of a sub-agent of the manufacturer of an ERS system may also be accepted.

33. In the case of more than one race on the same day, the clock variation, as printed on the arrival list for each individual race, shall be used for the calculation of race results for that race.

34. Immediately prior to the "strike out" process, the internal clock of the CAN shall once again be synchronized with the official time signal used by the **VPU**. The only exception is where the CAN is fitted with an LCD display such as the Benzing Club Unit and is used as the official master timer of the organization.

35. The seal(s) on the clock, as well as the electronic ring of winning pigeons must be inspected for tampering during verification of the winning pigeon after a race.

36. During verification of a winning pigeon after a race, the Race Secretary or designated official may request the owner of a winning pigeon to set his clock and record the electronic ring details of the winning pigeon when such a pigeon passes over the loft antenna. The details as recorded by the clock may be compared with the details on the latest copy of the Race Secretary's list of registered pigeons for the competitor, to verify that the details are the same.

37. Benzing "Live" systems-

On completion of the race or when the member has decided that an ample number of pigeons have been clocked the member can decide to close-off the race by the use of an "Evaluation" card which the member holds over his sensor pads. The clock auto-

synchronises the member's clock by means of the "Live system's) GPS. All the members' race information is stored on the Benzing "cloud".

38. The club race secretary when doing the result selects the member and race numbers & the race information for that member is automatically imported from the Benzing "cloud" A .pdf print is then also sent to the race secretary and the member via e-mail.

39. During power outages the "Evaluation" may prove to be problematic due to internet signal failure. Club race secretaries must be made aware of the matter occurs, as it could delay the issuing of clubs results timeously.

ANNEXURE E – TRANSPORTING

All rules and regulations of SANPO in respect of the transporting of pigeons, as amended from time to time shall apply to the transport of pigeons in the VPU.

In particular MEMBERS are informed of the following:

1. All pigeons registered for races shall be transported at the owner's risk.
2. During transportation, the **VPU Transport officer** shall arrange for the pigeons in transit to have food and water. (See SANPO's rules for the care and release of racing pigeons.
3. The **VPU Transport officer** shall appoint truck drivers or conveyers who shall be responsible for the trucks, transport, care and release of the pigeons.
4. The **VPU** shall not be responsible for the delay, any injuries or loss of racing pigeons for whatever reason.
5. Truck drivers or conveyers are obliged to draw the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary's** attention to any baskets deemed unfit for the transport of pigeons.
6. When during the transportation of the pigeons or at the release point the truck driver notices that some of the baskets are damaged or not sealed, he must immediately notify the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary**. If the baskets are so damaged that it is suspected that some pigeons have escaped, he must annotate the number(s) of the basket(s), count the remaining number of pigeons in the specific basket(s), and annotate the ring number of the pigeons. The report must be handed to the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary** upon arrival.
7. Except in the case of paragraph 6, if on account of a report the transport official is convinced that pigeons transported to a release point have escaped from a specific racing basket(s), he shall report to the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary**, and all the pigeons placed in the specific basket(s) for the race shall be disqualified from the specific race.
8. If it is established at the release point that pigeons have escaped from basket(s), and the remaining pigeons' registration numbers can be annotated in consultation with the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary** in the presence of a person approved by the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary**, and ensured at the release point that such pigeons can be released with the remaining pigeons, only the pigeons whose registration numbers are annotated from the effected basket(s) shall be allowed to compete in the specific race.

9. If basketing takes place the day before liberation and the race point is not further than 400km it is not necessary to feed or water the pigeons.

ANNEXURE F – RELEASE

All rules and regulations of SANPO in respect of the release of pigeons, as amended from time to time, shall apply to the release of pigeons in the VPU.

In particular MEMBERS are informed of the following:

1. The truck driver or conveyer shall receive instructions from the transport official concerning the release times as decided by the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary**.
2. If due to unforeseen circumstances, release times must be amended, the **VPU Transport officer and Race Secretary** shall decide accordingly.
3. Water and food troughs must always be available on the trucks so that should circumstances dictate that the pigeons are in need of food and water, the equipment is available to do so.
4. Regardless when basketed, the pigeons must get water before being released.
5. With long-distance races where the pigeons are placed in baskets on Thursday evening, it is essential that there is enough food so that if the pigeons must be kept over there is always food.
6. The pigeons must get water twice or more a day, preferably in the morning after 10 o'clock and again in the afternoon. The pigeons must definitely get water the following morning before being released.
7. The pigeons must be fed once or twice a day: in the morning after being placed in baskets just prior to being given water, and again in the afternoon just prior to being given water.
8. No Liberations to be affected where a temperature is forecast to be more than 30 degrees Celsius within one hour of liberations. No Liberation to be affected if the temperatures at time of liberation are minus 5 degrees Celsius and colder. If the truck is standing 1 (one) hour in the sun, liberation can take place.
9. No pigeons may be released in mist or rain.
10. No pigeons may be released if vision is not reasonable to very good.
11. No pigeons may be released before 15 minutes after sunrise.
12. No pigeons may be released near electric wires or other obstructions that can injure the pigeons upon release.
13. No pigeons may be released in traffic, on highways, or other roads. No pigeons may be released within a radius of 10km from OPERATIONAL airports.

14. The weather conditions on the flying route must be sourced on the internet or from the weather bureau to determine the likelihood of snow, severe rain and thick mist before the pigeons may be released. Should be conducive flying conditions. The **MC** must make the decision to liberate at their best discretion.

15. The liberation of training birds together with race birds from the same liberation point is not allowed. Training birds (organization or private) will be liberated at least 30 minutes after all race bird have been liberated.

16. All pigeons which upon release cannot for one or other reason fly must be returned by the truck driver to the organization, which must then return the pigeons to the owner.

NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THE ABOVE THE ONUS AND RESPONSIBILITY STILL REMAINS WITH THE FANCIER FOR LOADING HIS BIRDS ON THE ORGANISATION'S TRANSPORT AND THE **VPU** WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ANY LOSSES OF PIGEONS WHATSOEVER.

ANNEXURE G – DOPING

All rules and regulations of SANPO in respect of the prohibition against doping and the prescribed processes to have pigeons tested for the possible use of prohibited substances, as amended from time to time shall apply to the control of doping procedures in the VPU.

In particular MEMBERS are informed of the following:

ALL of the regulations and procedures “TO CONTROL PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES IN RACING PIGEONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA” and which is contained in “THE MANUAL”, as amended from time to time, and inclusive of the list of prohibited substances, as amended from time to time, shall be applicable to MEMBERS of the **VPU**.

ANNEXURE H – DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

1.1 The adjudicating body for all hearings to consist of the **MC's** Chairman, Vice Chairman and any member appointed by the **MC**. These three to represent a quorum and the **VPU**. In the event of a withdrawal of any of abovementioned the **MC** has the right to appoint any vacancy from members of the **MC**.

1.2 The powers of the adjudicating committee involve in the investigation against alleged transgressor the compiling of transgression and the ruling against any club or member within the **VPU**, to reprove, fine, temporarily or permanently suspend after debt finding to:

1.2.1 Intentionally breaching any ruling within this constitution;

1.2.2 Unacceptable behaviour against any person or the **VPU**;

1.2.3 Disturb the harmony of any club or amongst its members;

1.2.4 Action against the disciplinary code of this constitution.

1.3 It is the policy of the **VPU** to maintain order in respect of its activities by creating a climate that is conducive to the pursuit of the pigeon sport, i.e., pigeon racing and pigeon showing.

1.4 Furthermore, it is the intention of the **VPU** to encourage such conduct amongst members that is proper, constructive and generally acceptable to all its members.

1.5 This code also aims to indicate, address such conduct of members that is non-compliant, and to institute disciplinary actions within the framework of natural justice, against members who do not conform to the norms and standards of orderly and proper action.

1.6 The **VPU** has a positive approach to discipline and endeavours by means of corrective measures to create a climate in which members are encouraged to comply with the rules and codes of conduct.

1.7 The **VPU** therefore does not follow a punishment approach in respect of discipline but encourages every member who is capable of acceptable conduct to behave himself and to act in a correct manner.

1.8 The key principles of this code are:

1.8.1 To ensure that the members of the **VPU** shall treat each other with mutual respect;

1.8.2 To protect all members against arbitrary action;

1.8.3 To demand satisfactory conduct and action from all members of the **VPU**;

1.8.4 The code encourages timely action if a member's conduct or action appears to be unsatisfactory or unacceptable.

1.9 Applicable principles

1.9.1 The code shall apply equally to all members in the **VPU**;

1.9.2 It is every member's responsibility to maintain discipline, good order and proper acceptable conduct.

1.10 A member against whom steps were taken in terms of this code shall at all times:

1.10.1 be notified of the charge against him/her in writing;

1.10.2 Be disciplined within a reasonable time;

1.10.3 Be entitled to a proper hearing in his presence;

1.10.4 The accused shall have the right to call on any witnesses, to have insight in evidence or any relevant appropriate information with regards to applicable accusations and to cross-examine any witnesses;

1.10.5 If found guilty, the respondent shall be granted time to present witnesses for the purposes of mitigation upon which a sanction shall be imposed;

1.10.6 On time, but no fewer than three (3) and no more than seven (7) days after the trial, be notified in writing of the panel's sanction; and

1.10.7 The respondent shall be informed of his right to appeal to the **VPU** within seven (7) days.

2 Transgressions / Infringements

2.1 It is impossible to list all possible forms of infraction. Action shall therefore be based on what is considered unacceptable and unreasonable conduct, measured against the current or established norms and standards of conduct of members of the **VPU**. Every infraction which causes unacceptable conduct shall thus be identified and dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary process.

2.2 More than one Transgressions / Infraction can be dealt with in a single hearing.

2.3 Transgressions / Infraction may be combined for the purposes of disciplinary action.

3 Disciplinary decisions are taken upon proper consideration of previous similar infringements of which the warning period has not yet expired, as well as the general disciplinary record of the relevant respondent. It is therefore essential that the respondent's disciplinary record be considered when deciding on the most suitable disciplinary sanction to be taken once a member has been found guilty of the infraction.

3.1.1 In a case where more than one fancier is racing pigeons from one site and one is subjected to a disciplinary hearing and is suspended, the other fanciers can continue to

race from this site. The suspended fanciers issued ring series is suspended for the period of suspense from racing. Thus, any fancier found guilty as outcome of a disciplinary hearing, and a suspension for a period of time is the punitive sanction, the site will not be disqualified, but the whole racing team will be suspended for the duration of the suspension.

4 The following list of infringements can as a rule be identified in the member-to-member relationship. (However, this list should not be considered complete.) Infringements are categorized as follow with a sanction for the sake of easy reference.

5 The maximum disciplinary sanction applicable in respect of each column should be used as a guideline and not necessarily applied. The nature and circumstances of each separate case, considering its own merits, should be considered before a decision is taken.

Infringements	Explanatory note	First infraction	Second infraction	Third infraction
A. Use alcohol in an area other than an area specially provided for the use of alcohol	When a member for instance on Basket evening uses alcohol in the hall and not in the bar	Verbal warning	Final written warning (can be excluded if it is a serious infraction)	Suspension for a period or permanent
B. Be under the influence of alcohol to such an extent that member's conduct causes a nuisance, resentment or aversion	When a member is under the influence of alcohol/drugs to such an extent and other members find his conduct unpleasant or distasteful	Final written warning	Suspension for a period	Termination of membership
C. Pigeons obtained in a way contrary to general principles of good practice, e.g. stealing pigeons, appropriating foreign pigeons without warning the VPU secretary of the presence of the foreign pigeon within (4) four days.	Final written warning/-suspension for a period	Termination of membership		
D.	Suspension for a period	Termination of		

Fiddle with clocks, race rings, electronic rings or any-thing related to this in order to influence the accurate time measurement of participating racing pigeons in any way		membership		
E. Dishonesty in respect of origin and/or gender registers of pigeons presented for auction	Written warning	Suspension for a period	Termination of membership	
F. Purchasing pigeons, including purchases at auctions without settling the agreed on purchase price in time and in full	Prevention from taking part in further races	Suspension for a period or termination of membership		
G. Threaten or incite other members to take part in violence or serious disruption		Final written warning	Suspension for a specific period	Termination of membership

<p>H. Threat to physically injure and assault</p>	<p>Physical assault/-attack by one party in respect of another or by two parties towards each other. Circumstances where self-defense is at issue must be considered</p>	<p>Suspension for a specific period</p>	<p>Termination of membership</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>I. Impolite/Improper contemptuous conduct</p>	<p>Use dirty language in communication with other members, make disparaging remarks to other members, provocation, impoliteness, cheek, Use of improper signs and other conduct related to this.</p>	<p>Written warning</p>	<p>Suspension for specific period</p>	<p>Termination of membership</p>
<p>G. Use of any forbidden drugs as mentioned in Appendix B See below:</p>				

APPENDIX B – DOPING PROCESS

1 This is on the premise that South African Law is based on the principal that someone is innocent until proven guilty. Should the timelines not be achieved the parties can apply to SANPO for condemnation. SANPO have the right except or reject the request.

In case of a positive test, all pigeons basketed by the fancier will be disqualified for that specific race. (Team of pigeons). A reasonable time is deemed to be that the 1st hearing will take place no later than 90 days after the incident. In the case of Positive Dope Testing, and within 21 days after receiving a report or need to discipline Non-Compliant behaviour. Either incident referred to above to be concluded no later than 6 months after the infringement. The member will continue to be allowed to fly until the outcome of the hearing/appeal, at which time the relevant punitive sanctions will be applicable. (From date of the offence/infringement).

1st Offense: Minimum punitive sanction two-year suspension i.e. two active seasons. (Banned to fly any pigeons from the same stand or plot – or under different names)

2rd Offence: Lifetime ban.

2 Disciplinary procedure

2.1 The procedure consists of two actions:

2.2 An investigation during which facts and proofs applicable to the alleged infringement is gathered, and

2.3 If the investigation indicates that the infraction is such that the penalty does not justify a written warning or a heavier penalty, the following procedure applies;

2.4 In cases where the degree of severity of the infraction only justifies deliberation, the Chairman of the **VPU** must:

2.5 Bring the infraction to the member's attention;

2.6 Establish the reasons for the infraction and give the member the opportunity to react to the allegation; and

2.7 Reach agreement with the member in order to redress the conduct.

2.8 If the degree of severity of the infraction justifies a verbal reprimand, such verbal admonition is given by the **VPU** Chairman to the member. The Chairman informs the member that any future conduct may lead to more severe action by the Federation/Union/Club. The verbal warning is annotated in the records of the Federation/Union/Club.

3 If the investigation indicates that the infraction is of a more serious nature, where the suitable penalty upon being found guilty shall justify at least a final written warning, or where the member previously received a verbal warning for the same type of infraction, a trial shall be held during which the facts and proof applicable to the alleged infraction(s) shall be evaluated and a decision taken as to the correct disciplinary sanction.

4 When a member is formally charged with an alleged infraction, the following procedure applies:

4.1 The member is notified in writing of the alleged infraction in a format similar to Addendum A;

4.2 The respondent admits guilt or pleads not guilty before or on five days following Addendum A in a format similar to Addendum B has been served;

4.3 On admission of guilt, the alleged misbehaviour is considered proven and a panel designated by the **VPU MC** hears any mitigating circumstances of the respondent and imposes a suitable sanction;

4.4 The respondent is informed in writing within three days of the decision of the panel mentioned in 4.2.3;

4.5 The respondent reserves the right to appeal as far as the sentence contained in the prescribed procedure for appeal is concerned;

4.6 If the respondent pleads not guilty, the following procedure applies:

4.7 The respondent receives a written notice 7 days prior to the trial date, in a format similar to Addendum C, of the trial to be held on a specific date, at a specific time and at a specific place;

4.8 The trial is handled by a panel, designated by the Federation/Union/Club management, and consisting of the following members:

4.8.1 In the case of a trial handled by the Federation/Union; any competent person designated by the Federation/Union who can act as Chairman and two members of the Federation/Union designated by the chairman, and a member designated by the club of the respondent. The chairman has the power to designate an assessor to assist with the trial. Any competent person who performs the investigation and presents the evidence (the investigator).

4.8.2 In the case of a trial handled by the Club: Any competent person designated by the club who can act as chairman, and two members of the club designated by the chairman.

The chairman has the power to designate an assessor to assist with the trial. Any competent person who performs the investigation and presents the evidence (the investigator).

5 If the notice of trial is served in time to the respondent and he is not present at the scheduled trial, the trial shall proceed in his/her absence. If the respondent requests postponement, he/she must request the investigator at least 48 hours before the date of the trial.

5.1 The presiding officer of any of the 1st and/or 2nd mentioned panel/s has the power to impose the suitable sanction, taking into account paragraph 3 of the mentioned guidelines.

5.2 Aim of the trial

5.3 To maintain order.

5.4 To obtain and evaluate all relevant facts, information and proofs.

5.5 To pronounce judgment in respect of the guilt or not of the respondent.

5.6 To impose a disciplinary sanction in the case of guilt.

5.7 To obey the rights of a respondent.

6 The trial findings must be recorded either mechanically or in writing.

6.1 The panel follows the following procedure during the trial:

6.2 The presiding chairman explains the nature and aim of the investigation and explains the respondent's rights.

6.3 The investigator presents the charge to the respondent and addresses the panel on the facts.

6.4 The respondent is given the opportunity to address the panel and to identify points of dispute.

6.5 The Federation/Union/Club puts forward its case (by the investigator) and calls witnesses. The witnesses may be cross-examined by the respondent or his representative, and members of the panel may also ask questions for the purpose of clarification.

6.6 Hereafter the respondent is given the opportunity to state his case as well as to call witnesses. The respondent and his witnesses may be cross-examined by the investigator, and members of the panel can also ask questions for the purposes of elucidation.

6.7 The investigator is given the opportunity to address the panel with respect to the guilt of the respondent, and the respondent is given the opportunity to address the panel with respect to his innocence.

6.8 The investigator and the respondent are temporarily excused and the panel concludes whether the respondent is guilty or not.

6.9 The presiding officer calls the parties back into the committee, including the respondent, and informs the respondent of the judgment (guilty or not) providing reasons for such conclusion.

6.10 The investigator and the respondent are given the opportunity to present mitigating or aggravating circumstances if a decision of guilty is pronounced.

6.11 Upon hearing the pleadings for aggravation or mitigation, the investigator and the respondent are temporarily excused and the panel decides on the punishment of a suitable sanction.

6.12 The presiding officer must now inform the respondent verbally of the sanction by the committee, but must also serve his sanction in writing to the respondent before or within three days following the date of the trial.

6.12 The presiding officer also draws the respondent's attention to his right to appeal to SANPO/Federation/Union.

Signed at VANDERBIJLPARK at this _____ day of _____ 20____ .

Du Plessis A.J.
Chairman

Van Heerden G.F.E.
Vice Chairman

Janse van Rensburg S.P.F.
Treasurer

Almeida L.A.
Secretary

Pieters N.J.
Race official

De Sa A.M.D.P.
Public Relations official

McPherson W.
Transport officer

Cronje P.D.R.
Ring Steward

ADDENDUM A

NOTICE OF INFRACTION

To:

Dr. /Prof. /Mr. /Mrs.: _____

Club : _____

Address : _____

Dr. /Prof. /Mr. /Mrs.:

NOTICE OF INFRACTION

You are hereby notified that you are charged with the following infraction:

You are requested to admit guilt or plead not guilty of the said infraction/s in writing within five (5) working days upon receipt of this letter by completing Addendum B.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that you may be assisted by a legal representative or a ~~member~~ of the Federation/Union/Club.

Investigator _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document is served on the respondent on the
once the nature and purpose thereof were explained. Addendum B is also delivered.

Signature of investigator: _____

Signature of respondent: _____

Refusal to admit receipt: _____

Signature of witness: _____

ADDENDUM B

ADMISSION OF GUILT OR PLEADING NOT GUILTY

Respondent's initials and surname: _____

Club: _____

Address: _____

The chairman: _____

With respect to your notice of infraction, dated I hereby plead as follows:

- Infraction 1: Admit/plead not guilty
- Infraction 2: Admit/plead not guilty
- Infraction 3: Admit/plead not guilty
- Infraction 4: Admit/plead not guilty

Signature of respondent: _____

Date : _____

ADDENDUM C

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY TRIAL

To:

Dr. /Prof. /Mr. /Mrs. _____

Club _____

Address _____

NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY TRIAL

It is hereby confirmed that you are notified of an infraction/s of the disciplinary code and that you have pleaded not guilty of the infraction/s in writing .

According to the Disciplinary Code a trial shall be held in respect of the alleged infraction/s in _____

at _____(hour) on _____(date) _____(month) _____(year)

and you are hereby notified to attend the trial.

Please note that the trial can be held in your absence, should you not be present at the hearing.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that you can be assisted by a legal representative or a member of the Federation/Union/Club.

Investigator

Dr. /Prof. /Mr. /Mrs.: _____ Date: _____

A copy of this document is served on the respondent on the
once the nature and purpose thereof had been explained. Addendum B is also delivered.

Signature of investigator: _____

Signature of respondent: _____

Refusal to admit receipt : _____

Signature of witness : _____

ADDENDUM D

NOTICE OF APPEAL

To:

Dr. /Prof. /Mr. /Mrs. _____

Club _____

Address _____

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Hereby I confirm that I appeal against your findings and am in disagreement with infractions against me and wish to inform you to revisit your investigation and subsequent findings as I believe I am innocent and the actions was misinterpreted.

Please inform me of a time and date for discussion hereof

at _____(hour) on _____(date) _____(month) _____(year)

Appellant _____

Date_____

A copy of this document is served on the respondent on the
once the nature and purpose thereof had been explained.

Signature of respondent: _____

Refusal to admit receipt: _____

Signature of witness: _____