

SAHPA INC.

SAHPA RULE # 2  
RACE BYLAWS

Approved  
19 March 2023

## SAHPA Rule No 2 - RACE BY-LAWS

### 1 CONTROL OF RACES – PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES

1.1 All races will be flown under the auspices and management of the SAHPA.

1.1.1 Any associated club or body of people wishing to organize and compete in a race as part of the SAHPA program must seek the permission of the SAHPA COM) This relates to pre-program, post-program and during the program events.

1.2 Members are not permitted to privately release birds from race-points on the same day as the scheduled race.

1.3 The SAHPA COM (through the Race Release Panel) shall have entire management of races, and in all cases of dispute the decision of a majority of such SAHPA COM members shall be final.

1.4 The General Secretary and the SAHPA COM reserve absolute power to refuse any entry or entries received which do not conform strictly to the Rules and By-Laws controlling such races as held under the auspices of the SAHPA. Affiliated clubs, through their management committees, are deemed to be responsible (in the first instant) for ensuring their club membership comply with SAHPA Constitutional By-Laws.

1.5 The release of all pigeons at all race points is to be at the sole discretion of the chairman of the Race Release Panel. Release information will only be available via the SAHPA website.

#### 1.6 Release Panel.

1.6.1 The COM shall appoint a three (3) person release panel from applicants experienced in pigeon management and racing.

1.6.2 The release panel shall consist of two (2) members from active racing membership or other suitably qualified persons.

1.6.3 The release panel shall include one (1) only member of the SAHPA COM.

1.6.4 The appointment shall be for the duration of the racing season – generally late May to early October.

1.6.5 In the event of a member of the release panel being unable to fulfil the duties the SAHPA COM shall appoint a replacement (either temporary or permanently).

1.6.6 The release panel is answerable to the SAHPA COM – however urgent or interim decisions may be made by the SAHPA Chairperson and General Secretary if deemed appropriate and necessary – See June 2022 MOM 16.5

1.6.7 Release panel appointments are unpaid.

1.6.8 The release panel shall appoint a chairman. The chairman shall be the only communication with the convoyer and SAHPA COM.

1.6.9 The chairman shall not be a member of the SAHPA COM.

1.6.10 The chairman shall be responsible for all communications to the convoyer and general association regarding, release details, change of race day or any other matters in relation to the race release.

1.6.11 The release panel (in consultation with the SAHPA COM) may change the race point whilst the convoy is traveling or when it has reached its destination and prior to release.

1.6.12 The chairman of the release panel (in consultation with the convoyer) shall be responsible for the safe release of the convoy.

1.6.13 The release panel shall consider all events that could adversely affect the expected safe return of the convoy - this includes storms, tempest, fog, wind velocities, temperatures.

- 1.6.14 The release panel must always hold bird welfare as the prime requirement and all due diligence shall be undertaken to affect a reasonable and acceptable race result, in regard velocities and returns.
- 1.6.15 The release panel are to (where suitable race conditions apply) effect a release on the day of the scheduled race.
- 1.6.16 The release panel may (following consultation with the SAHPA COM) move a race date backwards or forwards from the scheduled race, or 'hold' the race over for a maximum of two (2) days - following all due diligence.
- 1.6.17 The release panel may initiate conversation with suitably qualified persons in the execution of their duty but shall not discuss such actions and decisions with the general association membership (either before, during or after the race period).
- 1.6.18 A reasonable race result is generally taken as a maximum velocity of 2100m/min or minimum velocity of 800m/min.
- 1.6.19 The SAHPA COM shall provide all necessary suitable and acceptable means and technology to the release panel to fulfil their obligation of due diligence.
- 1.6.20 Should race conditions be unsuitable, the release panel (following consultation with the SAHPA COM) shall cancel the race and birds returned to SAHPA HQ. Birds will be released when suitable weather conditions allow.

## **1.7 Convoyer**

- 1.7.1 The SAHPA COM shall appoint the convoyer from applicants experienced in pigeon management and racing.
- 1.7.2 The convoyer shall be appointed for the duration of the racing season.
- 1.7.3 The convoyer appointment is a remunerated position. The remuneration shall be set by the SAHPA COM at the beginning of each race season.
- 1.7.4 In the event of the convoyer being unable to fulfil the duties another convoyer shall be appointed as the need arises.
- 1.7.5 The convoyer shall have responsibility and control of the convoy following completion of hampering and handover from the SAHPA load dock and up to and including the time of release (as approved by the chairman of the release panel).
- 1.7.6 The convoyer shall consider the personal safety of the transport driver and any other member of the release team as priority.
- 1.7.7 The convoyer shall observe and apply current generally accepted occupational health and safety protocols and procedures.
- 1.7.8 The convoyer (in conjunction with the chairman of the release panel) shall be responsible for the safe release of the convoy – however the convoyer shall not release the convoy until authorisation is received from the chairman of the release panel.
- 1.7.9 The convoyer must ensure that adequate water and feed are available to the birds following arrival at the race point and prior to release.
- 1.7.10 The convoyer (in agreement with the chairman of the release panel) must ensure the birds receive adequate rest prior to release.

- 1.7.11 The convoyer (after confirmation from the chairman of the release panel) shall release the convoy as close as practicable to the agreed release time.

**1.8 Communication between SAHPA members and the Release Panel or Convoyer**

- 1.8.1 SAHPA members are not to communicate with members of the release panel or convoyer or driver in relation to race release information (weather at site, release timing etc).

(a) The SAHPA membership shall include the member, life partners, partners, kindred, affiliates, or any other association.

(b) The convoyer or any related party shall not receive or indulge in communication with the association membership in matters related to the release.

- 1.8.2 SAHPA members shall not influence, attempt to influence, offer assistance, threaten, cajole or in any way communicate with the members of the release panel or convoyer before or after the scheduled race. The release panel and convoyer shall have a mandatory reporting obligation to report any such incidences or attempted communications to the COM within 24 hours of such communication. They shall name and detail the exact nature of the communication.

**1.9 Penalties for SAHPA members re unauthorised communication with the release panel or convoyer**

- 1.9.1 Any SAHPA member found to be guilty of a breach of clause 1.8.1 or clause 1.8.2 shall incur a mandatory three (3) week association membership suspension.
- 1.9.2 A second breach shall incur a further mandatory six (6) week association membership suspension.
- 1.9.3 A third breach shall incur the association membership to be suspended for the duration of the current racing season.
- 1.9.4 The member shall in all instances have the right of appeal.
- 1.9.5 Objections - All objections to the performance of the release panel and convoyor must be made in writing via the members' club executive (chairman, secretary, treasurer) directly to the delegate of the club's electorate or to the SAHPA COM via the general secretary.
- 1.9.6 The delegate has the obligation to table said objection/s to the full committee at the soonest available opportunity.

**2 NOMINATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES**

2.1 SAHPA approved race nomination and race acceptance forms (ie hamper & basket lists) must be written/printed in ink. Details must be recorded in full for each pigeon nominated, ditto marks not being permitted. Computer generated/printed basketing lists of electronic timing systems are approved.

**3 OWNERSHIP and DUTY OF CARE**

3.1 All birds before nomination, must be the absolute property of, and ring registered to the competitor(s) in whose name(s) they are nominated and flown, and must be flown to a loft approved by the SAHPA COM.

3.1.1 A competitor may be one person or a partnership of two or more persons.

3.1.2 A partnership may be located at more than one loft location - in this case, the partnership shall be named for the loft location owner first, followed by other partners - for example Smith & Brown or Brown & Smith or Jones & Smith.

3.1.4 Multiple competitors may choose to race to a single loft. This is approved by the SAHPA COM - for example A. Smith, **and** B. Smith.

3.2 All birds hampered for tosses and racing on SAHPA transporters shall be entirely at owners' risk from the time they leave the owner's hands, but every care will be taken to prevent losses or injury to birds by the SAHPA COM and the personnel charged with the transport and release for tosses and races.

#### 4 RESULTS, AWARDS, PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES

4.1 Results shall be calculated on the SAHPA race result system (SRRS) and calculated via the SAHPA website and in accordance with Cl 6 below.

4.2 Awards, prizes, trophies, certificates etc are to be awarded at the sole discretion of the SAHPA COM. Awards may include but not be limited to aggregate points, bird of the year recognition, ace bird recognition etc. The SAHPA COM will take advice from clubs on these matters and publish a list of awards, prizes, and certificates with the SAHPA race programme each year prior to racing being started.

4.4 Any prize money for SAHPA races is to be organized, controlled, and allocated by the SAHPA COM. Clubs/Groups may raise their own prizemoney/trophies for SAHPA races and is to be organized, controlled, and allocated to flyers within the Clubs/Groups by relevant Club/Group Committee

#### 5 LOFT LOCATIONS

5.1 Global Positioning System (GPS) co-ordinates will be struck and recorded as near as practical to the registered loft position by the SAHPA Clock Chairman or his/her designate. This rule will apply to (a) All members who have changed their residential place of abode or relocated the race loft or who have had an absence of two (2) years or greater from the sport are required to have GPS co-ordinates struck and recorded.

5.2 The Chairperson and Secretary of each club are responsible for inspection of lofts of club members and for making recommendations for improvements in matters of health, hygiene and position of electronic landing boards of lofts. Familiarisation with the SAHPA Rule 4 - CODE of PRACTICE bylaws is required for all members.

#### 6 RACE CALCULATIONS and FLYING TIME DEFINITIONS

##### NOTES

**A Release time** - Release time is the time and date pigeons are released from the release point by the SAHPA convoyer.

**B Corrected clocking time** - Corrected clocking time is:

- Stamped time of mechanical clocks adjusted for **fast** or **slow** variation.
- Printed time of EBSS clocks adjusted for clock **fast** or **slow** variation.

**C Hours of Darkness** - 'Hours of Darkness' for each day shall be from one half hour **after** sunset to one half hour **before** sunrise as determined by the SAHPA COM and utilised in the SRRS to calculate race results - see CL 6.1.6.

**D Distance** - Distance is calculated using the GPS coordinates at each competitor's loft and the race release point GPS coordinates in the SAHPA race result system .

**E Velocity Calculation** - the velocity calculation is determined by the SAHPA race result system using the distance divided by corrected time.

6.1 The winner of an SAHPA race is the bird flying the fastest calculated velocity for the event, except where CL 6.1.4 applies. Where CL 6.1.4 applies, the winner is the bird with the fastest velocity of those home on the day except where a bird on the second day would have flown a higher velocity with its flying time having been from release time until corrected clocking time (including hours of darkness) in which case that bird is the winner. The velocity flown by all birds shall be determined by dividing the corrected flying time into the distance from the race point to the loft and expressed in metres per minute to the third decimal point. Should two or more birds record an equal velocity to the third decimal they shall be declared joint winners. The Committee of Management may disqualify any bird making a velocity it rules to be impossible.

6.1.1 Flying time for birds clocked on the day (which includes between midnight and one half hour before sunrise second day) shall be from release time to the **corrected** clocking time.

6.1.2 Flying time for birds clocked **after** one half hour before sunrise second day up until one half hour before sunrise on subsequent days shall be from release time to the corrected clocking time **excluding hours of darkness**.

6.1.3 Flying time for birds clocked after one half hour before sunrise third day and subsequent days shall be from release time to the corrected clocking time excluding hours of darkness.

6.1.4 Birds homing on the day cannot be beaten by any bird or birds homing on any subsequent day unless sub-paragraph CL6.1.5. applies.

6.1.5 A bird homing on the second day beats a bird home on the day if it would have flown a higher velocity with its flying time having been from release time until corrected clocking time (including hours of darkness). This also applies to birds' home on subsequent days until the closure of the race.

6.1.6 The City of Adelaide shall be used for Sunrise and Sunset calculations in the SRRS and the SAHPA COM shall determine the relevant agency which supplies these timings for races.

6.2 The time limit for races shall be:

6.2.1 Two (2) calendar day for races to 650km, or

6.2.2 Three (3) calendar days for all races over 650km and up to 950km or

6.2.3 Five (5) calendar days for races over 950km.

6.3 There are no race qualifications for birds on any SAHPA races. For example, young birds are not required to have an SDC race before competing in an MDC or LDC race. Races conducted by other clubs (such as SA Long Distance Club) as part of the SAHPA greater programme may have specific restrictions or requirements for qualification.

## 7 CHECK VERIFICATION OF RACE BIRDS

7.1 Birds finishing first, second and third positions in all races on the official SAHPA program, must be tossed and verified within seven (7) days of homing by the chairperson or secretary of the owner's club or hampering centre. The onus is on the owner to arrange for his /her bird/birds to be tossed and verified. The committee of management reserves the right to verify any pigeon. The appropriate form duly filled in must be presented to the Association prior to prize money or points being allocated.

## 8 HAMPERING and CLOCKING REQUIREMENTS

8.1. Four (4) members must be present to constitute a hampering centre to be eligible for SAHPA race awards.

8.1.1 The members must be registered as club members.

8.1.2 When tallying up the number of members they cannot be of the same family living at the same address.

8.1.3 If a club falls below four (4) members, they must hamper with another club.

8.1.4 Clubs which find it difficult to comply with the above may hamper at the SAHPA headquarters.

8.1.5 On the night of hampering, clubs are to notify the General Secretary of total bird numbers, member numbers and crate numbers by the time specified by the SAHPA COM.

8.1.6 Club secretaries must (if fewer than four (4) competing members are present), advise the names of the noncompeting members overseeing the hampering.

8.1.7 Non-competing members (but registered as club members) shall sign the club attendance register and/or hamper and clock sheets stating their name and date of attendance. This is to be done on both hampering and clocking nights.

8.2 **All non-EBSS** (mechanical clocking) banded birds competing in the SAHPA race programme must comply as below:

8.2.1 Birds must be rung with rubber race rings, the prefix letter (where available) and number to be shown on the nomination form by a recorder.

8.2.2 The rubber ring tags for each member shall be placed in envelopes together with original nomination form and clock setting sheets and held securely by the club secretary.

8.2.3 Following basketing, a copy of the basketing sheet shall be sent to GenSec on hamper night.

8.2.4 Owners placing in the top three (3) are required to send the original nomination form, completed SAHPA race compiling sheet and clocking tape to the General Secretary within 7 calendar days of the race for review.

**8.3 All EBSS** (electronic clocking) banded birds competing in the SAHPA race programme must comply as below:

8.3.1 Following scanning for basketing, a hamper sheet shall be printed and held securely by the club secretary – a second sent SAHPA GenSec on hamper night. Benzing Live users are required to have basketing and evaluation sheets emailed to [sahpa.clocks@gmail.com](mailto:sahpa.clocks@gmail.com) via the Benzing server.

8.3.2 Hamper and clocking sheets for birds in line to take race awards shall be sent to the General Secretary within 7 calendar days of the race for review.

8.4 No fewer than four members shall be present when race hampering, and evaluation commences and is in progress unless a procedure such as Benzing Live Loft Evaluation is available to the club - see SAHPA Rule No3 Clock By-Laws.

8.5 Each hamper must be duly sealed following hampering then transferred to the SAHPA for transport loading. Each hamper must be clearly marked with the club's name and a number.

## **9 LINES OF FLIGHT**

9.1 The line or lines of flight and the length of time to be flown shall be determined by members of the SAHPA at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose.

9.2 Such meeting shall be held in June of the final year of the existing line or lines of flight program.

9.3 The only resolutions to be considered at the meeting are resolutions that pertain to line or lines of flight and the length of time to be flown.

9.4 The SAHPA COM shall each season draft the race program for the following season.

9.5 The race program shall be made available and/or made available to all members no later than the first young bird championship race on the SAHPA program.

## **10 LIFE RINGS**

10.1 LIFE RINGS – BRANDED 'SA' - All SAHPA club members and affiliated club members are asked to purchase their life-rings from the SAHPA.

10.2 All birds competing in races must be rung with solid rings, such rings to be registered and approved by the SAHPA COM.

10.3 Branded 'SA' rings shall be made available after the 1<sup>st</sup> July of each year.

10.4 Before a pigeon or pigeons rung with an 'SA' prefixed ring is/are raced by a person other than the person to whom the ring was sold, the new owner must ensure the pigeon ring(s) are transferred through the SAHPA ring secretary. Failure to transfer pigeons in the above manner will cause the disqualification of the pigeon from any awards earned in races on the official SAHPA COM program.

10.5 Pigeons rung with 'SA' rings and purchased at squeaker sales (including Sires Produce sales) conducted by associated clubs, or the SA Long Distance Club (SALDC) do not need to be transferred in this manner. However, the secretary of the club conducting the sale must submit the names of purchasers of all pigeons (plus ring details) to the ring secretary for ring ownership transfer

10.6 No old life rings shall be sold while there are unsold current year rings on hand. Should stocks of current year rings be exhausted, the ring secretary may, upon approval by the COM, sell old rings at the same price as the current year rings.

10.7 Life rings over eight years of age cannot be used in any SAHPA sanctioned event.

## **11 FOREIGN RINGS**

11.1 All non-'SA' rings are deemed 'foreign' rings.

11.2 A foreign ring levy is payable, once only, on rings other than 'SA' rings. The levy charge shall be the same as the cost of 'SA' branded rings.

11.3 Foreign rings may be approved by the SAHPA COM if the birds are confirmed as young birds.

11.5 An owner wishing to race a pigeon rung with a foreign ring must register the ring with the SAHPA ring secretary prior to the commencement of the SAHPA race season. Non-registration of the ring will cause the disqualification of the pigeon from any prize money and points earned in SAHPA races on the official SAHPA race program.

11.6 Birds rung with International rings are banned from all SAHPA sanctioned events.

**12 LOADING OF RACE BIRDS**

12.1 A maximum of 30 birds per flyer may be entered in SAHPA races. A lower maximum may be specified by the General Secretary on the yearly program for specific races and/or on a race by race basis. See Rule 4 Code of Practice Bylaws for details

12.2 The SAHPA COM will allocate crate numbers to clubs each year once club, flyer and numbers are known.

**13 LOADING OF BIRDS**

13.1 A loading plan for the loading of crates (by clubs) on the transporter shall be issued to members by the General Secretary each year prior to racing.

**14 ELECTRONIC BAND SCANNING SYSTEMS (EBSS)**

14.1 The operation of EBSS by any SAHPA member is subject to the rules and conditions of installation and use of electronic band systems. These rules and conditions of installation are noted in SAHPA Rule No 3 Clock by Laws.

**15 COMPLETE SALE OF RACE AND STOCK BIRDS**

15.1 Any member who has a "Complete Sale of Race and Stock Birds" (regardless of the specific words used) may not participate in any race conducted under the auspices of the SAHPA Inc. in the two calendar years following the sale. A member who has a sale clearly described as a "Reduction Sale" may continue racing.

**END**