

**SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF RACING PIGEON CLUBS
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR 2020**

- 1** An Association Club must have three paid up Association Flying Members in order to have voting privileges.
- 2(a)** An Association Club must have at least 2 paid up shipping members in the Old Bird series and 3 paid up members in the Young Bird series. However there must always be 3 members present for both basket and knockoff.
- 2(b)** In the event that only 1 club member ships their birds they will qualify for the overall combine results provided the required 3 members are present for shipping and knockoff.
- 3** A club that does not fly in both series in the same season will forfeit their membership and deposit. They must reapply in writing for new membership, accompanied with the required yearly deposit of \$100.00 and a club membership fee of \$200.00. The club membership fee is non-refundable.
- 4** Each club to be affiliated with the Association will be assessed a yearly fee of \$100.00 for said affiliation. This fee must be paid before January 31st of each year. To be eligible for a refund both the Old Bird series and the Young Bird series must be flown each year.
- 5** A series consists of 1 or more members flying at least 3 races in each of the Old Bird and Young Bird series. The club must have at least 3 paid up CU members present the night of shipping and knockoff.
- 6** If for any reason a club cannot compete in a series they must contact the Executive of the Association as to reasons for exceptions to Rule #2, #3, #4, and #5. Exceptions to these rules would be considered if the reasons are legitimate and in writing. This applies only to 1 series in any given year.
- 7(a)** New members will be assessed a fee of \$25.00 which shall be deemed a "Trailer Fee". The new member's club shall be responsible for collecting all fees and dues and remitting them to the SWOA Secretary. Junior members (under 18) shall be exempt from the aforementioned Trailer Fee. Any person not in good standing or whose membership has lapsed for over one year while belonging to another organization shall be subject to the Trailer Fee.
- 7(b)** In the case where a GPS reading is required a fee of \$30.00 is payable to the person taking the reading. This reading must be done in the presence of a club member and an appointed Executive Member from the SWOA.

- 7(c)** A Junior Member under the age of 18 and managing their own loft will fly at no cost for the first 2 years.
- 8** Each member will be assessed an Annual Membership fee and said fee is to be charged to all Flying Members. The amount of said fee is to be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting. The 2020 fee has been approved as being \$100.00. Junior Members (under 18) are exempt from this fee. **(Amended November 24, 2019)**
- 9** The race schedule shall be proposed by the Directors of SWOA and approved by the Club Delegates.
- 10** All clubs are to submit their Membership Fees and Shipping Fees upon shipping the first race of each series. Noncompliance will result in the suspension of the clubs' pickup until said fees are paid in full. All clubs must submit their fees by cheque or money order. Each weeks complete race results must be sent to the Race Secretary by noon the following Wednesday.
- 11** Any club not submitting their race results as specified in Rule #10 will be subject to a fine of \$50.00 for each occurrence.
- 12** The Transportation Chairperson is in charge of all matters concerning the trailer and its contents during shipping.
- 13** The Association will deal only with Affiliated Clubs and not individual members and will only provide central pickup.
- 14** Any fancier who is not a SWOA Member in good standing will be assessed \$2.00 per bird to fly any Open Race where Association Facilities are used. The club is to submit these fees to the SWOA Secretary-Treasurer within 2 weeks after the race. Please note that our annual 'SWOA Auction Young Bird race' is not an open event.
- 15** All Association members should vaccinate their pigeons against Paramyxovirus.
- 16** All Association members are reminded the Association Insurance Policy does not pertain to coverage for bird value and or replacement during transport.
- 17(a)** No birds are to be moved or removed from the trailer once the birds are loaded at their designated pickup. Birds are not to be moved from that compartment.
- 17(b)** All birds for SWOA transportation must be accompanied with a countermark, electric chip or ring.

These rules will be strictly enforced with no exceptions so pay attention while loading.

- 18 Compartments will be released from the bottom to the top of the trailer.
- 19 Basket limits are: Old Birds = 30 Young Birds = 35. This is adjustable by the Transportation Chairpersons approval. **(Amended November 19, 2017)**
- 20 All clubs master clocks must be set using the Associations assigned atomic clocks weekly.
- 21 Any club not shipping must inform the Transportation Chairperson and Race Secretary as soon as possible prior to that weeks shipping and club pickup.
- 22 No straw or sawdust can be used in the clubs baskets as this causes problems on the sliding doors on the trailer. It is suggested that cardboard be used for the basket floors. SWOA uses 36 inch wide rolls for the trailer compartments.
- 23 All Association Flyers must be a member in good standing of the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union. Members must also be CU members in good standing to be nominated or hold an Executive Position or be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Membership listing will be checked prior to the meeting.
- 24 SWOA clubs will not file any open race results with the Race Secretary. All birds entered into an open race will use the open clubs entry information and time to calculate their velocity for club results. These club results are then used for the SWOA race results.
- 26 All SWOA clubs are to have 1 central shipping location where all birds from that club are shipped together for the club races. This is to ensure proper recording and accurate race results.
- 27 In the event that the weekend races cannot take place due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances, these scheduled SWOA races will be re-scheduled or forfeited at the discretion of the Release Chairman.
(Amended November 19, 2017)
- 28 Association Members wishing to have their race results included in the Association Race Result must be a CU member in good standing, failing which, they shall be required to pay CU fees associated with the CU as per CU Rules.
- 29(a) Each week, shipping to the scheduled race station will be a Friday night, unless the race(s) are scheduled for Saturday night shipping. Should weather conditions prevent the release; the birds will be held until weather conditions permit either

later Saturday or Sunday. The only exception will be when there is a complete washout for the entire weekend then Rule #27 will apply. Each weekend individuals and Clubs are responsible for their own shipping decisions. If you do not like the possible weather conditions do not ship. Under no circumstances will members phone, try to influence or interfere, in any way with the Transportation Chairpersons decision. No member shall phone, question or interfere in anyway with the Driver. If you have a problem you are required to address it through your Club in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer of SWOA and it will be dealt with through the proper channels. Member violation of this rule will face a 2 week suspension for the 1st offence and up to a year suspension for subsequent offences. **(Amended January 8, 2017)**

29(b) New rule in place for 2012, in the event of weather calling for a total washout for Saturday or a Sunday race the Transportation Chairman can call for Sunday night shipping making it a Monday race. **(Repealed January 8, 2017)**

29(c) In the event the birds are brought back or for any other situation creating two releases from the same station there will be 30 minutes between those two releases.

29(d) From the 1st of September and thereafter, the birds will not be released before 08:00 am. **(Repealed November 19, 2017)**

29(e) In the event the Transportation Chairman does not ship he will not call the releases. This responsibility will be passed to another Executive Member with birds on the trailer.

30 Upon request to the SWOA Secretary-Treasurer any SWOA Member is allowed access to any and all records in the presence of a third party. These records will not leave the care of the SWOA Secretary-Treasurer.

31 The distances for the SWOA trailer race are as follows:
Short: 0 – 400 km. Middle: Over 400 – 450 km. Long: Over 450 km
(Amended November 24, 2019)

As updated/amended by Secretary-Treasurer Steve Walsh November 24, 2019