

# Eastern Ontario Combine

## Constitution

### **Section 1. - Name.**

That this organization be known as the Eastern Ontario Combine. (E.O.C.)

### **Section 2. - Purpose.**

The E.O.C. was formed to unite any or all Fanciers and Clubs in the promotion of the sport of racing pigeons and more specifically with the transportation of birds to the race points. True sportsmanlike and gentlemanly conduct is expected of all members.

### **Section 3. - Membership.**

Any individual person who is a member in good standing of a club associated with the E.O.C. shall be eligible to apply through their club secretary for membership of the E.O.C. Such application shall be made to the E.O.C. secretary in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors.

A member must fly old birds or young birds in the last old bird or young bird season in order to qualify as a voting member.

E.O.C. Senior Members. That E.O.C. members, 75 years and over pay NO annual membership fees.

Junior Members. That up to 4 limited junior members in any one club be allowed 1 shipping basket, and that up to 8 junior members in any one club be allowed up to 2 shipping baskets.

### **Section 4. - Suspensions.**

Any member may be suspended from the membership of the Combine following a recommendation of a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors to the Annual General Meeting or to a General Meeting called by the President and the agreement by a two-thirds majority of the members in attendance. It should be noted that suspension of a member is a very serious action. If cause merits, an emergency Director's meeting shall be held and balloting done by proxy vote.

### **Section 5. - Fees.**

An annual fee (dues) will be set by the Board of Directors for all members of the E.O.C.

An admission fee may be charged to any new member as determined by the Board of Directors.

## **Section 6 - Management.**

A Board of Directors will be appointed by the membership clubs in good standing at the ratio of one director per club. This Board will be responsible for all business of the E.O.C. during their term of office or until their successors are appointed. Each club will announce the name of its Director at each annual meeting.

The Board will appoint a nominating committee who will prepare a slate of officers after having obtained consent of the candidates nominated. The nominating committee will submit candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Race Liberator, Race Statistician, Truck Co-coordinator, and Publicity Officer.

These nominations will be presented to the membership at the Annual general Meeting. Nominations for the above offices may be received from the floor. If there are no nominations from the floor the membership will be asked to approve the report of the nominating committee and those nominated will be declared elected. If there are nominations from the floor and those so nominated declare their willingness to stand for office an election by ballot will be held.

If the Board fails to fill all the Executive Committee positions they may go outside the body of the Directors to fill the necessary positions and in such case the person appointed will have no vote at any Board meeting.

The Board may remove any Executive Committee member from office by a majority vote of Directors present at any Board meeting duly called.

One person may hold the joint position of Secretary-Treasurer.

At any executive/board of directors meeting only the club directors have a vote.

If any emergency items need to be voted on during the year they can be sent out via e-mail and ask clubs to vote and return to the secretary.

The only time the directors can vote on items (without asking the total flying membership) is when all the directors are in agreement. If one director disagrees then it must go to membership for a vote.

## **Section 7. - Duties of Officers.**

President. The President shall be chief executive officer. He shall be present and preside at all meetings. He shall perform all duties incident to this office and shall have such other powers and duties, as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board.

Vice-President. Shall assume the role of the President in the absence of a disability or a refusal to act of the President. The Vice-President shall also have such other powers and duties, as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board.

Secretary. The Secretary shall issue or cause to be issued notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and members when required. The Secretary shall publish and circulate the minutes of all meetings within two weeks after the meeting. The Secretary shall have charge of the minute books and all other books, records and papers. The Secretary may also be assigned additional duties by the Board.

Treasurer. Shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the E.O.C. All monies shall be deposited by the Treasurer in a bank account in the name of the E.O.C. The Treasurer shall pay all bills incurred by the E.O.C. as directed by the Board. The Treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any Director of the E.O.C. Signing Officers for the E.O.C. cheques will be the President or Vice-President and the Treasurer. (In all cases the Treasurer must sign the cheques).

Race Liberator. Shall be responsible for the liberation of pigeons on race day.

Race Secretary. Shall be responsible for the gathering and summarizing of all weekly race results, calculating average speeds.

Truck Co-ordinator. Shall ensure all vehicles owned or used by the E.O.C. safely, properly and sanitarily transport the pigeons of all clubs associated to the E.O.C. to each release point. The Truck Co-ordinator shall also provide a full race schedule showing downtimes, race dates, stations, pick-up times and release times which he will forward to each club prior to the first race of the year.

Publicity Officer. Shall endeavour with the assistance of each and every E.O.C. member to educate the general public as to the virtues and advantages of racing pigeons. Shall pursue as many avenues as possible to promote the sport. He shall also be in charge of preparing, purchasing and presenting annual awards such as diplomas and trophies.

That the position of Publicity Officer be split into two position. One for publicity and one for promotions. One person may hold both positions.

## **Section 8. Board of Director Meetings.**

The President shall call Board Meetings from time to time as are deemed necessary. The President shall promptly call a Board meeting upon formal request of two or more Board members.

A majority of Directors are required to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

Each question will be decided by a majority vote of Directors. If the President is a Director that person will also have a vote. In case of a tie motion the motion on the floor will be considered as defeated.

At the discretion of the President, any Director's meeting may be opened to the general membership but only the Directors shall participate in any debate or vote. A person other than a Director or Executive committee member may be permitted by the President to pose or answer a question relevant to the discussion under date.

Each Director must be given FIVE clear days written notice of any Director's meeting. This rule may be waived by unanimous consent of the Director's in office at the time the meeting is called.

### **Section 9. Annual General Meeting.**

An annual meeting shall be held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sunday in October in each year. The agenda for the annual meeting shall be forwarded to all clubs 30 days prior to the meeting date.

Any member may submit a notice to be voted on at the annual meeting provided it is received by the President by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Only those motions received by the President and included in the agenda will be voted on at the annual meeting.

A general meeting of all members of the E.O.C. may be called by the President or a majority of the Directors at any time to deal with any matter deemed necessary. Sufficient notice must be given to all members whenever a special meeting is called.

Twenty members present are required to form a quorum at a general meeting.

The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or the non-receipt of notice of any meeting by any member shall not invalidate any resolution passed or proceedings taken at any meeting.

All votes will be a show of hands unless a secret written ballot is required.

### **Section 10. Amending Formula.**

Any sections of this constitution may be amended or repealed or new sections added at the Annual General Meeting. Any changes must be included on the agenda as notice of motion in the regular fashion. A two-thirds majority is required to amend this constitution. A revised edition of the constitution shall be published annually by the Secretary and distributed to club Directors.

### **Section 11. Flying Fees.**

Flying fees and the due date for each series will be decided at a Board of Directors meeting as early as possible each year. The cost per series will apply to any or all of the races in each series. These fees along with the annual dues are to be collected by each club and forwarded, in bulk, to the E.O.C. Treasurer by the due dates. No monies will be accepted by the E.O.C. Treasurer from individual members. All transactions to be conducted at club level.

#### **Section 11 (a). Refund of Fees.**

In order to seek refunds of fees the members must request such refund through the members club. This request of refund must be in writing from the club and must be postmarked not later than one week before racing of old or young birds as applicable and addressed to the E.O.C. Treasurer.

Under no other circumstances will a refund be considered.

#### **Section 11 (b). Race Schedule.**

The race schedule for old and young bird series is to be decided at the annual meeting, prior to the series. The schedule is to be discussed and decided upon by the general membership.

#### **Section 12. Race Rules.**

- (1) All race rules and by-laws of the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union Inc will apply to all clubs competing for the E.O.C. average speed awards unless otherwise stated in this constitution. Where a conflict exists between the rules of the C.R.P.U. and the E.O.C. the E.O.C. ruling shall apply.
- (2) Measurements must be calculated using the GPS system as approved by the E.O.C. The Directors may approve different measurements for specific open races if required.
- (3) In order to qualify as a race, the winning velocity must meet or exceed 400 meters per minute. If the winning velocity fails to meet or exceed 400 meters per minute then it shall be declared no race.
- (4) Time out for darkness (downtime) will be 30 minutes after official sunset Kingston time until sunrise Kingston time.  
Any bird clocked during the downtime shall be credited with the actual clock time. If the bird is clocked between midnight and one-half hour before sunrise the downtime will be considered from 30 minutes after sunset until the clock time. The same procedure will be adapted for three day races. Any bird clocked during the downtime will have no effect on the velocity calculations of any other birds.
- (5) Unless specifically approved by the Directors, no birds except those belonging to E.O.C. members in good standing, who have paid all flying fees and other indebtedness to the E.O.C. in full, shall be allowed on facilities used by the E.O.C. for the transportation of pigeons. Clubs must enforce this rule or else be held liable.

At the discretion of the Directors, transportation of pigeons belonging to non-E.O.C. members may be approved at a prescribed fee. All use of E.O.C. facilities must be approved by the Directors.

- (6) The full race schedule showing downtimes, race dates, stations, pick-up times and release times will be forwarded to each club prior to the first race of each year.

In the event of a change in the release times due to inclement weather, vehicle breakdown, etc., each club will be notified by the Race Liberator by telephone as soon as possible.

- (7) All clubs must have their birds at the designated pick-up place and ready to be loaded by the pick-up time. At least one club member plus one other person, when possible must be present to assist the driver in loading the birds. If the trailer is late for any reason the responsibility remains with the club to wait at the pick-up location unless they receive information to the contrary from the President or his agent.

If this rule is contravened in any way the E.O.C. cannot be responsible for any birds not picked up.

- (8) Race results will be circulated within two weeks of the race they represent showing the first 25 positions overall.

- (9) These results will be published in the annual C.R.P.U. yearbook.

Race results are to include the following information:

- a. # of birds
- b. # of lofts
- c. distance flown by first bird
- d. release time of each race
- e. race station and date

- (10) Trophies or diplomas will be issued by the E.O.C. for the following positions:

- i. first overall winner of each race
- ii. first overall average speed or point system old birds
- iii. first overall average speed or point system young birds
- iv. combined overall average speed or point system
- v. old bird champion point trophy (J. Hunt Trophy)
- vi. young bird champion point trophy (I. Manton Trophy)

- (11) No diseased pigeons will be allowed on any E.O.C. facility. This is to be policed by the individual clubs who have the power to remove any pigeons that show visible signs of sickness or disease.

- (12) No members shall be allowed to compete for E.O.C. results unless there are 3 E.O.C. members in attendance on shipping night and at clock off. All 3 members do not have to be flying that particular race or series but they must be paid up members of the E.O.C.

- (13) All pigeons shipped to races on E.O.C. facilities, must be countermarked, the only exception being pigeons sent on training releases. The race schedule will specify which releases are trainers and which are races.

- (14) Club sponsored open races. If the race is open to all combine members/lofts, non-combine members/lofts will be allowed combine trailer space for a price. If open

race is not open to all combine members/lofts, non-combine members/lofts will not be allowed combine trailer facilities.

### **Section 13. - Conveyer**

A Conveyer will be hired to transport the pigeons to each release point for an amount prescribed by the Board. A signed contract will be in force prior to the first race of each year. The contract is to be prepared by the Board under the supervision of the President and signed by the President and the Conveyer.

### **Section 14. Discipline**

- a) Any member or club found to be operating in violation of any combine rule or found to be acting in a manner detrimental to the Sport of Pigeon Racing will be dealt with by the Board of Directors. The Board may issue reprimands to offenders and in very serious situations may by a two-thirds majority of the Board recommend to the Annual General Meeting or to a general meeting called by the President that the offending member or club have its membership to the Combine suspended. Revoked or suspended membership shall be considered as a drastic measure and only be applied for very serious infractions or as a last resort.
- b) No member shall sponsor any project using the E.O.C. name in part or in full. Any projects shall be club, section or combine sponsored with the permission of the E.O.C. Directors.

### **Section 15. Conclusion**

Any matter not considered by the constitution and any questions of interpretation shall be dealt with by the Board whose decision shall be final.