

2016 HRPF CONISITUTION AND BY-LAWS

EXISTENCE: The Heartland Federation is a not for profit IRC 501 (c) 7 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota. The State of Incorporation of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation may be changed from time to time if the Executive Committee of the Heartland Federation deems it advisable to do so, in all Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation matters. (Here after known as the "Federation)

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. Name & Location: The name of this organization shall be the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation (located East & North East Minnesota & North & Central Wisconsin).

Members cannot be excluded because they have been successful in competition.

Section 2. Affiliation. This Organization shall be chartered with the American Racing Pigeon Union (AU) It will compete and conduct its activities in compliance with the AU rules and Competition Standards. Members may affiliate with any other club or national organization as an individual as desired.

Section 3. Purpose. The Purpose of this Organization is to engage in the friendly competition of racing registered Homing Pigeons and to foster a positive social environment for members and their families while promoting the Sport of Racing Pigeons.

Section 4. Motto "Competition is for testing Pigeons, not relationships."

Section 5. Sportsmanship. Members of the Heartland racing Pigeon Federation agree to conduct themselves in the spirit of friendly sportsmanship, fairness and in accordance with the AU Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE II. - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Members: Only active racing members are eligible to vote on an organization's race-related matters. An 'Active Racing Member' is an organizational member who has shipped, clocked and reported in at least 2 races of a regular series per year the previous year. Active members are defined as paid current members.

Section 2. New Members: Recommendations of individuals as new members in the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation may be made by any active member of the federation. A prospective member who has never been a member shall be eligible for membership if he is eligible to be an AU member. Membership shall not be denied based on anyone's sex, race, creed or religion. Acceptance of the applicant as a member is constituted by a majority vote in favor by those current members present and voting.

Section 4. Probationary Membership: Any new member duly accepted by the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation shall be a probationary member for twenty four (24) months upon being accepted. During the probationary period, the new member has full entitlement to participate in races and other activities sponsored by the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation. During those 2 years, the flyer must participate in at least 2 races. The participating race can be old or young birds. Probationary members may have limited rights and voting privileges during this period. At the first regular meeting following completion of the member's probationary period, they shall stand for voting into full active member status. A simple majority of active members present may vote to install full active membership status. Once a new member has completed this probationary membership period, the organization shall vote on them prior

to conducting any other business and the new member shall be entitled to vote on all items of business considered at the meeting. A new flying member of the Federation, not presented at the Annual Meeting, may be proposed to the board by his/her club representative at any time prior to the race season they wish to fly. Their ability to ship and race with the Heartland Federation will be voted on by a majority vote of the Federation Board.

Section 5. Junior Membership in the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation is defined as any person less than eighteen (18) years of age and accepted by the majority vote of the active members present. (Junior members may not be allowed voting privileges)

Section 6. Associate Membership: is defined as any former flying member of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation who is not presently engaged in racing pigeons. Associates and junior members are not eligible to vote on Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation business.

Section 7. Partnership lofts: shall be limited to one (1) vote each, (unless they are flying separate teams and/or paying separate dues) and one physical address as defined in the AU Policies 100.02.

Section 8. Family Lofts: Shall be considered a partnership and the loft may be limited to only one vote.

ARTICLE III- GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Voting: A 2/3 vote of the active members present is required to amend or delete any provisions of articles I, II, III, IV and race rules. A majority vote of the members present is required on any other issue such as shipping and the election of officers of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation, except where otherwise noted. All active members shall have the right to make and second motions from the floor.

Executive Committee. Is made up of the elected officers of the Organization and is chaired by the President. The executive committee will consist of the President, Vice President and one member from each active club. (To be elected by each club) No club may have more than two officers on the board at one time. For a club to have a representative it must have five active members and flown at least two races the previous year with five or more members competing.

Section 2. Election of officers: Officers of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation shall include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Race Secretary. Secretary, Treasurer and a Race Secretary are non-voting members at board level. Election of officers shall take place at the annual Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation meeting during the month of December or January. All nominees shall have the privilege to decline nomination. Newly elected officers will take charge of their office at the end of Annual meeting. All terms are for two years and no person shall hold more than one office at a time. Should an office become open during the year due to resignation or any other cause, the Chairman the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement.

A. Interactions of the Federation shall be administered by Executive Committee and their decisions in all matters, including the interpretation of the Constitution, Bylaws and Race Rules shall be final! B. The Executive Committee shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws. C. It shall be the Executive Committee's responsibility to publish and make known all information and news of the Federation. D. A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall consist of the majority of the Executive Committee. E: The Executive Committee shall ask for a slate of candidates for the officer's seats that may be open at the annual meeting. Nominations must be submitted in advance one month for agenda items. Section 3. Duty of Officers

A. President: This Director shall preside over all regular or special meetings and in such a manner as to transact all business. The President shall break all tie votes and shall automatically be on all committees in an advisory capacity. He is the spokesman for the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation and will meet the public should the need arise.

B. Vice President: This Director shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, and heads up special committees as appointed by the president, (i.e. Publicity or Race committee) This Director will also serve as the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation Constitution & Bylaws Advisor to make sure the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation operates as intended, and it's constitution and bylaws are kept up to date.

C. Secretary: The Secretary shall issue notices of all Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation meetings at least a week in advance, and shall attend and keep the complete minutes of same. It is the Secretary who will order and issue the bands, and keep the records in accordance with the policies of the AU. The Secretary is responsible for keeping the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation by-laws and Race Rules current and issues all revisions to the members. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to make sure the AU secretary kits with band or diploma orders are returned to the national office in a timely manner.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer is responsible for the financial assets of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation. The Treasurer will submit a financial accounting to the membership quarterly, or as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall keep the president informed as to any delinquent member accounts, and shall pay the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation bills with the President's co-signature on all checks that exceed \$1500. The Treasurer shall keep in his custody all books and records pertaining to the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation and deposit all monies received for dues, bands, surplus received from shipping or any other sources into the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation official bank account, in a timely manner. The Treasurer will be sure that bank account signature cards are kept current.

At the termination of his office, the Treasurer shall immediately surrender to the President or new Treasurer, all books, records, and related papers together with such funds or monies in his possession. An audit shall always be made by the incoming Treasurer and two (2) members of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federations appointed by the President.

E. Race Secretary: The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the Heartland Racing Pigeon federation races. He/she shall chair the Race Committee, consisting also of members (at least two), appointed by the President and recorded in the minutes The Race secretary is responsible for conduction and maintaining a record of all loft surveys and make provisions for notifying Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation members of release times . He shall manage all race-figuring activities, and is responsible for publishing race results and distributing diplomas and awards. All races shall be published under proper AU guidelines as to Federation, Concourse and combine.

ARTICLE IV- AMENDMENTS: The interactions of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation (hence forth will be known as the Federation) shall be conducted by an Executive Committee (hence forth known as the "Committee") The Committee: Consisting of President, Vice President and one member from each active club. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws can only be acted upon at the annual meeting. 2/3 vote of the active members in attendance shall be required for adoption.

ARTICLE V- DISPUTES:

Disputes (other than race disputes, which are to be handled by the Race Secretary,) are to be settled as follows: They shall first be referred to the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation President for settlement. If his decision is appealed by either party in the dispute, the matter shall be taken up by the Organization's officers for settlement. If their decision is appealed by either party in the dispute, the entire Organization membership, other than the parties in the dispute, shall decide the issues by majority vote. If the dispute cannot be remedied through the local organization or its affiliates, (i.e., Club to Combine/Concourse, or Federation), and an AU rule is involved, then a complaint may be filed with the AU national office.

ARTICLE VI- EXPULSION/ SUSPENSION: A member accused of dishonorable conduct as outlined by the AU Rules of Conduct (see AU Bylaw.), shall be notified to appear before the officers of the Heartland Racing pigeon Federation who will investigate the charges. Such notification to appear shall be in writing at least seven (7) days before the date of the hearing and shall specify the charges. As a result of the investigation, the officers shall present their findings to the membership of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting. A secret written ballot will be taken, and a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of all present members would be required to expel or suspend a member. The hearing must follow procedures outlined in the AU's Constitution and Bylaws (see Sec. 15 Disciplinary Rules), and must assure the charged individual is afforded "due process." An expelled or suspended member shall forfeit all privileges and claims against the organization.

ARTICLE VII- DISSOLUTION OF ASSOCIATION: The (organization) shall not be dissolved without the consent, in writing, of two-thirds of its active members, obtained in one and confirmed in another special meeting convened for consideration of such dissolution. Upon dissolution, the property of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation shall be disposed of, to the best advantage, and the proceeds, after all bills and obligations have been paid.

1.00 MEETINGS: The order for all meetings should be by Agenda, which should be distributed to all attending the meeting at the beginning (or prior to the meeting). Items may be added to the agenda from the floor, prior to the meeting being called to order (or as time permits at the conclusion). Meetings should start and end promptly on time.

1.01 QUORUM: One Third of the active members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. If the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation is unable to obtain a quorum, then a vote may be taken by telephone with the same requirements for action.

1.02 Annual meeting: The annual meeting shall be held in December or January The business of that meeting shall include the election of officers, consideration of any changes to the Constitution and Bylaws; and payment of dues. All members shall be provided written notice of the annual meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

1.03 Regular Meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held not less than annual or as voted by the membership.

1.04 Special meetings may be called by the President or in his absence the Vice-President, if deemed necessary. Notice of such meeting shall be given each member at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting either in writing, personal contact or by a direct phone call to the member. The President shall call a special meeting within 10 days of receipt of a signed request from 25% or more of the active members of the federation.

1.05 Order of Business: The normal agenda of business at regular Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation meetings shall include, Roll call; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Proposals for membership financial Report; Committee Reports; Communications, Unfinished Business; New Business; Date of next meeting Good of the sport; Adjournment

1.06 MEETING DECORUM Meetings should always be conducted in an orderly manner, without side talking or distractions during the regular course of the meeting. Drinking of alcohol beverages during any meeting, shipping or closing a race should be prohibited until the meeting is adjourned or business at hand is complete. Exceptions could be special events (shows, auctions, futurities, etc.)

2.00 MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual dues for members shall be determined at the annual meeting December or January by a majority vote of the active members present. Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation dues, as well as those associated with other organizations, which the (organization) is affiliated, are due, and payable at the annual meeting or date set by board. Members are not allowed to race or purchase bands until dues have been paid.

2.01 Annual Dues shall be used for all necessary operating expenses.

2.02 Partnership lofts shall each pay dues per year in the same manner provided above. Each individual composing the partnership shall each be assessed the annual dues as per AU membership policy. (Sec. 210.23) (Whether partnerships pay organization dues individually or as one loft is up to the organization as how they are allowed to vote.)

2.03 Junior members are those members who have not reached their 18th birthday. He/she shall pay the prescribed AU dues for juniors and whatever portion of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation dues that the regular members decide. As of 01/10/05 Junior member dues are at no charge until their 18th birthday

2.04 Pro-rated Dues Members joining after July 1 of the year are required to pay full AU Dues, plus any Late Fees, and the pro-rated amount of Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation dues assessed for that year. The fiscal year for the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation dues shall begin January 1st and end on December 31st of each year.

3.00 RACE RULES

Race rules, special races, diplomas, trophies and other prizes shall be left to the wishes of the current membership provided they do not conflict with the Official AU or Federation Competition Standards. No changes shall be made during the race season in which the above mentioned items are initiated unless approved by Executive Committee members. Race rules, schedules and release times will be reviewed at the annual meeting. A copy of the rules and race schedule shall be given to each member annually.

4.00 COMMITTEES. Regular and temporary committees shall be appointed by the President who shall designate a chairman of each.

4.01 Race Committee. The Race Secretary will chair the Race Committee, consisting of one race secretary from each club. This committee shall have charge of all race details and shall conduct every race according to these by-laws, and AU Competition Standards as well as any additional rules the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation has. It will also resolve all questions and disputes regarding racing or competition ensure that racing supplies are adequately maintained, and manage all race-figuring activities.

4.02 LOFT REGISTRATION COMMITTEE. Loft registration is a club level function that will be handled by the member clubs. All club members must be compliant and certified before the first series they fly in Old Birds and Young Birds.

5.00 RESIGNATION Any member wishing to resign from the organization must tender his or her resignation in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and must pay all indebtedness which may be due the organization by them, and forfeit all rights and claims to the (organization's) property.

6.00 SHORTAGE OF OPERATING FUNDS (Federation) Any shortages of funds shall be assessed equally to all members and restored to the Federation treasury. In the event of an assessment of over (select amount), each member may be given the opportunity to pay their portion of the assessment in three or more installments. Any agreement to money given, invested, or loaned to the Federation must be recorded in the minutes and a written agreement or contract provided, as appropriate, signed by the Federation's officers.

Race Rules

All rules and regulations of the AU, American Racing Pigeon Union, and Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation, Inc. Race Rules shall be adhered to. Should any part of the Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation race rules be in conflict, AU rules will prevail. Heartland Racing pigeon Federation, Inc. Race Rules can be changed by a 2/3 vote at the next annual meeting of the Federation

1. Race Authority:

Race Secretary: The Race Committee shall consist of selected Federation members that are Race Secretaries of the Federation individual clubs. Four will make a quorum. This committee will render an interpretation of any of these rules and By-Laws and an immediate decision shall be rendered regarding the rule, infraction or dispute. The Race Committee's decision shall be final in all cases, The Race Secretary shall ascertain from the Treasurer that all member clubs are current in dues before the first race in order to ship. Requests for special transportation, pickups, training or problems with the trucker or truck shall be directed to the Federation Executive Committee.

Liberators: The Liberators shall be in charge of all race liberations that are Federation released races.

2. Shipping Crates: All participating clubs shall be responsible for the conditions of their own crates and assist in loading and unloading their crates. All Crates must be numbered and have all doors sealed. Unsealed crates will be disqualified. All crates must have feeders or the ability to feed the birds on the truck. Material to be used on the floor of all shipping crates must be approved by the Combine Board of Delegates.

3. Minimum Lofts: A club must have a minimum of three (3) members shipping from three physical loft addresses to compete at Combine level. (See AU race rule 4.10) If a club drops below this required number, then they must ship with another member club to compete.

4. Awards, Diplomas & Race Sheet: All birds entered will be eligible for AU and Combine awards. All Point birds will be placed on the race sheet. Other lofts will also receive recognition by the listing of the first bird clocked. Diplomas will be issued at a ratio of one for every twenty birds entered or fraction thereof with a maximum of 50 per race. Trophies and other awards will be decided at the Combine's annual meeting, or a regular meeting held prior to the season.

5. Average Speed shall be figured by the total distance divided by the total elapsed time. Average speed races shall be selected at a meeting prior to the first race of the season.

6. Champion (High Point) Bird: An accepted and approved Point System will be used on all average speed races and a Championship Point Diploma awarded for each series. A minimum of 2 diplomas shall be issued by the Combine. (1 for OB and 1 for YB) These birds as well as others deemed suitable by the committee shall be submitted to the (State) and AU for Hall of Fame consideration.

7. Clocks & Clocking: Each member shall be responsible for his clock being wound, filled with tape and in good mechanical condition. Electronic clocks shall have the antenna or scanner located at or inside the loft entrance or drop holes to comply with AU rules. (See AU Rule 16.00) All electronic clocks should be running the most recent version of software available (See AU Rule 16.00) Only those clocks designed for use as capsules may be used without capsules. All others must use capsules, with the exception of the newer Electronic clocking systems.

8. Race Results: Each club Race Secretary shall forward their club's results to the Federation Race Preparer as soon as possible so that the race results may be prepared.

9. Knock-off: All clocks are to be sealed and started at the same time using Coordinated Universal Time.

10. Limits: A. There is to be no clocking limit as per AU competition standards. B. There is to be no shipping limits as per this Heartland Racing Pigeon Federation Race Rule.

11. Dead Time: Standard "Dead Time" shall apply for all two-day races as per AU rules. (10 P.M. To 5 A.M.) for old birds. 1/2 hour after Sunset to 1/2 hour before Sunrise for Young birds as published in the (Pick local regional newspaper).

12. Partnerships: Two or more members may fly from the same location/loft providing a flying roster is furnished to the Race Secretary for each member before the first race of the season and is observed throughout the season. A single clock may be used following the above guidelines.

13. Bands: Only birds with unaltered seamless racing pigeon sized bands, approved by the AU may be entered. (See AU rule 7.09)

14. Sick Birds: No sick, mite-infested or birds with Pox will be allowed to be shipped on races. The Race Secretary's decision will prevail.

15. Race Course old and young Birds: The Course is south. The course follows Interstate 35. Stations will be located in this general direction and can deviate from I35 only when mileage and/or moderate change of direction is for the improvement for the transportation of the race.

16. Time of Liberation: Shall be one half hour after local sunrise at the release point on races 300 miles and under. Weather permitting. Races greater than 300 miles may be released at local sunrise at release point. Weather permitting.

17. Race Change: When circumstances warrant, the liberation committee has the option to return race birds to a nearer station on scheduled race day. If birds are brought back from a long station to a short race station the race shall be omitted from long average speed. If birds are brought back to central pick up for clubs to pick up, the race will be cancelled. The liberators do have the authority to delay the race due to the weather. Delayed releases and holdovers are not to be ignored as a solution to inclement weather. Note: If a condition warrants the race can be shipped at an earlier or a later date. For a race to be moved to an earlier date at least 24 hr. notice must be given to membership which is determined to be by noon 1 day before shipping was to occur. The resolution for a race scheduled that cannot be liberated at the scheduled station is that the liberators are empowered to move any direction for a good liberation. Average Speed will be determined by distance. If conditions for either Old or Young Bird

Schedule where the races that may become smash events, for the good of the Sport and the humane aspect the race will be cancelled.

18. Shipping Change: Shipping of race 100 miles to 300 miles can change to Sunday as a solution to weather forecasts that limit the possibility of good liberations and return of race birds. This recommendation will be made by the liberators and club Race Secretary's.

19 Closing of Races: the following time will be used to officially close Combine races: 100300 miles 48 hours after release, 400 to 600 miles 72 hours after release.

20 Loft Surveys: If a flying loft(s) is moved from its original survey spot it must be resurveyed. Multiple flying lofts must be within 25 feet of each other or each loft must be surveyed separately. Loft survey and Race Stations will be measured with GPS w/ "WASS" capabilities. No exceptions!

21. Promotion: To help foster participation, junior members will not be required to pay Federation Dues. Dues will be required to first year adult members.

22. Season Start: Old bird races shall not begin earlier than the first Saturday in May. Young bird races shall not begin earlier than the second Saturday in August.

25. Disputes: Any dispute not covered by these race rules will be decided by the Club and Combine Race Secretaries. The Combine will then enact a rule to cover it in anticipation of future disputes any rule enacted must not conflict with the Official Club Race Rules of the American Racing Pigeon Union