

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ECC

## AMENDED OCTOBER 2015

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **Name**

The name shall be the **EAST COURSE COMBINE**.

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### **Objectives**

To coordinate the activities for racing pigeons on the East Course. To promote the sport of breeding and racing of pigeons and to conduct and join in worthy efforts of others to elevate this sport to the highest plane of sportsmanship and Competition, in a fair and honorable manner.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **Section 1**

Membership in the combine is open to any racing pigeon fancier in good standing with any club recognized by the American Racing Pigeon Union, the I.F., the CSRPO, and the East Course Combine.

#### **Section 2**

Active Membership: Any pigeon fancier of good character who has been accepted as a member in a club recognized by the combine. The member must have competed in at least 50% of the combine races in the previous twelve months or completed one race season. The member must also be current with respect to all fees owed the combine including but not limited to annual dues.

#### **Section 3**

Inactive Membership: Any pigeon fancier that meets all qualifications of active membership but has not competed in at least 50% of the Combine races in the previous twelve months or completed one race season will be considered an inactive member.

#### **Section 4**

Probationary Members: Any pigeon fancier that has not been a member of the Combine long enough to have competed in 50% of the Combine races in the previous twelve months or completed one race season but meets all other membership qualifications.

#### **Section 5**

Voting Criteria: The fancier **MUST** have active member status and will be entitled to one vote per loft. For example: One active member flying more than one team per location will only have one vote. Two active members flying one team per location will only have one vote. Two active members flying two or more teams from the same location will have two votes, etc.

This formula will apply at open meetings and will also be used to determine the number of votes that board members are allowed to vote for on behalf of their clubs. Each individual clubs must turn in an attendance sheet to verify there was a club meeting held prior to any Combine

meeting where a vote will take place. In order for voting to take place at the club level or combine level, there has to be quorum (a simple majority).

#### **Section 6**

The right to hold office is a privilege of both active and inactive members only.

## **Section 7**

The right to serve on a committee is a privilege of all active and inactive members only.

## **Section 8**

Any club with five members may make application to the combine. A vote for membership can be taken at any combine meeting or function where a quorum is present. The vote will be by voice unless any active member calls for a secret ballot. Prospective members should not be in the immediate presence of the vote. A yes vote by 75% of the members present is necessary for membership.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Resignation**

Any member club wishing to resign from the combine must tender its resignation, through its President, in writing to the Combine President or Vice President and pay all indebtedness due the Combine. By resigning the club forfeits all rights and claims to Combine property.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Removal**

Any club or individual may have its membership in the Combine suspended or revoked for good cause. ARPU guidelines will be followed.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Officers**

A Board of Directors and the elected officers shall administer the affairs of the combine. The Board of Directors shall consist of two delegates from each member club. Each club shall have the option to send an alternate to each meeting. That alternate will have the right to represent their club. The Delegates/Directors will be allowed one vote for every active loft in their club. See Article 3 Section 5. The board of Directors shall elect Combine Officers. The officers must come from the Board of Directors, except the Combine Race Secretary. Upon election, the Race Secretary will become a Board member if not already. There will be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Race Secretary. The Board of Directors will have the authority to make decisions pertaining to the Combine. Any three clubs can petition the Board of Directors and request a meeting, open to all members.

## **Responsibilities of Officers**

### **Section 1**

The President shall preside at all meetings when present, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. The President can vote only to break ties. The President shall also have the authority to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer. Should any officer be unable to fulfill their duties, The President shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

### **Section 2**

The Vice President shall assume and perform all duties of the President in case of his absence or inability to serve. The Vice President shall also be Chairman of the Trailer Committee.

### **Section 3**

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Combine. The Treasurer shall credit the Combine's accounts with all monies received from any source and shall pay all obligations of the combine. The combine books shall be open for inspection to any active member at any reasonable time.

#### **Section 4**

The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the combine. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, and provide The Board of Directors and all clubs Presidents, copies of all meetings minutes. The Secretary shall keep an accurate roster of all members. The secretary shall notify all Board members 5 days in advance of all meetings, unless it is a regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **Section 5**

The Race Secretary shall be chairman of the race committee. The Race Secretary shall have charge of all details of every race and shall conduct the same in accordance with these by-laws and the combine race rules.

#### **Section 6**

The Board of Directors will elect the Race Sheet Secretary if the Race Secretary does not prepare a race sheet. The R.S.S. duties are outlined in the Combine race rules.

### **ARTICLE 7**

#### **Committees**

##### **Section 1**

Race Committee: The race committee is to be chaired by the combine Race Secretary, and will include all member clubs Race Secretaries. Clubs Race Secretaries duties will be to assist the Combine Race Secretary in conducting the races and implementing the combine race rules.

##### **Section 2**

Trailer Committee: The trailer committee is to be chaired by the Combine Vice President. Duties will include presenting qualified applicants and there bids to the B.O.D. for the position of conveyer. The committee will provide proof prior to shipping the first race, that the conveyer has liability insurance of at least \$600,000.00. The committee will also instruct and prepare the conveyer for his duties. They shall prepare an operating guidebook and a logbook for the driver, and insure the guidelines are followed and the logbook is current. The committee will also be responsible for the maintenance and safe operation of the trailer as well as the maintenance and cleaning of the crates.

##### **Section 3**

Other Committees: Regular and temporary committees are to be appointed by the President and will serve whatever function deemed necessary.

##### **Section 4**

The Board of Directors will establish a race schedule at the first regular Board meeting following the completion of the prior race schedule.

## **New By Laws**

### **ARTICLE 8**

#### **Annual Open Meeting**

##### **Section 1**

The annual open meeting is to take place the first Saturday in November. The agenda for this meeting will include each member club announcing their representatives for the new year Board of Directors. At this time members seeking Combine office will be allowed a few minutes to address the Combine membership. The members elected for the upcoming year, will be voted on at the December meeting.

The new Combine office, take over on January 1 till December 31 of that year.

All awards for Young Bird to be given out at the December meeting. All awards for Old Bird to be given out at the July meeting.

##### **Section 2**

Special meetings may be held at the call of the President or by a written request to the President by a simple majority of member club Presidents. All Board members must be notified of any meeting at least ten days in advance.

### **Annual B.O.D Meeting**

#### **Section 1**

The annual Board of Directors meeting will take place one week after the annual open meeting. Combine elections will take place at this time.

### **ARTICLE 9**

#### **Quorum**

A simple majority of Directors represented constitutes a quorum at a Board meeting. A simple majority of members constitutes a quorum at any open meeting.

### **ARTICLE 10**

#### **Combine property**

##### **Section 1**

All Combine property is to be owned equally by all active and inactive members. Should the Combine disband while there are still outstanding debts to be paid. Combine property would be sold to pay all debts and loans. Should any assets remain after all debts are paid, the assets would be donated to The Help a Beginner Program, another pigeon organization or the City of hope.

### **ARTICLE 11**

#### **Contracts**

##### **Section 1**

The Combine may authorize any Officer(s), Agent(s), to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of, or on behalf of the Combine. Such authority shall be confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Combine, no officer, agent, employee, or member shall have the authority to bind the Combine by contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or for any amount.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **By-laws**

#### **Section 1**

New by-laws may be adopted or these by-laws may be repealed or amended at the annual meeting, or any other meeting of The Board of Directors called for that purpose, by a majority vote.

#### **Section 2**

Repealed, amended or new by-laws shall be effective on the day following the vote, unless specified otherwise. The effective date shall not be retroactive.

#### **Section 3**

Any and all changes to the by-laws shall be copied into the BOOK OF BY-LAWS with the original by-laws. All repealed by-laws shall be stated in the said book.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **Dues**

Annual dues are \$20.00 per adult member, no dues for junior members. Dues are due February 1, and delinquent March 1.