

ECC Race Rules Amended September 23, 2020

(current changes in yellow)

**RACE RULES OF**

**THE EAST COURSE COMBINE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

It is the responsibility of all club officers and the East Course Combine Board of Directors to ensure that the AU race rules and the East Course Combine race rules are followed and enforced. It is the responsibility of the clubs to elect officers that will accept these responsibilities.

**ARTICLE I - RACE SECRETARY DUTIES**

**SECTION A. Responsibility**

Shall be responsible for supervising and ensuring the integrity of each combine race.

**SECTION B. Race Reports**

Shall make all race arrangements. He/She shall keep full records of all races flown and instruct and supervise any person, if other than Race Secretary, as to how reports and all other pertinent information is to be presented and recorded. He/She shall prepare or have prepared a race report after each race and make available an electronic copy to the racing members.

**SECTION C. Compliance - Race Rules**

Shall conduct races in compliance with the official race rules and the East Course Combine race rules.

**SECTION D. Communications**

Shall keep Race Secretaries fully informed as to schedules, details of shipping, release time, and weather conditions at release point.

**SECTION E. Clocks**

Shall inspect any and all clocks used for timing combine races whenever he/she deems it necessary or it is requested to do so by a member club Race Secretary.

**SECTION F. Liberator**

Shall instruct the liberator on release of birds for all races. Liberator shall call Race Secretary before the race to determine release time. If bad weather is determined, liberator should contact Race Secretary for new time or new scheduled release point. No other person may communicate with the liberator on race day without specific authorization from the East Course Combine Race Secretary.

**SECTION G. Race Changes or Cancellations**

The race schedule may not be changed in any way while a race series is in progress **EXCEPT** if it is deemed necessary by the **MAJORITY of the RACE COMMITTEE** (Consisting of: ECC Race Secretary and each individual club's Race Secretaries **ONLY!**).

Considerations should include the safety and welfare of the birds and are not necessarily to be limited to heat, winds, or rain for either the young or old bird seasons.

The combine race secretary will contact all club race secretaries 2 days prior to the scheduled shipping date. The club secretaries will then caucus their members and report their club's decision to the combine race secretary by 6 pm on day prior to scheduled shipping. This is the minimum timing schedule; however, the combine race secretary can start this process earlier if conditions warrant it.

A member club, through its club race secretary, may decide to hold their birds to be brought back from the race. They will forfeit any fees paid to the Combine or transporter. If the club does not release with the Combine and the race is flown, the members of the club will be treated as if they **DID NOT** ship the race (for award considerations, etc.).

If it is determined by the majority of the Race Committee that a race cannot be released, (For Example: If there are 7 participating clubs in the Combine, a majority would be 4 clubs in agreement), the FIRST consideration of the Race Committee shall be to bring the race back to the first safe release station and release on the same day. The new station will count for any and all awards as the race it is replacing and **WILL NOT AFFECT** the remaining race schedule. The SECOND consideration of the Race Committee shall be holding the birds over for one day and release if appropriate weather conditions exist. The FINAL consideration of the Race Committee shall be to **CANCEL AND DROP** the race, **HAVING NO EFFECT** on the remaining race schedule. If the race is cancelled by **NOON ON THE DAY OF SHIPPING. THE RACE WILL BE RESCHEDULED** for the following week, moving all remaining races one week later. Unless it is a MAJORITY decision by the Race Committee to cancel a race by **NOON ON THE DAY OF SHIPPING. ALL RACES WILL BE SHIPPED** and the determinations outlined above will be made while the birds are in transit.

#### **SECTION H. Liberation Time**

All race birds shall go to the scheduled race points. Race birds are to be released when sun is full circle and the race truck should be facing in an East or West position. The ECC Race Secretary shall receive the exact time of liberation, from which calculations for records are to be made, direct from the liberator. The time of release will be made available within a half hour time on the Combine website, and email out to all ECC members.

If any members have questions or concerns during a race, they should contact **THEIR OWN CLUB RACE SECRETARIES ONLY**, who will then communicate with the ECC Race Secretary.

#### **SECTION I. Feeding and Watering of Race Birds**

The liberator is to water the race birds, two hours before release. No feed is To be given to race birds on the one-day races.

For two-day races, one ounce of feed per bird is to be given on the day prior to release. On holdovers or three-day races, each bird shall receive one ounce of feed per day. All birds shall receive the same kind of feed. The type of feed is to be decided upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the East Course Combine. The liberator is to refer to a checklist provided to him/her by the Combine for a more detailed description pertaining to each race specifically.

#### **SECTION J. Money Races**

All money races shall state separately and specifically what additional rules shall apply.

#### **ARTICLE II - Communicable Disease**

See AU Race Rule 7.11. Special attention shall be paid to Pox lesions on the skin or mucous membranes.

## **ARTICLE III - Timers**

### **SECTION A - Owners Duty**

Owners shall see that all timers are put in first class condition before presenting same to club. At all times, timers shall be handled at the owner own risk. Each flyer must have his/her name on the outside of their clock. Proper capsules must be used in all capsule type.

timers. See par. 9.09 of the AU race rules for details on approved timers and who must use capsules.

### **SECTION B - Club's Duty**

All setting of timers, countermarking of birds, shipping of birds, and knock-off of timers will be done by the individual pigeon clubs, EXCEPT, on special designated races. All mechanical clocks will be sealed with numbered seals and recorded on the flyers race entry sheet.

### **SECTION C - Timer Tampering**

Proof of a timer having been tampered with shall be sufficient to forfeit all claims for record or prizes in said race. The Race Committee shall set the discipline.

### **SECTION D - Computer Clocks**

If a computer clock is opened accidentally and the time of birds clocking has been erased and the time cannot be retrieved from the clock, NO time can be given for any birds clocked. NO other outside record can be substituted for the time lost when the clock was accidentally opened.

### **SECTION E - Electronic Band Scanning Systems**

Members flying the East Course Combine shall be allowed to use the electronic band scanning systems. Race secretaries and club members shall familiarize themselves with the AU rules 16.00 through 16.18. THIS IS A MUST; NO FLYER MAY HANDLE HIS OWN BIRDS WHILE ELECTRONIC BAND SCANNING IS DONE! At the time of scanning, any bird with an electronic band that DOES NOT MATCH the club band will be disqualified!

Should any Race Secretary or the Race Committee determine a lack of security exists, the Combine Race Secretary shall be informed immediately. He/She in turn will notify the AU Competition Standards Committee.

## **ARTICLE IV – Shipping of Birds**

All birds will be divided in their club crates and no member is allowed to ship more than 50% of his birds in any one crate.

### **SECTION A - Competition Requirements**

Requirements are as outlined in AU race rules 4.10 through 4.14

### **SECTION B - Combine Trailer**

ALL race birds shall be shipped to the races using the East Course Combine trailer.

All clubs will rotate location on the trailer each week, and will be loaded from top to bottom in a single row on the trailer. One week your club will be on the driver side, next week on the passenger side. Combine Race sect. will send your club race sect. a copy each week where to load your club birds this make it fair for all clubs. unless otherwise directed by the majority vote of the Board of Directors of the East Course Combine.

### **SECTION C - Race Birds Loading**

It shall be the responsibility of the individual clubs to arrange transportation for their birds to a prearranged point for loading. Failure to meet the truck loading schedule shall bar them from the race.

### **SECTION D - Who Must Accompany Birds to Shipping Point**

Two or more ADULT members MUST remain at the shipping location or accompany the birds to the shipping point. These members MAY NOT be members of the same family or partners from the same team. In regards to accompanying the birds to the shipping point, it is permissible to follow in another vehicle as long as the vehicle is not of a closed van design.

The second vehicle must maintain visual contact with the convoying vehicle.

## **ARTICLE V – Birds Shipping Limits**

### **SECTION A**

#### **Bird Shipping Limits**

The East Course Combine has a 30 bird/team limit for shipping, however, based upon capacity of the trailer and the number of members flying, a further limit may have to be established. Shipping limits are as follows:

- Short distance races 25 birds per crate
- Middle distance races 20 birds per crate
- Long distance races 15 birds per crate

### **SECTION B**

#### **CRATE ALLOCATION**

It is the job of the race secretary to assign shipping crates to the member clubs. Crates will be assigned in such a manner as to equalize the number of birds per crate for the combine as a whole. Therefore, clubs do not “own” or get crates assigned for every team they pay for.

## **ARTICLE VI COMBINE SHIPPING CRATES.**

All shipping crates will have paper on the bottom, all club need to replace at least one a week.

### **ARTICLE VII - Shipping Expenses**

Shipping costs will be made separately for the young bird and old bird race seasons based on a majority decision of the Board of Directors from bids received prior to each season's start. Whoever prepares this report must provide a detailed support schedule to the board of directors.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Bird's Excessive Speed**

In the event that any flyer's speed exceeds any other flyer by over 100 ypm, the flyer may be disqualified from that race along with all his birds, based on a vote by the combine race committee, which is made up of the combine race secretary and the race secretaries for each club. The only exception to the excessive speed will be if the race is a smash. The timer and all papers may be taken for investigation of any infraction of race rules.

### **ARTICLE IX - Two or More Teams per Location**

Where two or more teams are flown from the same location, whether it be by one individual or more, each team must be listed by band numbers. **There is a limit of 60 birds per address.** In the event the bird is double banded, both bands must be listed on said team. One copy of the list must be transmitted to the Combine Race Secretary prior to the first race to be flown. Failure to designate the team and fly as designated will result in the disqualification of the bird or birds flown were the infraction occurred. A member may fly the remaining races in said series after complying with the above rule. The responsibility for complying with the above rule rests upon the individual flyer

### **ARTICLE X - Club Infractions**

If the East Course Combine board members find that a club has been negligent in its enforcement of the race rules, both AU and East Course Combine race rules, that club could be disqualified for the race in question.

### **ARTICLE XI - Infraction of Race Rules**

Any individual in a club who directly refuses to comply with these rules shall forfeit all rights to participate in said races. The primary responsibility for the enforcement of these rules falls upon each club. It shall be the duty of any individual member to report any suspected infraction of these rules to his club Race Secretary. The Combine Race Secretary shall make a decision based on his/her interpretation of the rules. The Combine Race Secretary's decision shall be binding, subject only to a review by the East Course Combine Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE XII - Race Committee**

We recommend that the club race committees consist of three or five experienced individual members appointed by the President of each club. The East Course Combine Race Committee consists of each participating clubs Race Secretary along with the East Course Combine Race Secretary.

### **ARTICLE XIII - Amendments**

The East Course Combine race rules may be amended by the majority vote of the Board of Directors, providing such amendments are not in conflict with the AU race rules.

### **ARTICLE XIV - Diplomas and Trophies**

Diplomas and trophies will be awarded each year as set forth by the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE XV – Youth Fliers**

- 1) A youth flier must be a minimum of 10 years of age and a maximum of 17yrs of age at the start of the race season, Young bird or old bird. (If the youth turns 18 yrs. old during the race season, then he/she will participate as a youth flier for given season).
- 2) The youth must have a paid adult flier as sponsor/mentor for the race season, in which the youth flier will be participating. (I.E. this can be a parent, grandparent, guardian, or other adult sponsor that is authorized, by the club president and race secretary). The adult sponsor/mentor is responsible for ensuring that the youth flier has adequate facilities, supplies and race equipment, ECT.
- 3) Youth fliers are considered probationary members and have no combine voting rights as such.
- 4) Youth fliers will have a shipping limit of 15 birds on all races.

- 5) Youth fliers will pay shipping fees at the maximum rate of ½ the adult fliers cost for any given race season. (the actual rate up to the maximum rate is to be determined by the board of directors and remain in effect until changed by said authority)
- 6) The youth flier's team must be designated prior to the beginning of each race season.
- 7) Youth fliers and their designated team of birds are not eligible to participate in any money races or betting.
- 8) The youth must be an active member. (I.E. Just as the ECC By-Laws Article 3 section 2 states: any pigeon fancier of good character who has been accepted as a member in a club recognized by the combine and said member must have competed in at least 50% of races for a given race season to be considered an active member: So to, must the junior participate in a minimum of 50% of his/hers Club functions).
- 9) The youth flier must be certified as an active participating member by the club president and race secretary, prior to the start of each race season. (If a conflict of interest should occur, such as the president or race secretary is the youth fliers' sponsor/mentor, then the club vice president should assist in the certification)
- 10) If the club president and race secretary determine that the privileges (reduced shipping cost for example) given to the youth flier is being violated. The youth flier will not be allowed to ship for the balance of the race season and/or until the youth flier and sponsor/mentor have satisfactorily shown that no violation(s) have occurred and/or the violation(s) have been corrected.
- 11) If the youth flier and sponsor/mentor wish to appeal the decision of the club president and race secretary, regarding this or any other issue regarding a junior flier. The ECC governing Board of directors will have the finale jurisdiction over the matter.
- 12) Youth fliers will be eligible for all race diplomas and trophies, that an adult member is eligible for.
- 13) If 5 or more youth fliers, fly in any combine race. Then in addition to the regular diplomas and trophies that a youth flier may have won. Separate "Youth Diploma(s)" will be issued by the combine race secretary for said race. Diplomas will be issued for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. In order of youth flier position (first clocked bird from each youth participant). A participation diploma will be issued for all other youth participants in said race.
- 14) An "Iron Eaglet" (or similar designation) participation diploma will be issued by the combine race secretary for all youth fliers who are able to successfully complete an entire race season.

#### ECC YOUTH FLIER CERTIFICATION:

Club affiliation:

Sponsor/Mentor's Name:

Youth's Name:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home Telephone# (       )

Years in the sport of Racing Pigeons?

Has the Youth previously flown one or more Young bird or Old bird seasons? Name of Club President:

Presidents Phone # (            ) Name of Club Race Secretary:

Race Secretary's # (            )

Alternate Certifier:

Phone # (            )

We certify that the above-named Youth Flier is a member in good standing. The youth flier has participated in a minimum of 50% of club activities. (1) The youth has a loft of his/her own that the youth maintains in a clean and healthy fashion and that the loft is not detrimental to the image of the sport or, (2) The youth shares a loft with his/her sponsor/mentor that the youth helps to maintain in a clean and healthy fashion and that the loft is not detrimental to the image of the sport

Signature of Club President:

Signature of Club Race Secretary:

Signature of Alternate:

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF THE  
EAST COURSE COMBINE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RACE RULES CERTIFICATE BY  
SECRETARY OF ADOPTION BY MEMBER'S VOTE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY: That I am the duly elected qualified acting secretary of the East Course Combine and that the above Race Rules consisting of 10 (ten) pages, including this page, constitute the amended Race Rules of 2020 of said Combine which was duly approved by the majority vote of the East Course Combine Board of Directors entitled to vote on **September 23, 2020.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day October 10, 2020. **Relys Moreira,**

**ECC Secretary**

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