

**NORTH STAFFS FEDERATION OF**  
**HOMMING SOCIETIES**

**WM381**

**Rule Book for 2020**



**FEDERATION HEAD QUARTERS**  
**BERRYHILL WMC**  
**CALVERY CRES**  
**BERRYHILL**

**NORTH STAFFS FEDERATION STANDARD RULES**  
**To be read in conjunction with R P R A Rules**

**Rule 1** The Federation Radius will be restricted to fenders whose lofts are situated Within 16 miles of Stoke Church coordination points Long 2.10,47 W Lat 53.00.14

**Rule 2** The Officers of the Federation shall consist of President, Chairman, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee, all of which positions shall be elected annually.

**Rule 3** The committee of management shall be formed by one Delegate from each Affiliated club who shall have the voting power for his/her club.

**Rule 4** All clubs of the Federation must be affiliated to the RPRA.

**Rule 5** Entrance Fee. To join the Federation a Club must have a minimum of 12 Members and the entry fee of £250 be sent with the application to the Federation Secretary.

**Rule 6** Resignations must be forwarded in writing to the Secretary previous to the A.G.M. or Club will be held liable for Seasons subscriptions. A member must pay subscription for each club in which he competes. Should any club resign and then make an application to re-join they will be deemed a new club.

**Rule 7.**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE £8 FOR EACH FULL MEMBER AND 75 PENCE FOR EACH NON FLYING MEMBER.

**Rule 8** Convoying expenses shall be borne *by* each club according to the number of Baskets sent Clubs shall forward remittance to the Treasurer within 7 days, No minimum birds shall be convoyed.

**Rule 9** any club retiring or being expelled from the Federation before the end of any Season, shall forfeit all rights monies etc., deposited with the Federation, and will be held liable for a proportionate part of any deficits.

**Rule 10** The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all monies received and paid On behalf of the Federation. The accounts shall be submitted to at least two separate members from two separate clubs to be audited and the Balance Sheet be presented to a General Meeting. The financial year shall end at 31st October and the balance sheet Presented before the close of year.

**Rule 11** Liability of the Federation. Should the Federation be in debt each club must Pay in such a sum as will make up the deficit.

**Rule 12** Committee power of control. The Committee shall have the power to expel, Suspend or disallow any Race Result of any club or individual member of the Federation, breaking the Rules or found guilty of unfair, disorderly or dishonourable conduct. Any business of this nature is to *be* subject to 14 days' notice.

**Rule 13** within one month of end of racing season all Federation Officials and the Conveyer, to meet and draw up suggested Race Programmes for the Following year- These suggestions to be sent out to all Clubs to be voted on at a general meeting to take place in November. Failing any proposed race programs being received, the committee will have the power to create one for the following years racing.

**Rule 14** The Federation will insure all Race Panniers at Clubs headquarters against Fire& theft.

**Rule 15** that all outstanding monies owed to the Federation to be paid in by the 30th September each year.

**Rule 16** A results shall be compiled for each Federation race showing the best 30 Velocities submitted Any Club result not received by the Federation in the Stipulated time - within 3 days of race being flown, shall be deemed out of Time and may not be considered for inclusion in the Federation result.

**Rule 17** That Clubs pay for their birds within 7 days of race by sending cheque or Postal order to the Treasurer or delivering to Transporters; on basket night the sum to cover the number of full and/or half baskets sent a fixed price will be given before racing starts (any season). The Treasurer will send Receipts for all races. Clubs failing to comply with this rule are to be fined £5.

**Rule 18 NEW.** No loft or single member/partnership of the north staffs fed shall be allowed to send more than 150 pigeons to any race in the north staffs fed race program.

**Rule 19 NEW** Any member/loft with birds registered to them that for fill the criteria of RPRA rule 133b.(as per 2019 rule book).

These birds shall be deemed by the Federation as being party to a One Loft Race, and such birds will not be permitted to travel on the North Staffs Federation transporter, for racing or training purposes. Nor shall they be permitted to be released along with the North Staffs Federation convoy, from any race point. Birds registered to members/lofts not party to a One Loft Race will be permitted.

**Rule 20 DELETED**

**RULE 21** ALL CLUBS MUST PHONE IN THEIR FIRST 6 POSITIONS TO THE FEDERATION SECRETARY NO LATER THAN 12PM THE DAY AFTER THE CLOSE OF RACE. THIS IS TO ENABLE A PROVISIONAL RESULT TO BE COMPILED.

**RULE 22 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ANY MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION TO PHONE, EMAIL, TEXT TO ABUSE AND HARRASS FEDERATION OFFICIALS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING THEIR DUTIES ON A RACE DAY, ANY BREACH OF THIS AND THE SAID MEMBER WILL BE UP IN FRONT OF THE FEDERATION COMMITTEE**

**RULE 23 IF THERE IS TO BE A CHANGE IN MARKING DATE DUE TO UNFORSEEN WEATHER FORECAST, THEN THE DECISION IS TO BE MADE NO LATER THAN 6PM THE DAY BEFORE THE PLANNED MARKING.**

**RULE 24 WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE LAST RACE, CLUBS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A RACE PROGRAMME FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR, TO BE VOTED ON BY THE FEDERATION RACE COMMITTEE**

**RULE 25 THERE ARE TO BE 3 PICK UP POINTS FOR THE FEDERATION LAND RACES, ABBEY SUBURBAN TILL 8.30. GOLDENHILL TILL 9PM AND STAFFORD, COLLECTED ON ROUTE. WATER RACES BIRDS MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE ABBEY SUBURBAN BY 8.30PM AND THE STAFFORD ON ROUTE.**

**NEW RULE 26. ANY MEMBER OF THE NSF REFUSING A DRUGS TEST OF THEIR PIGEONS WITHIN 36HR OF BEING REQUESTED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE FEDERATION, WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED BY THE NSF AS PER RPRR RULE 199.**

**rule 27. All clubs must fill in all paperwork correctly and eligibly, any deemed unreadable or incorrectly filled in will be returned to that club at their own expense.**

**rule 28. When clubs send in their race claims forms all parts must be filled in for every member and every bird you are claiming for, along with the dials/rubbers /ets basketing sheets/ ets race arrival sheets. For each member. If Any of the dials/rubbers /ets basketing sheets/ ets race arrival sheets are not sent in then that member will be omitted from the race. (I can not give a velocity to any bird I have no proof of clocking or sending)**

**rule 29, all members receiving trophies are solely responsible for the cleanliness of all silver ware and any breakages that occur whilst they are in their possession. All must be returned as you received them clean, and damages must be reported to the fed sec as soon as possible.**

### **RACING RULES.**

**RULE (I). , Each club secretary must: forward to the federation secretary a full list of members together with WM number before 1st March of each year, so that correct distances can be obtained for the years racing. Failure to do so may hinder the result being published.**

**RULE (2). Flying Distances.** Each member must have distances properly measured by an official appointed by the and distances procured from the official R.P.R.A. calculator, If requested club secretary's must forward official distances of any competitor to the federation secretary,

**RULE (3). Clocks.** All clocks used must be approved by the R.P.R.A,

**RULE (4). Hours of Darkness.** Will be 22-00 to 04-30. B.S.T.

**RULE (5), Ownership of Birds.** The federation shall have the power to liberate a bird at the owner's loft, and should a bird die. After homing the federation secretary is to be notified immediately so that the bird can be verified all birds must fly to the owners' loft.

**RULE (6) Times of liberation,** these will be phoned to club headquarters by the federation secretary. No member is allowed to communicate with the conveyer in any way whets so ever on the day of liberation; anyone found doing so shall be disqualified from that day's race.

**RULE (7) Crates,** before dispatch all clubs must ensure that crates are in a clean and secure condition, with fresh newspaper in place on the bottom. Clubs failing to do this shall be brought before the committee.

**RULE (8) dispatching of crates;** it shall be the responsibility of each club to see that the crates are delivered to the transporter at the time and place designated, in the event of any for seen delay the federation secretary is to be notified immediately. Crates are the property of the federation and haulage contractor. Whilst any crates are in the procession of any club, it shall be their responsibility to maintain strict supervision over them, under no circumstances are any individuals other than anyone authorised by the president to be in the procession of any crates Anyone found in procession of any crates will be subject to suspension under RPRA rule 43.

**RULE (9) Time of liberation** to be left to the race controllers and conveyors discretion, all conditions relating to the best possible welfare of the birds, including weather forecasts and adequate line of flight must be considered by the person(s) responsible before any liberation.

**RULE (10) close of race,** all races up to 200 miles from Stoke church shall close at 23-00hrs on day of liberation. Races between 200 and 450 miles shall close 23-00hrs on second day after liberation. All races over 450 miles shall close 23-00 hrs on third day after liberation. In the event of no birds being timed in on the above days, the race shall be continued to the following day. In the event of insufficient birds being timed in to take the prizes by close of race, the reminder of the prizes and whatever pools the birds are entered in shall be divided pro rata amongst the winning birds.

**RULE (11) counter stamping. The federation are empowered to counter stamp any birds, such counter stamping to be valid race marks.**

**RULE (12) in the event of either an early/late liberation, lib line to be updated as frequent as possible.**

**RULE (13) the federation will hold annually 2 special races with or without sponsorship, this to be determine prize money. The Allard memorial cup and the federation Challenge trophy to be awarded to the winners of these races. A special race committee to govern these rules and conditions of the races yearly.**

**RULE 14) DELETED**

**RULE15) all birds to be either wing stamped or carry an address ring for identification purposes, any bird found not to comply shall be removed from the race.**

**RULE 16) A results shall be compiled for each Federation race showing the best 30 Velocities submitted, Any Club result not received by the Federation in the Stipulated time - within 3 days of race being flown, shall he deemed out of Time and may not be considered for inclusion in the Federation result.**

**NEW 17 any member timing birds on from Saintes( or substitution) are to ring/text the fed sec to verify their first birds arrival time**

### **CLOCK RULES**

**RULE (1) Any member bringing in a clock unlocked or unsealed shall be disqualified.**

**RULE (2) The club master clock should be set accurately to enable the clock to be struck and locked on the last pip broadcast which will be deemed 'Federation Greenwich time. Any loss or gain which may be recorded by the setting and checking puncture must be recorded on the clock sheet and dealt with in the usual manner when making calculations for velocities. In the event of a toss taking place on Sunday Clubs shall check their master clocks after official notification of liberation, The master clock of any club stopping during the course of any federation race shall be reset to Greenwich mean time as broadcast by the B.B.C. at 10 -00 hours and the timing of clocks of members shall be checked from it as soon as possible, So far as the original setting is concerned the master timer shall be regarded ashaving been set correct and any amount by which the clocks of members set from it were set fast or slow shall be taken into consideration in ascertaining the amount of their variation on Greenwich time, The dials of any stopped master clock shall be sent into the federation secretary for that race, No master clock shall be opened until after 1900 hours unless authorised by a federation inspector, The clock sheet shall be signed by at least two members witnessing the setting and the checking of the club master clock.**

**RULE (3). ALL CLOCKS ARE TO BE SET THE NIGHT PRIOR TO PLANNED LIBERATION, APART FROM THE FOLLOWING 3 RACES, CARENTAN, FOURGERES, MESSAC, THESE CLOCKS MAY BE SET ON NIGHT OF BASKETING (AT CLUBS DISCRETION). SAINTES CLOCKS STILL NEED TO BE SET ON THE THURSDAY NIGHT.**

**RULE (4). Clock Ratings, Penalties, Etc.,** all competitors using clocks shall be responsible for the rating of their own clocks, should a clock have varied more than at the rate of 8 seconds per hour in 24 hours, a fast clock shall be regarded as correct. A slow clock shall have double the proportionate lost time added. A stopped clock shall be treated as a slow clock, Should a competitors clock stop before timing in the same may be reset off the club master, In the event of a members clock stopping in a race after timing in he shall be allowed to take his clock to an available officially set clock, It shall then be run out in the presence of a witness or witnesses and the thimbles and rings intact as timed in together with the competitors name on a slip be timed into the substitute clock, The time as then registered on the dials of the substitute clock subject to its variation shall be taken as the time of the birds arrival, The substitute clock so used must be returned to its official setting station in such manner as the rules provide, and the officials in charge notified of the circumstances, The matter must also be reported to the club secretary and the dials of the faulty clock handed to the club officials for inspection and report to the federation secretary.

**RULE (5) Tampering penalty,** should any member be proved to have tampered with his clock in any way whatever for personal gain the clock and member shall be suspended for all time.

**RULE (6) During long races and in the event of birds being held over the clock shall be produced to the club clock committee for winding and resetting at such time as they may direct.**

**RULE (7) Clock Inspection,** During the time a clock is under seal the federation committee shall have power to send an inspector to examine and check any clock, A note of introduction from the federation secretary will be given to each inspector and all affiliated clubs and members must on production of this note by the inspector allow same to examine and check their clocks, A report of such examination will be made to the federation secretary by the inspector and should the same be unfavourable it will be dealt with by the federation.

**RULE (8) Dial Reading,** It will be distinctly understood that time registered on clocks shall be calculated from the nearest second as registered on dials, Should the puncture on the clock dial not strike the line exact it shall be recorded to the nearest second and these shall be taken into account when calculating the velocities and shall apply both in setting, Checking and bird time

**RULE (9) In all cases the rubber ring must be enclosed in the recognised type and receptacle issued with each particular clock, Complete for that purpose and must Correspond in proper order with the mark registering the arrival of birds. Two or more members by arrangement if sanctioned by their club may time in on the one clock, Thimbles or boxes are not to be put in upside down, anyone found puncturing their clock for any purpose other than timing in a bird must give explanation to the club secretary before clocks are checked.**

**RULE (10) The committee shall have power to detain any clock to which it may consider there is any question and immediately inform the federation secretary stating cause of complaint.**

**RULE (11) Responsibility for damage to clocks, every care will be taken of clocks whilst in possession of the committee but neither committee or any officer shall be liable to any clock owner for any delay, damage or loss which may occur whilst the clock are in their or his custody.**

## **ELECTRONICTIMING SYSTEMS**

**12. All Association members are allowed to time their birds electronically at all levels of competition with an RPRA approved electronic timing system (ETS) providing the club/organisation has the required equipment and the officials are competent to use it**

**13. No Association member can be compelled to use an electronic timing system. Any ETS equipment showing visible signs of damage to the casing or seal (even if caused accidentally) cannot be used to produce race entry details or strike off sheets. Officials have the power to detain any ETS they consider doubtful.**

**14. It is the responsibility of the member to check that each organisation he intends to compete with has both the equipment needed, and willing, competent officials necessary for him to use his ETS.**

**15 The necessary hardware and software for the organisation's administration of ETS must be held under lock and key at the organization or other approved premises, to be accessed by a minimum of two officials. The operation of the hardware and software is only permitted by authorised members who have been elected by the organisation**

**16. (a) Electronic rings must be allocated to the ring numbers of the member's pigeons by two elected officials a minimum of 7 days prior to the use of the ETS. Allocation on marking nights will only be permitted due to a defect or loss of an electronic ring. (b) Should a member present a bird for allocation of rings prior to the start of or during old bird or young bird racing and the electronic ring indicates another member's loft number/details, then proof of ownership of the ring must be supplied before assigning the ring to the member's bird. If proof of ownership cannot be furnished by the member, then action may be taken under rules 169/70**

**17. After each allocation a list must be printed in duplicate, each of which must be signed by an authorised person of the organization and countersigned by the member. One signed list is to be filed along with race entry documentation and the other handed to the member. The allocation data must be stored on a backup disk in case amendments become necessary during the season. Any organization to which the member is affiliated may demand to see the allocation list.**

**18. All electronic timers set with the ETS radio clock shall deemed to be correct with TIM.**



**19. As part of the race entry process officials must check that the full details of the life ring on the pigeon's leg is the same as that shown by the system when the electronic chip ring is scanned. All ETS race entry sheets and race arrival reports must be printed directly from the ETS printer and not via a PC printer. These must contain the competitor's name, RPRA loft number, race and date. One copy must be retained by the organisation and one copy given to the competitor or his/her nominated person. Both copies must be signed by an official of the organisation and the competitor or his/her nominated person. The signed print and copies of the race entry sheets constitute the electronically produced part of the race register. Pools may be recorded on these sheets either manually or electronically. No member is permitted to take part in the race marking/entry process of his own pigeons.**

**20. If a day pigeon is timed in races lasting more than one day, the ETS must be taken to a clock station for a progress reading/print out. If the ETS is required for further timings, it will be struck off at a later date.**

**21. Should the data record of an ETS be deleted or become unusable between the pigeons' entry to the loft and print out after the pigeons return for any reason, the entered pigeons must be eliminated from the result. Where there is a difference between the code number written into the ring during the marking and the code number stated at the return then the pigeon is to be eliminated from the result.**

**22 The positioning of the ETS sensors/ antennae will not be allowed on any landing boards or other external surfaces in such a way that when the loft is closed no electronic chip ring may be recorded by the Electronic Timing System installed. Club Officials may make random checks at any time. Contravention of this rule will result in disciplinary action under Rule 70(a).**

**23 All ETS must comply with UNIVES 1.7 protocol only THIMBLELESS CLOCKS:**

**The following clocks may be used without thimbles:**

**T2/T3 12 Bird Clock fitted with flaps**

**T2/T3 21 Bird Clock fitted with flaps**

**Junior 12 Micro Lite Front**

**STB (minimum 5 digits)**

**La Ledoise Standard 12 Bird**

**THIMBLELESS/FLAP LESS CLOCKS:**

**The following clocks may be used without thimbles or flaps:**

**Benzing Paloma**

**Benzing Computer**

**Benzing Quartz**

**6-figure STB Quartz and Manual**

**CLOCK INSERT: The Gerwin Basch Click 'n Clock T3 Clock inserts may be used in conjunction with thimbles in unmodified T3 Clock slot**

**ETS SYSTEMS**

1. BENZING
2. BRICON
3. MEGA
4. TAURIS
5. TINES UK
6. UNIKON
7. VICTORY

## **TROPHIES**

### **SENTINEL TROPHY.**

(1). For the purposes of the competition for the trophy each competing member or partnership of members shall pay five pence, Any member or partnership of members shall in the event of competing in more than one club pay five pence entrance fee for each club, The Trophy to be won by the Best Combined Average of a member in ONE CLUB ONLY and no duplication from other clubs allowed, Only birds competing for club prizes shall Be eligible to compete for the trophy, and the whole of the amount received in entry fees will be allocated proportionately to such of the Hospitals in the area of the Federation as the Federation Committee may determine, with due regard to any wishes which may be expressed by the donors in this connection.

(2). Competition for the trophy to be on the system of net time and distance, the member or partnership of members having the best average in the whole of the races in Federation programme in any season to be the winner, no alteration which may be made here after in the Federation's constitution rules conditions governing races or for any purpose whatever shall affect the competition for this trophy.

(3). In addition, the donors will give a replica of the trophy each year to the winner and a suitable medal to the member or partnership of members with the best average in each of the other two sections of the Federation apart from that in which the winner was competing.

(4). The trophy is to be regarded as perpetual, not to be won outright, It shall never become the property of any club or member, and must be returned to the Secretary of the competition when required. The Staffordshire Sentinel Newspapers Ltd, shall be the legal holders of the trophy.

### **THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CHALLENGE TROPHY.**

Will be awarded to the winner of the combined average, of all races in the Federation programme.

### **ALLARD MEMORIAL CUP.**

Will be awarded for the best average in the Federation Open Races.

### **CHEADLE AND TEAN TIMES SHIELD.**

Will be awarded for the best average in the old bird channel races; this was presented by the late G.A. Holmes.

### **C.CATTERALL TROPHY.**

**Will be awarded to the winner of the Carentan Race**

**T.SHAW & SON POINTS TROPHY.**

**Will be awarded to the competitor gaining most points in one club only, Points awarded 30 Points for first position 29 Points for second position going down to one Point for 30th position.**

**ABBAY PET STORES "SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR" TROPHY.**

**Awarded to any member nominated by His/her Club, In the event of more than one nomination being received the eventual winner to be decided by the committee. OLD BIRD LAND AVERAGE TROPHY DONATED BY ABBAY PET STORES.**

**To be awarded to the competitor with the Highest Average Velocity in the Federation.**

**T.SHAW & SON CLUB TROPHY.**

**To be awarded to the club, which in the Federation Secretary's opinion, has given every satisfaction during the season.**

**CLAIMS FOR AVERAGES, THE LATEST DATE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS FOR AVERAGES FOR TROPHIES MUST BE WITHIN 28 DAYS OF LAST RACE BEING FLOWN. A MEMBER MUST TIME IN ALL RACES TO COMPETE FOR AVERAGES UNLESS A RACE IS DECLARED VOID OR THERE IS NO BIRDS HOME IN RACE TIME, WHICH THE AVERAGE WILL BE RECKONED ON THE REMAINDER OF THE RACES.**



