**Constitutions and By-Laws**

**Name and Ofﬁcers**

Section 1:

This club shall be known by the name of **SOUTHERN PIGEON CLUB** and here-after referred to as the Club.

Section 2:

The ofﬁcers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer and such other ofﬁcers as the Club may deem proper to appoint.

Section 3:

Voting Committee

The voting committee shall be appointed by the officers and shall agree to serve in this capacity for at least 1 year. The purpose of the voting committee shall be to make club decisions and amendments in matters of business, bylaws, etc. If a member of the Club wishes to propose a change, they shall submit the proposed amendment to one of the officers who will present the proposal to the committee for voting.

**Purpose and Objectives**

Section 1:

The Club shall be devoted to the breeding and raising of pigeons for pleasure and the promotion of fellowship along the pigeon fraternity in general and its members in particular.

Section 2:

The Club shall promote all breeds of pigeons, and its ofﬁcers are charged with the responsibility for the application of this article in spirit, as well as letter, in all proceedings and transactions of the club.

Section 3:

The Objectives of the Club shall be:

1. To provide a center of activity for the promotion of breeding and raising pigeons.
2. To provide the general public with information on the pigeon hobby through the use of public information media, dispel misconceptions associated with pigeons, and endeavor to improve the public image and climate within which the pigeon fraternity must exist.
3. To promote the raising and breeding of pigeons among the younger generation to ensure the survival of the hobby.
4. To provide the new member with information, instructions and assistance.
5. To provide, through scheduled pigeon shows, friendly competition among the Club members for the improvement of all pigeon breeds.

Section 4: Competition in the show room shall be the main purpose for the majority of the Club members. Others enjoy color breeding, the study of genetics, or may simply want to improve upon standards. Whatever the purpose, it is important for the Club to foster good sportsmanship.

1. Sportsmanship relies on the values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, dignity and respect to all in the fancy.
2. Sportsmanship encourages vigorous competition while allowing for winning and losing with grace.
3. Sportsmanship insures that members and judges will not inject personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
4. Sportsmanship enables a judge to make placements based only on the merits of the birds and considers no other factors. The exhibitor has the responsibility not to enter under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge’s placements could be based on something other than the merits of the birds.
5. Sportsmanship respects the right of a judge or exhibitor to express constructive criticism.
6. Sportsmanship respects the Club bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the fancy. Constructive criticism is offered with prudence for the benefit of the Club and the fancy.
7. Sportsmanship would not allow anyone to embarrass the fancy, themselves, or the Club while taking part in the hobby.
8. Sportsmanship empowers fanciers to welcome, encourage, and support newcomers to the hobby.
9. Sportsmanship recognizes the responsibility for the welfare of our purebred pigeons.
10. A good sport shares knowledge, experience, and mentors the novice and/or veteran in the fancy.

**Membership & Dues**

Section 1:

Membership in the Club shall be open to any person who may show an interest in the pigeon hobby and agrees to abide by the Club Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2:

Adult Member - An adult member is deﬁned as any individual 18 years of age or older. Each adult membership is afforded one vote in elections of officers. Adult member yearly dues are $20 per year.

Section 3:

Junior Member - A junior member is deﬁned as any individual from 6 to 17 years of age. Junior membership dues are $5 per year. A junior member is not afforded a vote.

Section 4:

Family Membership - A Family Membership is deﬁned as spouse(s) and children of Club members who shall be permitted to participate in Club activities. Family membership dues are $25 per year. Young relatives such as stepchildren, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews that reside in the home of family are considered a part of the Family membership for club activities. A family membership is afforded one vote in elections of officers.

Section 5:

The Club Membership Identification Card shall be issued on payment of dues. The membership card is good for the current year of issue. Membership in the club will run from January 1 thru December 31.

Section 6

Any new membership started after June 30th of any year will pay a prorated amount of half the normal club dues for that type of membership. This reduction in membership dues is not applicable to members whose dues are in arrears.

**Suspension and Removal from Membership**

Section 1:

Should any member neglect to pay yearly dues by March 1st, that member's name shall be stricken from the rolls of the Club, and the member will be treated as a non-member for all club shows until the membership dues are made current. Membership may be restored to good standing only upon payment of all dues in arrears, not to exceed one year.

Section 2:

Any member whose actions and behavior does not conform to the purpose and objectives of the Club as stated above may be removed from the Club membership. Any member so removed shall have their name dropped from the role, and be refunded a pro-rated share of their membership dues for that year.

Section 3:

The process for removal of a member shall be initiated by the receipt by the Club Secretary/Treasurer of a signed complaint describing the actions alleged to violate the Club Constitution and By-Laws. A complaint may be submitted by an adult or junior member in good standing.

Section 4:

Following the receipt of the complaint, the president shall assemble a 3-member committee that will investigate the complaint and submit its ﬁndings and recommendations to the Club Secretary/Treasurer. The ﬁndings may contain a minority opinion. The committee shall recommend either: 1) no action, 2) one year suspension or 3) permanent removal.

Section 5:

The president shall present the ﬁndings and recommendation to the membership via email, and regular mail where necessary, and the Club members shall vote on the recommendation by secret ballot. Seven days will be allowed for response from all members. If a member does not respond in seven days the President has the option to call that member to determine their vote. If the members do not accept the committee's recommendation, another vote shall be taken to determine which of the other two possible options will be taken. The decision shall be by a simple majority vote and shall be ﬁnal. There shall be no discussion or argument present during this process.

**Meetings and Quorums**

Section 1:

The Club shall hold four quarterly meetings each year. The exact date for the next quarterly meeting will be determined by simple majority of the members present at the current club meeting. Consideration will be made to attempt where feasible to hold the next club meeting at a show scheduled for that quarter in order to ease the travel burden of distance for club members. The Club may hold other meetings as it may determine or the President direct, but no special meeting shall replace a regular meeting.

Section 2:

All transactions of the club shall be discussed in open meetings.

Section 3:

No regular Club meeting may be opened or business transacted except by and in the presence of the President or Vice-President. In the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer, the President or Vice President shall appoint an attending member to take the minutes of the club meeting.

**Election and Voting**

Section 1:

The President, Vice-President, and Secretary /Treasurer shall be elected by secret ballot, as deﬁned, to serve for a period of two years. The president is eligible to serve two consecutive terms. The President can stand for re-election at the end of his second term if a proposal is submitted for vote to the membership through email and regular mail where necessary. A simple majority vote of the membership is needed to allow the President to run for another term. Email confirmation of this vote shall be printed and filed with the proposal to extend the right to run for re-election.

Section 2:

Forms for nominations for elected ofﬁcers of the Club shall be handed out at the July regular meeting and needs to be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer by July 31. Nominations for office can also be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer via email. Those nominations shall be printed and filed with the results of the elections. The election ballot of Club ofﬁcers shall be mailed out by October 15th. The ballots are to be returned by mail to the Secretary/Treasurer before November 15 so they can be counted and the new officers will be announced by November 30

**Installation of Ofﬁcers**

Section 1:

Newly elected officers take office on January 1st  following their election in November.

Section 2:

The President at the first regular quarterly meeting after his/her installation shall appoint an auditing committee, consisting of three current members, whose duty it shall be to examine all accounts and property of the Club and report their ﬁndings at the next meeting. All reports of the committee shall be in writing and signed by the committee members.

**Order of Business of Regular Meetings**

The order of business of this club shall be as follows:

 a. Call to order by presiding ofﬁcer.

 b. Minutes of previous meeting read, and the Treasurer’s report read.

 c. Correspondence.

 d. Committee reports.

 e. Old Business.

 f. New Business.

 g. Adjournment

**Commercial Ventures**

Section 1:

The Club shall not enter into any commercial venture. Fund Raising activities are not considered commercial activity.

Section 2:

The Club as a group or individually shall not in the name of the Club enter into any fraudulent or illegal venture.

**Club Property**

Section 1

Donated Property:

All donated club property, in excess of $250 value, shall be tracked in the club financial records, and in association to the individual that donated said property. In the event of disposition by the club or dissolution of the club, the donor has first rights to the donated property. The donor’s right to this donated property is not affected by the donor’s current standing in the club.

Section 2:

Club property is the property of Club members in good standing and any member in good standing is entitled to its use with the Clubs Consent. Club consent shall be obtained via the voting committee. The request for use should be presented in writing to an officer.

Section 3:

Club property in the possession of an individual member will be safeguarded and used with reasonable care. Individual Club members will be held liable for damage, destruction and loss other than reasonable wear and tear for property in their possession.

Section 4:

Club property for disposal shall be ﬁrst offered to the Club member that donated said property. Donated property that is not claimed by the donor or property that was purchased with club funds shall first be offered to Club members at auction. Club property passed by members is then offered to non-Club members for sale and lastly, donated to junior Club members to assist in furthering the pigeon hobby.

Section 5:

At least once annually, during a regular meeting with a quorum present, the Club members will discuss:

 a. Property disposal.

 b. Property replacement.

 c. New property purchases

Section 6:

No disposition of Club property shall be made until such notice shall have been given to current club members via email or regular mail.

Section 7:

The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep records to identify Club property, its location, condition, and donor name for property in excess of $250 in value as prescribed by general regulations adopted by the Club.

Section 8:

In the event of the Club's dissolution, all donated property in excess of $250 in value will be offered to be returned to the donor. All donated property, not claimed by donor and club owned property will be offered at auction to members. All club monies and proceeds of the property auction will be donated to the NPA (National Pigeon Association) for use in their junior member programs.

**Funds**

Section 1:

The Secretary/Treasurer will collect all funds due the Club. The Secretary/Treasurer will deposit all funds received in a bank approved by the Club.

Section 2:

No expenditures of club funds under $300 will be made except on the order of the President.

No expenditures of Club funds that exceed $300 or greater than 10% of the current balance of the treasury, whichever is less, shall be approved by the President or made, until a request for the expenditure shall be approved by the voting committee.

Section 3:

The treasurer shall keep such records of funds as required by adopted Club accounting procedures.

**Correspondence**

Only the Secretary/Treasurer or designee of the Club will conduct Club Correspondence which will be duly presented to the club at its next regular meeting and or thru email or regular mail.

**Specialty Clubs**

This Club will allow specialty club meets to be held in conjunction with Club shows. The specialty club shows must adhere to the guidelines prescribed by the host Club’s constitution and by-laws. Unless previously agreed upon, the host Club is not responsible for setup, cooping, judging, awards, etc.

**Show Rules**

1. Failure to recognize or abide by these rules will exclude entry without refund.

2. The entry fee will be established by the Club with approval of the Club Officers.

3. All birds must be seamless banded and within one size for that breed. This Club will accept Specialty Club bands, such as: NPA, NBRC, AU, etc. The Club will inspect entries to ensure birds are properly banded. Any birds found with inappropriate bands will be disqualified from competition. If they are discovered after judging they will be removed from the show record and the results will be adjusted to reflect their removal.

4. This show recognizes all breeds of NPA recognized standard-bred pigeons.

5. Specialty clubs have selected their own judges and their decisions are final. Open class judges have been selected by the host Club and their decisions are final.

6. Each exhibit entered must be the bonafide property of the exhibitor and must be shown in its natural condition. Proper trimming and preparation is considered natural condition. The right is reserved to disqualify all unworthy specimens.

7. The show management will not be responsible for the loss of birds.

8. All birds entered in the show will be cooped individually.

9. No substitutions will be made prior to check-in at the show. The exhibitor must make the change on the coop card and give the change to the Club secretary prior to judging so the change can be made on the judging sheet. Open class substitutions will be permitted only when made in the same class, color, age and sex as the original entry.

10. The show management reserves the right to reject unhealthy or diseased specimens received for exhibition. If sickness develops, the ill bird will be removed from the show hall.

11. Classes shall be provided for Young Hen, Young Cock, Old Hen, Old Cock.

**The Making of a Show**

Putting on a show is not a hard job if everyone pitches in. Duties for a show should involve as many people as possible so that all may enjoy the show. Having a Co-chairperson can also be considered for larger shows.

**Show Superintendent**

**Responsibilities:**

To oversee the whole show. Arrange the MC and Banquet, Settle problems at the show and Hand out awards.

**Property Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

To make hall arrangements.

Design layout for ﬁre marshal

Arrange transportation of coops and supplies

Set up the show, including judging areas as needed, and the “for sale” area

**Materials:**

Coops, Plywood, Stands, Feed, Water Cups, Waterers, Paper Roll, Chips, Clean-up supplies (brooms, garbage bags, etc.) Extra tables and chairs for vendors

**Judges Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

Contact prospective judges

Arrange Specialty Club meets

Arrange for transportation, feeding and lodging of judges.

Check judging areas to be sure they are set up correctly.

Keep judging moving in all areas.

Keep track of clerks and Stewards

**Awards Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

Solicit awards for all breeds

Get club trophies and awards

Compile complete list of awards for catalog

Check trophies and awards at show, arrange display, and assist superintendent in handing out awards

Get cash awards set up

**Show Secretary**

**Responsibilities:**

Compile and mail entry catalog

Record entry fees

Special awards

Coop Card

Exhibitors List

Judging Books

Make entry changes and corrections as needed

List of "For Sale" coops

List of awards paid

Show Report/Financial Report

 Materials list:

 Pens, Paper, Clip Boards, Rubber Bands, Envelopes, Postage, Printer, Computer

**Rafﬂe Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

Solicit rafﬂe donations

Receive exhibitor fee items

Display Rafﬂe items

Arrange help to sell tickets

Conduct Rafﬂe

Supply list

Tickets, pens, pencils

**Food Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

Arrange kitchen and decide menu

Have coffee set up for crew

Have extra help during show

**Sale Chairman**

**Responsibilities:**

Be in charge of “for sale” section

Collect fees not prepaid

Keep area tidy and reasonably secure

Provide cards for marking coops

Be sure cards have name of contact person

**Clerks (one per Judge)**

**Responsibilities**

Assist judges by ﬁlling out judging books

Fill in all placing and awards

Work with stewards to mark all coop cards

Return books to secretary when ﬁnished

**Stewards (two per Judge)**

**Responsibilities:**

Assist judges by bringing birds to judging arena as needed and returning them to individual coops.

Mark placing on coop cards

Supplies:

 Hand Powder, towels, sanitizer

**Exhibit Tenders**

**Responsibilities:**

Feed and water birds

Keep show room tidy

Please support your club and be active. Focus on what you have to offer and look for the good.