

## Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club (SCO)

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### Constitution & By laws

#### Article 1. Name and purpose

Section 1. Name & Location: The name of this organization shall be the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club, located in the Spartanburg County @ the address of 269 Shamon Rd, Roebuck, SC 29376.

Members will not be excluded due to successful competition, the only exclusion will be an established club is closer to the petitioner.

Section 2. Affiliation. The Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club 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 the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club 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. Our Motto shall be “Perfection through the care, concern and racing of the Homing Pigeon”

Section 5. Sportsmanship Members of Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club 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: Any Racing Homing Pigeon Fancier who has participated in a least two races during the previous year ( must have shipped, clocked and reported in both Young Birds and Old Birds: two races each series ), and is current in all dues and fees of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club and the AU is considered an Active Flying Member.

All other members who are current of all dues and fees and did not fly are considered by the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club as Active Members. Members must be of good character and have never been expelled by a recognized national pigeon organization.

Section 2. New Members: Recommendations of individuals as new members in the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club may be made by any active member of the club, 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 majority vote in favor by those current members present and voting.

Section 3. Invitation Membership: N/A

Section 4. Probationary Membership: N/A

Section 5. Junior Membership: Junior Membership in the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club is defined as any person less than 18 years of age, still living in the home of his parents, still in school and accepted by the majority vote of the active members present. Junior members will not be allowed to vote on any matters of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club, but will be entitled to all the racing aspects of the club.

Section 6. Associate Membership. is defined as any former flying member of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club who is not presently engaged in racing pigeons. Associates and Junior members are not eligible to vote on Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club business.

Section 7. Partnership lofts: shall be limited to one (1) vote (unless they are flying separate teams and paying separate dues) and one physical address as defined in the AU Polices 100.02. Partnership lofts will be limited to the same bird shipping number as flyer. Race secretary shall state/post the number of birds allowed per series/race. No partnership loft shall be allowed more birds to be shipped from that loft than any of the single flying members.

Section 8. Family Lofts: Shall be considered a partnership and exercise the right to vote and limited to one (1) vote per family loft. Junior members shall fly free of the club flying fees, fees of the Piedmont Combine for Juniors will not be circumvented. No Family Loft shall exceed the stated flyer limit for that series as stated by the race secretary.

### ARTICLE III. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Voting: A  $\frac{3}{4}$  (three quarter) vote of the active members present is required to amend or delete any provisions of articles I, II, III. A majority vote of the members present is required on any other issues such as race schedules, race rules, shipping and election of officers of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club, except where otherwise noted. All Active members shall have the right to make and second motions from the floor.

1. Governing by Delegate: N/A

2. Executive Committee: N/A

Section 2. Election of Officers: Officers of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club shall include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Race Secretary. Election of officers shall take place at the annual Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club meeting during the month of November. Nominations will be made from the floor of the meeting and upon being made, the President shall order that they be added to the list of nominees. All nominees shall have the privilege to decline nomination. Newly elected officers will take charge of their office at the January meeting. All terms are for one year. Should an office become open during the year due to resignation or any other cause, the President will appoint a replacement.

Section 3. Duty of Officers.

a. President shall preside over all regular meetings and in such a manner as to transact all business. The President shall only vote to break ties votes and shall automatically be on all committees in an advisory capacity. He is the spokesman for the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club and will meet the public and be the spokesman for the organization should the need arise.

b. Vice-President: The Vice-President will 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) The Vice- President may also serve as the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club Constitution & Bylaws Advisor to make sure the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club operates as intended, and it's constitution and bylaws are kept up to date.

c. Secretary : The secretary shall issue notices of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club 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 records

d. Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for the financial assets of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club. 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club's bills. The Treasurer shall keep in his custody all books and records pertaining to the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club and deposit all monies received for dues, bands, surplus received from shipping or any other sources into the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club official bank account, in a timely manner.

At the termination of his office, the Treasurer shall immediately surrender to the President or the new Treasurer, all the 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club as appointed by the President.

e. Race Secretary: The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club races. He shall chair the Race Committee, consisting also of members (at least two (2)), 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 shall coordinate the race liberations and make provisions for notifying the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club members of release times. He shall manage all race-figuring activities, and is responsible for publishing race results and distributing diplomas and awards. The race secretary will also chair the Loft Registration Committee.

#### ARTICLE IV-ADMENDMENTS:

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws can only be acted upon at the annual meeting (January) of each year. A three-quarters (2/3) vote of the active members 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club President for settlement. If the decision is appealed by either party in the dispute, the matter shall be taken up by the Organizations officers for settlement.

If their decision is appealed by either party, the entire Organization membership, other than the parties in dispute, shall decide the issue by majority vote. If the dispute can not be remedied through the local organization or its affiliates (i.e. Club to Combine/Concourse) and an AU rule is involved, then a complaint may be filed with the AU national office.

- A. Member leaving club: When a member leaves a functioning AU club, for any Reason, all physical or financial assets, shall remain with the club, unless Specified in a written agreement made, dated and signed, between the member(s) Leaving and remaining club membership.

ARTICLE VI-Expulsion/Suspension: A member accused of dishonorable conduct as outlined by the AU Rules of Conduct (see AU Bylaw 14.), shall be notified to appear before the officers of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club, who will investigate the charges. Such notification to appear shall be in writing at least (7) days before the date if the gearing and shall specify the charges. As a result of the investigation, the officers shall present their findings to the membership of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club at the next regular meeting or at a special

meeting. A secret written ballot will be taken, and a three-quarter (2/3) majority vote of all active 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club shall not be dissolved without the consent, in writing, of two-thirds (2/3) 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club shall be disposed of, to the best advantage, and the proceeds, after all bills and obligations have been paid, shall be equally divided among the whole of the membership in good standing as of the date of the initial dissolution meeting.

1.00 MEETINGS: The order for all meetings should be by Agenda: sign in, old business, reports from committees, new business and adjournment. Meetings should start and end promptly on time. The goal of the meeting length shall be one (1) hour.

1.01 QUORUM: One-Third (1/3) of the active members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

1.02 Annual meeting: The annual meeting shall be held in January. The business of that meeting shall include election of officers, consideration of any changes to the Constitution and By-laws: and payment of all 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 quarterly, 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 to each member at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting, either in writing, personal contact, or by 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 club.

1.05 Order of Business: The normal agenda of business at regular Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club meetings shall include: Sign In; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Proposals for Membership; Financial Report; Committee Reports; Communications; Unfinished Business; New Business; Good of the Sport; Adjournment.

1.06 MEETING DECORUM: Meetings should always be conducted in an orderly manner, without side talking or any distractions during the course of the meeting. Drinking of alcohol beverages during any meeting, shipping or closing a race shall not be allowed. No member shall drink, smell of drink or have been drinking will be allowed at ANY Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club function. No member appearing under the influence of any drug shall be allowed on the property of 203 S. Baldwin Rd (the home of Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club).

2.00 MEMEBERSHIP DUES: Annual dues for members shall be determined at the annual meeting (January) by a majority of the active members present. Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club dues, as well as Piedmont Combine dues and in addition to AU dues are due at the annual meeting. Members are not allowed to race or purchase bands until dues have been paid. Bands will not be issued before January 1<sup>st</sup> of current year and bands will not be issued until all dues have been paid.

2.01 Annual dues shall be used for affiliation dues, and all other operating expenses.

2.02 Partnership Lofts shall pay dues per year in the same manner provided above. Each individual composing the partnership shall be assessed the annual dues as per AU membership policy (Sec. 210.23) each partner will pay the full dues of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club.). Partnership loft(s) will NOT circumvent the member flying limit.

2.03 Junior members: are those members who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and live at parents home, and is still attending school. He shall pay the prescribed AU dues for juniors and whatever portion of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club dues that the regular members decide. Junior members shall be present at all flying procedures of Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club. Parents shall not be allowed to ship for junior member.

2.04 Pro-rated Dues: Members joining after July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year are required to pay full AU DUES, plus any LATE FEES and the pro-rated amount of the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club dues assessed for that year. The fiscal year for the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club dues shall begin January 1<sup>st</sup> and end December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Competition Standards.

No changes shall be made during the race season in which the above mentioned items are initiated unless approved by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the actively flying 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 also of at least two (2) members, appointed by the President and recorded in the minutes. 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 Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club 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 Certification Committee: The race secretary will also chair the Loft Certification Committee, with a minimum of one other member, to inspect, photograph, and survey member's lofts and file with the national office.

5.00 Resignation: Any member wishing to resign from the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club must tender his resignation in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and must pay all indebtedness which may be due the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club by them, and will forfeit all rights and claims to the Spartanburg County Open Racing Pigeon Club property.

6.00 SHORTAGE OF OPERATING FUNDS: (club) any shortages of funds shall be assessed equally to all members and restored to the Club treasury. In the event of an assessment of over (100.00) each member may be given the opportunity to pay their portion of the assessment in three or four installments. Any agreement to money given, invested, or loaned to the club must be recorded in the minutes and a written agreement or contract provided, as appropriate, signed by the club's officers.