

NORTH WEST HOMING UNION Established 1970
2018 RULE BOOK



The Challenge Ahead
For the Fancier by the Fancier

Contents **The North West Homing Union - Definition**
Constitution & Management of North West Homing
Union
Discipline
Standard Rules for Affiliated Organisations / Societies
Clock rules

Appendix/ References

1: Approved Clocks of the North West Homing Union

Reference: Approved Clocks NWHU Web Site Downloads

2: Electronic Timing Systems (ETS) Rules

3: Clock register

4: Liberation points and Airfields

5: Vaccination Code of Practice

6: Union Price List

7: Union Officials

The North West Homing Union Definition

The North West Homing Union is structured and managed by both a Management Committee and a Management Council made up from delegates nominated / mandated from affiliated organisations / Societies unless otherwise stated.

Affiliated Organisations / Societies includes for affiliated organisations, societies, clubs Combines, Amalgamations, Federations, Championship Clubs, Specialist Clubs and Midweek Clubs, associated with the sport of racing pigeons.

Member: includes affiliated individual members, partnerships that are registered with North West Homing Union as member lofts.

Constitution & Management of North West Homing Union

Rule1 The name of the union shall be the "North West Homing Union"

Rule 2 The objects for which the union is established are;

(I) In the first instance the regulation of the sport of homing pigeon racing in Cumbria, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire and areas of North and West Yorkshire within the Ordinance Survey grid reference squares SD & NY.

(II) Organisations and / or individuals outside the above areas are permitted to become affiliates of the union at the discretion of the management council and acceptance of current membership rules.

(III) The protection and advancement of the interest of its members in all matters connected with the said sport of racing pigeons.

(IV) The establishment of a uniform system of measurements for all flying routes and the securing of a uniform system of timing.

(V) To provide a uniform system for providing loft locations and race point to loft measurements for the benefit of the sport.

(VI) To purchase and sell goods for the need and benefit of the union as requested.

Rule 3 "The council" means the management council of the union as hereinafter mentioned. "Councillor" is a delegate elected by a club as a representative on the council. "Secretary" means the secretary of the union unless otherwise stated.

Rule 4 The Union Management Committee comprises of the President, Senior Vice-president and six Vice-Presidents with support of the officers of the union when required.

Rule 5 The officers of the Union are the Management Committee comprises of 2 Auditors, Honorary Legal Adviser, Honorary Vice-president and Secretary.

Rule 6 The Management council reserves the right to reject any application it thinks fit without stating the reason.

Rule 7 Affiliated members are members of Organisations / Societies affiliated to the union. Federations, Amalgamations and Combines consisting of Organisations / Societies affiliated to the union shall be deemed as bodies affiliated to the union. Individual members are persons individually elected as members of the union in the manner hereinafter provided.

Rule 8 Any homing organisation / society established within the area defined in rule 2(i) may apply to the union for admission as an affiliated organisation / society. Such application shall be made to the secretary in writing, giving names and addresses of officials and the radius or boundaries. Each application for membership shall state that the organisation does not have members suspended by any other homing organisation / recognised Union. The secretary will publish provisional admission in the fancy press. The cost of the advertisement will be paid for by the applying organisation. If no objection to such admission be received within 21 days from publication, such admission will then be automatically confirmed.

Rule 9 Objections may be made to the admission of any society or organisation to the union by a member of the union on behalf of an affiliated society or organisation, but only within the 21 day period stipulated in rule 8. Such objections must be in writing and signed by a responsible officer of the objecting society.

Rule 10 If an objection to admission is received within the 21 days of the publication of provisional acceptance the secretary will give limited and reasonable notice of the objections and of the matters therein alleged to the applicant society. The applicant may give an answer in writing to such objections. Objections shall, as soon as practicable after the expiration of such notice, be considered and determined by the union, who may admit or reject the applicant society, subject to an appeal to the delegates in council meeting hereinafter provided. The union shall not be compelled to state the reasons for their decision.

Rule 11 Upon the admission of any such society to the union the same shall become an affiliated society of the union, and the members thereof for the time being shall be members of the union, and shall be known as affiliated members.

Rule 12 Any individual may become a member of the union upon application to the secretary of the union. Such application shall be made upon a form to be

obtained from the secretary or downloaded from the unions website, and shall be signed by the applicant, and by two members of the union.

Rule 13 No member shall be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of the union until he/she has signed and returned the membership form provided and has paid his / her subscription.

Rule 14 Upon the acceptance of membership, these rules, including any subsequent alterations or modifications thereof duly made in pursuance of a resolution, shall become and be deemed to constitute a binding contract between such member and the union and all other members thereof.

Rule 15 Affiliated societies shall contribute to the funds of the union an annual subscription which shall be reviewed annually, including honorary and non-competing members, provided that where any person is a member of more than one affiliated society, one only of such societies shall be liable for subscription in respect of each member.

Children under the age of 16 as at 1st April in the given year shall not be liable for that year's annual subscription.

In the case of partnerships, each partner shall be reckoned as a separate member (subscriptions will not be liable from any deceased member of a partnership) any person not an individual member, and who is a member of more than one affiliated society, must elect to be assessable for subscription by one of such societies, and must give notice of election to that society and to any other society of which a person is a member.

Rule 16 A member may race to one loft location only and may not also be included in a different partnership racing to the same location or elsewhere.

Rule 17 Affiliated Combines, Amalgamations, Federations, Championship Clubs, Specialist Clubs and Midweek Clubs shall pay an annual registration fee for each organisation or club, a sum that shall be reviewed annually.

Rule 18 Partnerships. Agreement forms are available from the secretary for completion which state the terms of partnership. Partners failing to comply with this rule forfeit the right of appeal in any disputes which may arise between such parties. Proof of dissolution is to be given on the dissolution form also available from the secretary which must be signed by the partners.

Rule 19 Every society shall, before the 1st April in each year furnish to the secretary of the union a list showing the names and addresses of its members, together with the subscription payable by such society to the union in respect of its members. Such list shall distinguish the members, if any, in respect of whom the society is not liable for subscription, and shall indicate the society liable for subscription in respect of such members.

Rule 20 An individual member shall pay a subscription to be reviewed annually direct to the secretary.

Rule 21 Rules can only be altered, added to, or deleted at an annual general meeting with the assent of at least two-thirds of the eligible voting members present

Rule 22 No officer or official of any affiliated society shall be deemed to be an agent of the union, and the union shall not be bound by, or liable, in respect of any act, default, or omission of any such officer or official.

Rule 23 Officers or officials of the union shall in all matters wherein they are authorised to act by these rules be deemed to be agents of the union.

Rule 24 The council of the union shall be the controlling body of the union except appeal cases.

(I) Each club will have one vote for its voting members (that is members that pay their annual union subscription via that club).

(II) The NWHU president shall have a casting vote only.

(III) A member belonging to more than one club shall only be entitled to vote in the club through which their subscription is paid to the union.

(IV) All individual members attending a union / council meeting shall not have an individual vote but have one vote for every 20 individual members present or part thereof.

(V) All propositions excluding rule changes shall be decided on a simple majority (show of hands).

(VI) Where a card vote is taken the number of votes on the delegates card shall be counted to decide the issue.

(VII) Delegates attending union agm shall furnish to the union secretary a certificate stating that he/she represents the club and certificate shall be signed by club officials.

Rule 25 The Management Committee shall deal with all appeals and their decision is final. All disputes must be heard by the club and federation to which the member belongs before being accepted by the union secretary.

Note All dispute cases must be heard as soon as possible / practicable.

Rule 26 General meetings shall be held at least once in each year after the AGM, however management committee may call a Spring and Autumn meeting. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than the third week in December in each year on a date to be fixed by the Management Committee.

Societies must be notified at least six weeks prior to the AGM that propositions must be in the Secretary's hands 28 days prior to the AGM and at least 21 days' notice must be given to the societies, with an agenda of the business to be conducted at such meeting together with a statement of accounts & balance sheet for the past year, and any other recommendations or business as may be submitted by the Management Committee.

Rule 27 A special general meeting shall be called by the secretary upon the direction of the management council or management committee and in accordance with such direction.

Rule 28 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting except the approval of the accounts of the union unless a quorum of councillors is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Eight councillors shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 29 The voting shall, in the first instance, is by a show of hands, but any councillor may demand a poll of the councillors actually present, which shall be decisive of the question before the meeting.

Rule 30 The declaration of the chairperson that a resolution has, or has not, been carried shall, unless a poll is demanded, be conclusive.

Rule 31 The officers of the union shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and hold office for one year. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election. Nominations for these offices should be submitted to the union secretary by clubs not later than 28 days prior to the AGM in order that they can be put on the agenda for the said meeting. If any office is not covered nominations will be taken from the floor at the AGM.

Rule 32 The secretary of the union shall be considered a full time position and contract given, and any vacancy shall be appointed by the management committee subject to confirmation by the next General meeting. It shall be the duty of the secretary (amongst other things) to attend all meetings of the management council and management committee, and to keep the minutes thereof. All monies received by the secretary of the union either as payment for services rendered or in respect to the business of the union, shall be shown in the accounts.

Rule 33 The president, or in his absence the Snr. Vice President, shall preside at the meetings of the council. In the absence of the president and the Snr. Vice President, the councillors present shall elect one of their own number to act as chairperson.

Rule 34 Income and Expenditure shall be recorded and a statement of accounts prepared annually by the secretary of the union and the auditors shall examine the books and accounts and shall certify whether in their opinion the annual accounts represent a state of affairs in accordance with their findings.

Discipline

Rule 35 If any member of the union shall be guilty of any dishonourable conduct, or of such other conduct as in the opinion of the union renders them unfit to be a member of the union, or wilfully breaks the rules of his organisation, or of the union or refuses to comply with any decision of the union upon any matter affecting the sport of homing pigeon racing or exhibition, the union may suspend such member from the privileges of the union for such period as the union may determine.

During the period of suspension, the person suspended shall be incapable of being a member of the union and shall cease to be a member of any affiliated society or societies to which he may belong at the date of such expulsion or suspension, and shall be incapable of becoming a member of any other affiliated society or societies.

No address or loft belonging to or used by a suspended member shall be recognised by the union during the period of their suspension, unless the union shall otherwise determine.

Further, that in case a member is found guilty of fraud in connection with the sport the union may, if they deem it desirable, declare the whole or any part of the birds that competed, to the suspended address or lofts, during the season when such fraud was committed, to be ineligible to compete in races in which union members are permitted to compete.

The termination of the suspension of the member shall free all the birds that in consequence of such suspension may have been declared ineligible to compete as above.

It shall, however, be within the right of any member of the union, at any time to apply for the 'freeing' of any such ineligible bird or birds, and the union may, if they deem fit, grant such request on such terms and conditions as they think desirable.

Rule 36 If any affiliated society shall, in the opinion of the council, conduct its affairs in a manner unbecoming an affiliated society of the union, or shall break, or refuse to conform to the rules of the union, or shall refuse to comply with any decision or resolution of the council, or shall purport to retain as a member of such society, or in any way admit to the privileges of membership any person duly suspended from the union during the period of their suspension, the council may, in such cases, suspend such society for a period as the council may determine..

Rule 37 Upon suspension of any affiliated society, all members of such society shall, during the period of such suspension, cease to be members of the union, provided that a member of any suspended society who is also a member of any other duly affiliated society may, with the permission of the union.

Provided also that with the like permission any member of a suspended

Society shall be eligible for election to any other affiliated society of the union, or may, with the like permission, become an individual member of the union.

The application for such permission shall be by letter addressed to the union secretary, and the decision of the committee thereon may be given without holding any formal enquiry or hearing any evidence, but shall be subject to appeal to the union.

Rule 38 When a club is satisfied that a member has tampered with a timing clock, the club shall send the clock in question to the secretary of the union, and if after investigation the union are of the opinion that the case is proved.

The member may be dealt with as the management committee of the union think fit. Membership of the union is subject to this condition.

Rule 39 Disputes between members and any society to which they may belong including appeals from any such decision of the society shall be heard and determined by the management committee. Notice of appeal from the decision of a society to the union shall be within 21 days from the hearing by the society, except in cases of fraud subsequently discovered. Financial provision as advised by the secretary at the time is to be provided by the requesting parties.

Rule 40 Where, on an appeal by a member against a decision of his society suspending such member, the management committee affirms the decision of the society, such decision of the union shall have the same effect as a decision of suspension from the union under rule 38 hereof.

Rule 41 Where any question or dispute is hereby authorised or required to be heard or enquired into by the management committee, the following provisions shall have effect;

(I) Such matter shall be heard before the management committee.

(II) Ten days notice of the date and place appointed for such hearing shall be sent by recorded delivery letter to the society and member affected. Such notice shall state specifically the nature of the question arising for decision, and shall give particulars of the charges, if any, alleged against any society or member

(III) Upon proof of the posting of such notice, the management committee shall have power to proceed with the matter in the absence of any party affected

(IV) The decision of the management committee shall be final.

(V) The management committee shall hear the evidence of the parties and of any witness that may be tendered on their behalf. The management committee may also receive and consider written statements or explanations furnished by the

parties. Evidence given orally shall be taken down in writing by the secretary or other responsible person appointed by the management committee.

(VI) The decision of the management committee shall as soon as practicable, be communicated to the parties affected, and shall take effect from the date thereof.

Rule 42 In any case of appeal taken before the management committee the parties to the appeal may be legally represented at their own expense if they should so desire.

Rule 43 No member shall be allowed to sit and adjudicate upon any case in which, it is the opinion of the majority of voters present, they are an interested party.

Rule 44 The union may promote, manage, and hold races, exhibitions or shows of appliances connected with the sport, and may offer and award prizes for competition at such exhibitions or shows, and may admit competitors thereto (whether members of the union or not) on such terms as they think proper, and may make contributions from the funds of the union to similar exhibitions or shows, whether managed or held under the direction of members of the union or of other persons.

Rule 45 The union shall have power, so far as the law allows, to provide, or assist in providing, legal advice and assistance to its members in respect of all questions arising out of, or connected with, the sport of homing pigeon racing or exhibitions, the breeding, training, custody, sale, purchase, or conveyance of racing pigeons, or which, in the judgement of the management committee directly or indirectly affect the interests of the union, and may offer and pay rewards for information touching such matters.

Rule 46 Any application by a member or society for legal advice or assistance shall be made in writing to the secretary of the union, and shall be accompanied by a written statement of the facts of case and any evidence which can be provided in relation thereto. The president, vice -president and secretary may take steps as they deem expedient in the matter, or may refer the same to the committee. The union will pay the first consulting fee.

Rule 47 The management council shall have power to initiate criminal proceedings or otherwise to take such other steps as they may think expedient to procure or assist in procuring the punishment of offences which, in the opinion of the council, affect the interests of the union, and may offer and pay rewards for information touching such matters.

Note: The management committee may carry out a re-assessment of the rules at intervals not exceeding five years and would submit recommendations for changes to council.

Note: The management council of the union where acceptable by the members of affiliated organisations make use for correspondence / communications email, text, social media.

Standard Rules for Affiliated Organisations Societies

Rule 48 All open races and races additional to the club, federation, combine and amalgamation programme must be licensed by the union. The rules governing every race must be forwarded to the secretary of the union on a completed open race application form (available from the union secretary) accompanied with a fee of £5.00. Applications must be forwarded to the union secretary 21 days prior to the date on which the said race is to be held.

Rule 48a Secretaries are requested to note that all club, pool and open races arranged for dates other than those fixed in the official programme must be licensed by the union under this rule.

Rule 49 No person shall be permitted to compete in any open race, or in any show or exhibition held by, or under the rules of the North West Homing Union, except where they are a member of another recognised unions, with birds wearing the recognised union life rings.

Rule 50 All birds racing or exhibiting must carry a complete recognised union life ring.

Rule 51 In all races including produce races and stakes carried on it shall be deemed to be the life ring and not the bird that is entered.

All NWHU rings bought through clubs, federations, combine, and amalgamations are entitled to compete for all returns from purchases made through that club, federation, combine or amalgamation.

The exception to this rule is that when a pigeon wearing a 'gold ring' for a specific race is transferred, the new owner may not enter that 'gold ring' race in which it was intended to compete for its original owner.

Rule 52 Any member of the union receiving notification of any bird found must within 7 days communicate with the finder where they are a fancier.

Where the finder is a non-fancier then they must communicate with the finder within 24 hours.

If both parties agree, the pigeon may be transferred to the finder.

Should the finder not agree, the owner must arrange for the pigeon to be returned at his own expense.

Failure to claim the pigeon within 14 days will entail suspension.

The owner must not request the finder to kill the pigeon.

Any member racing or showing a pigeon which is not registered in the said members loft is liable to suspension.

Rule 53 Life rings sold to clubs and members shall be at such prices as fixed by the management council.

Any organisation ordering in excess of 6000 rings will receive a 10% discount on the price as fixed by the council.

Rule 54 I) Societies must by the 1st March each year, have paid for the rings ordered and forwarded to the union secretary a complete list of all rings sold together with the names, addresses and contact telephone numbers, email addresses of the purchasers.

Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10 being imposed on the offending society.

Should the ring list or payment not have been received by 1st April a further fine of £20 will be imposed. The higher level fine on a society will be repeated if, by the 1st May monies due or the ring list has not been received by the union secretary. In such an event, the matter will be referred to the management committee for further action.

(II) Societies requiring additional life rings must submit payment with their order and include postage costs where necessary. At each month end an updated initial ring list or a separate list detailing additional rings sold in the month, and to whom, is to be forwarded to the union secretary.

(III) Societies must report details of unsold life rings on all ring lists forwarded to the union secretary.

Rule 55 Transfer and registration of rings. Each member purchasing NWHU rings either via his / her society or direct from the union will on request with order two free transfer forms. Subsequent transfer documents required can be obtained from the union secretary at a cost of 20p each, plus postage at cost.

The form must be completed and forwarded to the NWHU secretary accompanied by 2 stamped addressed envelopes for registration. Copies will then be returned to the new owner and vendor and a copy will be retained by the union.

Transferred pigeons may not compete in shows or races until 14 days after the date shown on the transfer form.

new Transfer Forms are available to download direct from the NWHU website (www.nwhu.co.uk) free of charge

Rule 56 Change of Address. This shall be notifiable to the secretary who will provide change of address forms on request plus postage at cost for the rings to be registered to the new address.

Rule 57 Award cards and diplomas given for racing or showing shall have the full metal ring numbers written or printed and other relevant information given. The cards to be signed by an officer of the organisation.

Rule 58 Auctions and Sales. On completion of a purchase or purchases, signed transfer forms shall be furnished to the purchaser. They shall be signed by the registered owners, or in the case of a deceased person, by the executors.

Rule 59 Not used

Rule 60 Conveyer's, assistants and liberators must be licensed by the union. Licences should be obtained from the union secretary and renewed annually. Licences are valid from 1st January to 31st December in each year. The fee is £5.00 per licence.

Rule 61 Shooting. A reward of £25 for information leading to a conviction.

Rule 62 Verification of ring ownership may be obtained from the union secretary.

Rule 63 Rules. The society may carry out a re-assessment of the rules at intervals not exceeding five years and would submit recommendations for changes to members.

Rule 64 Should any member of the management committee in attending the meetings of the council or committee require reimbursement of expenses it will be met from union funds.

Rule 65 Any fancier competing in an open race promoted by an organisation other than his or her parent society will be subject to the rules of that organisation during that open race, from marking until the official result has been accepted.

Rule 66 In organisations where the use of the result is allowed for secondary races (ie. Duplication from that organisation race) the organisation is only liable for return of entry fee & pools (in case of unwound clocks etc) within its own race and not within the secondary race.

Note: for Societies -where notices and communication is required in writing organisations / societies can with the agreement of its members use email, text and or social media as a means of distribution. All notices requiring a resolution by members is to be recorded in the minutes book.

Rule 67 That a society be registered with the Union and make known its Name, headquarters at location and its radius / boundary and flying route.

Rule 67a: A society governed by a radius or boundary, the lofts of the members must be situated within such radius or boundary at the time of admission to the society. Should a member remove his loft outside this radius his competitive membership shall cease, except when the society extends its boundary to incorporate the member new loft location.

Rule 68 The officers of the society may consist of a President and Vice-Presidents, but must consist of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Treasurer, Auditors, Emergency Committee and Secretary to be elected annually. All decisions of emergency committee on any point must be ratified at the next general meeting.

Rule 69 An Annual General Meeting for the election of officers and for fixing local or domestic rules must be held annually.

(I) The secretary of the organisation must notify each member in writing at least six weeks before the annual general meeting of the date, time and place at which such meeting will be held.

(II) In the case of federations, combines and amalgamations, such notice shall be sent to the secretary of each organisation affiliated to such federation, combine or amalgamation.

(III) In combines, the secretary shall notify secretaries of federations and amalgamations, who will then notify secretaries of their organisations.

(IV) No local or domestic rule shall be made which override any of the union rules. Any member of the organisation wishing for alteration or additions to local or domestic rules must give notice of the proposed alterations or additions in writing to the secretary, at least 28 days previous to the holding of the annual general meeting,

(V) The secretary of the organisation must notify each member of the organisation of such proposed alterations or additions at least 10 days previous to the meeting.

(VI) In any case where a proposition is on the agenda for the annual general meeting and the proposer is absent a proposition shall be dealt with if seconded from the floor.

(VII) Any rule made at the annual general meeting is binding until the following annual general meeting.

Rule 70 Anyone wishing to become a member of a club shall apply in writing in the first instance and the application placed on agenda to be dealt with at the first available meeting. The applicant shall be proposed and seconded by members of the society, and shall be elected by a simple majority of the members present.

Applicants not to be present during voting. Applicants when elected must immediately pay entrance fee and union fee.

Honorary members will receive no vote or make any proposition at any meeting and their union fee will be paid by the society concerned.

Rule 71 The distances for all races flown under NWHU rules must be obtained from the measurement department of the NWHU as detailed in appendix.

Rule 71a All NWHU Loft location to be mapped using one of the GPS units available from the Union on request and postage at cost.

Rule 72 That Cumbrian (Inc. the Furness area) societies are allowed to fly broken measurements for domestic races only.

Rule 73 No birds shall be accepted for competition unless all fees and union dues are fully paid to the club concerned by the member.

Rule All birds entered for competition must be the absolute and exclusive property of the said members.

Rule 74 Members wishing to resign must do so in writing before the AGM or they will be held liable for their subscription for the following year. Membership continues until the current year's business is completed.

Rule 75 Should any dispute arise on any matter connected with the society, the same shall be referred to the officers and committee. Who shall then decide on a meeting of which both parties shall be notified in writing and the nature of dispute shall be set out and a meeting called with 7 days' notice to all members of the committee in writing, who shall then have power to deal with the dispute in question.

Rule 76 A special meeting of which all members must be notified in writing may be convened at any time on a requisition being signed by at least the requester and 2 other member lofts in the affiliated society, who shall state the business for which the meeting is to be called. No business other than that set out on the agenda shall be dealt with.

Rule 77 An emergency meeting may be convened at the earliest possible convenient time by the president or his representative to deal with matters of urgency which cannot be dealt with by normal procedure.

Rule 78 The secretary shall keep a record of resolutions, proposers and seconders, at club meetings, same to be confirmed at the next meeting and signed by the chairperson.

Rule 79 The chairperson is accorded full power as to order and procedure at club meetings. All members on these two points to be governed by the chairperson.

Should any ruling of the chairperson be challenged, the members present shall decide procedure.

The chairperson shall have a vote and a casting vote if necessary. If the chairperson is a member of a partnership, the other partner or partners do not have a vote.

The chair is to be addressed respectfully at all times

Rule 80 The society shall not be dissolved, headquarters changed, or flying route altered or federation changed, except on the assent of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at the annual general meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose, of which every member must be notified in writing.

Notice of such meeting must be given to the union secretary who reserves the right to be present at such meeting.

In the event of a society being disbanded under this rule, assets of the organisation shall be realised and proceeds divided equally amongst the then active fully paid up members. One loft - One share.

Upon dissolution of any organisation, all minute books to be returned to the union

Rule 81 Delegates attending NWHU management council meetings must be properly mandated by their respective clubs on all matters and / or proposals on the published agenda.

Rule 82 Management Committee of the union reserve the right for a member to be present at any gathering where official business is taking place.

Rule 83 In cases where drug testing is deemed necessary, clubs are to use the facility organised by the union to be advised at the time.

Rule 84 Accounts.

(I) The organisation shall have a banking or post office savings account, if practicable and where possible all payments shall be made by cheque signed by the secretary and another club official. The bank or post office pass book shall be laid on the table at each meeting for inspection by members.

(II) Every organisation shall prepare an annual balance sheet and issue same with the AGM agenda.

(III) Where it's not practicable for a society to hold a bank or post office account, the societies account book showing income and expenditure including receipts should be made available at meetings on request of members.

Rule 85 Any member expelled for dishonourable conduct or suspended as a defaulter, which has been confirmed by the union, will forfeit all rights and claim to the assets of the club, and shall be incapable of becoming a member or hold office in any affiliated society to the union.

The society has the right to withhold all prizes won by such a member.

Rule 86 Arrears. Any member so being will be communicated with by recorded delivery letter, setting out the account which will also include postal costs, the member will also be informed that if the account is not paid within 21 days the said member will be suspended and the union informed.

Rule 87 Averages. All organisations shall declare races for average prizes before the racing season. A member must enter pigeons for all these races and time in all the races except any race or races declared void when the average will be taken on the remaining races. Standard

Formula - total time divided into total distance = yards per minute. Or other awards system as declared in the societies rules.

Rule 88 Race closure. Organisations shall fix a closure for all races, either as a minimum velocity or a specified time of a chosen day.

Rule 89 Races - periods of darkness. Organisations shall fix a period of darkness for races extending beyond the day of liberation.

Rule 90 Race ringing / marking. No member shall be allowed to mark or race ring their own pigeons or take an active part in the procedure whilst their own pigeons are being marked / race rung.

Rule 91 Wing stamping or address identification bands. All pigeons racing or training including young pigeons shall carry identity of either the club, member or both in the form of a wing stamp or identification band. Members must ensure that this rule is carried out as any member racing an unidentifiable pigeon will be liable for disqualification or suspension.

No club shall erase the wing stamp marking of another club.

Rule 92 Trophies and Specials. All conditions in respect of trophies and specials and the wishes of the donors must be entered in the minute book before races commence.

Rule 93 Documents. The secretary or any member of any organisation shall not destroy any books, papers or dials without the permission of the members at the AGM.

On the appointment of a new secretary, the organisation will be responsible for the transfer of all books, documents, papers, materials and equipment.

All race sheets and documents appertaining must be kept for at least two years.

Rule 94 Every member and official of an affiliated society shall be a member of the north west homing union, and shall be bound by the rules for the time being in force of that body.

Rule 95 Acceptance of these rules is a condition of membership. All rules will be strictly adhered to. Ignorance of same will not be accepted as an excuse.

Clock rules

Rule 96 All members must time in their birds by means of a timing clock.

No clock other than those recognised by the NWHU shall be used in any race.

All clocks must carry a seal in transit and seal number must be recorded by the issuing society. Certificate issued for ETS clocks.

All members must submit the clocks they intend using in the seasons races at least 14 days prior to the first race in which their society is to compete for three way testing.

That within the three way test the locking bar on toulet clocks should only drop once.

All mechanical clocks submitted for use in races shall be tested for a period of not less than 22 hours by clubs in each of the three positions, viz: upright in box, flat face down, flat face up and that a record be kept of the running of the clock which shall be signed by at least two persons conducting such a test. To be acceptable for use clocks must, when tested, have satisfied all the following requirements;

(i) The maximum permitted rate of gain shall not exceed 5 seconds per hour.

(ii) The maximum permitted rate of loss shall not exceed 5 seconds per hour.

(iii) The difference between the variables in any two positions shall not exceed 5 seconds per hour.

(iv) A certificate must be issued for a clock meeting and the test requirement.

Rule 97 Electro- Mechanical Electronic Clocks.

Testing: clocks in this category submitted for use in races shall be tested by clubs for a period of not less than 22 hours during which any gain or loss must not exceed 5 seconds in the normal operating position and a record shall be kept of the running of the clock. When carrying out tests on t2, t3 t3s junior quartz clocks the following tests should be carried out with the clock closed.

Ensure the thimble drum is in the start position (red showing)

Push the plunger down until you hear the second "click". The plunger will now be two thirds down position. If you release the plunger at this point it should not return to the start position. The action can now be completed by pushing down completely and then allowing it to return to the top position.

If the plunger is pushed down to the second "click" and it returns to the start position the clock will have recorded a time, but the aperture may not have moved.

It is essential to record the aperture number before and after use. Any clock found to have more prints than corresponding apertures is faulty.

This test should be carried out at least twice.

If a clock is found to be faulty then it cannot be used for competition.

Checking: - on checking, a data print out must be obtained and on which must be written the competitors name(s), race point / date, name of organisation and clock setters signatures. The print information should be cross-checked against the digital display information in the clock itself. This must be done prior to the opening of the clock. In the event of a power cut or breakdown of the print-out the information contained on the digital display can be manually recorded.

Stopped clocks

Rule 98 Should any competitors clock stop or be rendered useless, they may have same reset by a member of the clock committee or time into the nearest competitors clock. The time allowance for reaching such a clock shall be at the rate of five minutes to the mile on foot, three minutes to the mile on cycle. No allowance shall be made for motor driven vehicles.

Rule 99 Should a clock have varied more than at the rate of 5 seconds per hour, a fast clock shall be regarded as correct; a slow clock shall have double the lost time added. A stopped clock shall be treated as a slow clock. The maximum penalty for a slow or stopped clock shall be the time recorded by the master timer when the clock is checked. Should a members clock stop through not being properly set or wound up the competitor shall have their entry fees and pool moneys returned in full.

In the races where entries are double race rung, the above will apply in cases where one rubber ring from an entry is clocked. When a competitor in such races

times the second ring into another clock (own or otherwise) and the clock into which the first rubber ring was clocked, stops or is rendered useless, then a velocity will be awarded on the times derived from the clock containing the second rubber ring. Running times to be allowed should this clock be at another competitor's loft (nearest) then both clocks must be returned to headquarters for checking.

Clock setting and checking

Rule 100 All clocks must be set by the official clock committee, who must sign names on back of dials and rolls used on clocks they set. Together with the name of race point and date. The clock record sheet or envelope must bear clock number, the time of setting, race and date. All printing clocks to show control strike at setting. Clock record sheets or envelopes and entry forms shall be placed in sealed boxes at headquarters at conclusion of clock setting. After the race the official appointed must fill in master, clock times and variations. One thimble only shall be taken at a time from the clock and checked.

All clocks must be set and checked by master time taken from Greenwich over the radio by the last pip of the time signal or from the gpo speaking clock 'tim' obtainable over the telephone, and all organisations make their own arrangements as to the getting and distribution of greenwich time. ETS Radio clocks can be used as master timer for non ets clocks provided the radio clock has been synchronised.

That when a master timer has paper dials it must be struck along with each members clock, both at setting and checking.

That the number of the receptacle showing on a competitors clock, when set to receive the first bird, must be booked on the club clock sheet and checked at clock opening.

Rule 101 When a competitor has more than one clock set for a race they must nominate which is their number 1 clock. The only time they can use a second or subsequent clock is when the number 1 clock is rendered useless or in the event of certain races such as channel races when the number 1 clock has been taken to the societies headquarters for checking.

Rule 102 No member shall assist in any way in the setting and checking of their own clock.

Return of clocks

Rule 103 All clocks set for a race must be returned to the club headquarters on the day that the bird is timed in if a velocity is to be awarded. If a bird is not timed in, the clock must be returned under seal.

Clock recordings

Rule 104 All dials and rolls used in races must leave a complete and permanent record of punctures and imprints.

Rule 105 Anything arising not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the society's committee, whose decision shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the NWHU within 21 days.

Rule 106 Belgica and La Ledoise clocks must be struck twice within five seconds of timing in each bird. Thimble must be in the first hole of the double puncture.

Rule 107 That all members using clocks with open ended thimbles must insert thimbles in clocks open end down. Failure to do this entails disqualification.

Rule 108 clocks -2 dial toulet. That all clocks must be fitted with square spindle.

Rule 109 all toulet clocks must be three studded.

Rule 110 approved clocks. Only clocks new or second-hand which have been approved by the nwhu can be acceptable for races under the nwhu rules. (see list of approved clocks)

Rule 111 the union recognises modifications to clocks recommended by clock manufacturers and that the owners of such clocks must make the necessary changes without undue delay

Sealing of clocks

Rule 112 all clocks that require sealing shall be sealed with a recognised seal. It is the responsibility of the owner or the owners representative to ensure that the clock has been sealed. If the seal used at the time of sealing the members clock shall carry a serial number and/or letter, the same serial number and/or letter should be recorded and checked at unlocking.

Master timers

Rule 113 that all clubs, federations, amalgamations and combines must use a master timer that leaves a permanent puncture or printed record.

Thimble-less clocks

That STB, benzing; and junior clocks can be used without the use of thimbles, without having to have a drum conversion. However, in the case of junior clocks, if these are used without the drum conversion, then a member must accept the responsibility for any damages caused to the clock – in other words these are used at members own risk.

Click & clock inserts (instead of having a drum conversion) are to be allowed for junior clocks.

Appendix 1: Approved Clocks of the North West Homing Union

Reference: Approved Clocks NWHU Web Site Downloads

Appendix 2 Electronic Timing System, (ETS) Rules

Ets systems approved for use by the union are:

Benzing; bricon; mega; victory; tauris; tipes, unikon Ipigeon

Note: all to be unives 1.7 protocol.

Electronic timing systems rules

1: Electronic timing system (ets) can be used to record times of birds providing the organisation has the equipment and the officials are willing to use it.

2: ETS must be fitted within the loft.

3: Permanent records are to be retained by the club.

4: Only versions of ets approved by council of nwhu are acceptable.

5: Access codes, electronic key and club systems must be authorised by the club.

6: Organisations must check the radio clock and ets has synchronised before marking. The radio clock must be used to set the clubs master timer (for conventional clocks).

7: The organisation has the right to inspect timing systems used.

8:ETS can only record the arrival time after the pigeon has entered the loft, not the traps or external fittings.

9: In the event of an escape, where required, other ets birds must have their official union i.d. Ring number recorded.

10: Assignment of allocation of ets rings to be carried out by authorised personnel 14 days before the first race on the federation programme.

11: Competitors names and race date to be recorded on all ets printouts, on race date and signed by clock setters and member.

12: No organisation can be made to use the ets nor provide the hardware and software for its use if there are no officials willing to administer its use.

13: No member is permitted to take part in the race marking / entry process of their own pigeons.

14: NWHU members be allowed to purchase their own chip rings from the manufacturers of ets that are approved by the nwhu only with the relevant receipt of authenticity being presented at their club to enable registration of rings with their nwhu loft number.

15: Operating procedures before, during and after races should be in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Responsibility for providing manufacturers instruction manual to the organisation rests with the owner of the ets.

16: The club or organisation has the power to retain any ets they consider doubtful.

17: Organisations that promote races may determine times when ets will be checked after timing birds (see clock rule 103)

18: The ets approved for use by the nwhu are as follows: benzing; bricon; mega; victory; tauris; tipes and unikon and all to be unives 1.7 protocol.

Appendix 3 Clock Register

The undermentioned clocks may continue to be used by their present owners provided they have been registered with nwhu secretary:

They may not be sold. Loaned or disposed of for use by any other person other than the person registering:

Alfred plasschaert 19 bird La ledoise 2 dial puncturing clock

Jundes thexor 13 bird Racemaster in plastic case

Benzing model one 9 bird Benzing 14 bird double roll

Belgica 12 bird 3 dial Benzing comatic 27 bird

Rotherham 6 bird Benzing model two

Alfred plasschaert 13 bird Robert plasschaert 24 bird

Skymaster

Appendix 4 Liberation Points and Airfields

The liberation of pigeons within an eight-mile radius of the following airfields is strictly forbidden:

Aberdeen	Gatwick	Newcastle
Belfast	Glasgow	Norwich
Birmingham	Heathrow	Prestwick
Bournemouth	Hull	Sheffield
Bristol	Inverness	Southampton
Cardiff	Kirkwall	Southend
Cork	Leeds-bradford	Stansted
Dublin	Liverpool	Sumburgh
East midlands	Luton	Teeside
Edinburgh	Manchester	

These conditions to comply with requirements of the civil aviation authority safety regulation group (aerodrome standards)

Appendix 5 Vaccination Code of practice

Racing pigeons entered in races or shows must be vaccinated annually against paramyxovirus with a defra approved vaccine

A vaccination certificate containing details of the vaccination must be used

Vaccination of pigeons must be witnessed by two registered fanciers or a veterinary surgeon who will be required to sign the vaccination certificate on the front and likewise after the last pigeon listed on the form

The make of the vaccine used and its batch number must be recorded on the certificate

The original copy of the certificate should be retained by the club and a certified true copy lodged with any other club if the member is in more than one club.

Members entering racing pigeons in races or shows will be required to certify on their entry form that the pigeons have been vaccinated against paramyxovirus using a defra approved vaccine

Club secretaries will require to certify to their convoying organisations that all pigeons entered have been vaccinated as above

The driver of the transporter should be furnished with a certificate to say that all pigeons carried have been vaccinated as above

Appendix 6 Union Price List

Please note that prices are subject to change please contact the secretary to confirm. P.O.A. Price on Application.

Membership subscription £3.50 per person

Honorary & non competing Membership subscription £3.50 per person

Children under 16 on 1st April Free

Deceased members counted in partnerships Free

NWHU life rings to organisations / individuals ordering less than 6000, 15p per ring plus postage & package at cost.

NWHU life rings to organisations / individuals ordering more than 6000 15p per ring less 10% discount. i.e. 6500 rings = £975 - 10% discount - £97.50. Total payable £877.50 plus postage & package at cost

Race rubbers POA per pack of 1000 plus postage & package at cost

Metal seals POA per box of 1000 plus postage & package at cost

Transfers free of charge. Applicant must enclose stamped addressed envelopes for both addresses.

Transfer Forms Available to download free of charge from the NWHU Web site downloads

Convoyer, assistants & liberators licences £5.00

Open race licences £5.00

All relevant forms are available from the NWHU secretary postage & package at cost or available to download from the NWHU web site (www.nwhu.co.uk)

Appendix 7 Union Officials

North West Homing Union Secretary

Mr Terry Dawber

279 Mossy Lea Road

Wrightington

Near Wigan WN6 9RN

Tel/fax: 01257-421271

www.nwhu.co.uk

postmaster@pigeonman17.plus.com

Contact times

Mon 4pm – 8pm.....tues 5pm – 7pm.....wed 10am – 1pm

Thurs 10am – 1pm.....fri 1pm – 3pm

(excluding bank and public holidays)

If unavailable please leave a message

North West Homing Union Measurement Department

Miss Linda Buckley

67 bush lane

Freckleton

Preston pr4 1sb

Tel. 01772 - 460684

North West Homing Union Officials

President – Mr G Bennett

Vice presidents

MR D HOLT (HON LVP)

MR R CALVERLEY

MR STAN HEYWOOD

MR J PAWSON

MR R MACLACHLAN

MRS JANET MADDOCKS

MR J R FROST

MR J D HAMILTON

Please note above list may be subject to change.