

WESTERN PIGEON FEDERATION

Protocols & Procedures

PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES

1.1 Release Panel.

- 1.1.1** The BOM shall appoint a two (2) person Liberation Committee from formal, qualified applicants. Plus a trainee with (no vote) so they can gain experience. For future participation.
- 1.1.2** The Liberation Committee shall consist of Two (2) members from active racing participants. Plus a trainee who is an active racing participant.
- 1.1.3** No two (2) active racing members of a club / section can be on the Liberation Committee at the same time.
- 1.1.4** The President of BOM, whom is actively racing shall be the 3 person only if the 2 members cannot agree.
- 1.1.5** The appointment shall be for the duration of the racing season.
- 1.1.6** The season shall commence at the beginning of the program to the end of the program.
- 1.1.7** In the event of a member of the Liberation Committee being unable to fulfill their duties the BOM shall appoint a replacement (either temporary or permanently) from the unsuccessful applicants.
- 1.1.8** The Liberation Committee is answerable only to the BOM.
- 1.1.9** The Liberation Committee is a voluntary position.

1.2 Convoyer

- 1.2.1** The BOM shall appoint the Convoyer/s from formal, qualified applicants.(Preference to be a none racing participant.)
- 1.2.2** The application shall state qualifications, experience and expertise in support of the application.
- 1.2.3** The Convoyer shall be appointed for the duration of the racing season.
- 1.2.4** The Convoyer is a remunerated position.
- 1.2.5** The Remuneration per race season shall be set by the BOM at the beginning of the season.
- 1.2.6** In the event of the Convoyer being unable to fulfill the duties of Convoyer other Convoyers may be appointed as the need arises. (Either temporarily or permanently)

1.3 Roles and Responsibility

- 1.3.1** The Liberation Committee shall be totally responsible for the safe release of the convoy.
- 1.3.2** They shall take into account all events that could adversely affect the expected safe return of the convoy.
- 1.3.3** This being weather, storms tempest, fog, wind, and any other event which may have an adverse effect on the expect returns.
- 1.3.4** They shall at all times hold bird welfare as a premium and all due diligence shall be undertaken so as to as near as practicable effect a reasonable and acceptable result, in regard velocities and returns.
- 1.3.5** The BOM shall provide all necessary suitable and acceptable means and technology available to the Release panel in order to fulfill their obligation of due diligence.
- 1.3.6** The Liberation Committee shall appoint a “Head of Panel” whom shall be the only communication with the BOM.

The “Head “shall not be a member of the BOM.

- 1.3.7 The Liberation Committee shall also appoint a “Communications officer” whom shall be responsible for all communications to the general association regarding, Release details, Change of Race day or matters in relation to the release.
- 1.3.8 The Liberation Committee may move a Race day back or forward with the permission of the BOM.
- 1.3.9 The Liberation Committee with permission from The BOM change the race point whilst the convoy is traveling or when it has reached its destination prior to release.
- 1.3.10 The Liberation Committee are to as best as they can affect a release on the day of the schedule raced.
- 1.3.11 The Liberation Committee may however “Hold “the convoy over for a maximum of Two (2) days.
- 1.3.12 The Liberation Committee shall converse with all suitably qualified persons in the execution of their duty, but shall not discuss such actions and decisions with the general membership, either before, after or during the race period. Given that the Liberation Committee must initiate the communication.
- 1.3.13 Such breaches shall incur a mandatory one (1) week suspension from active participation in any matters WPF related.
- 1.3.14. Second breaches shall require the replacement of said Liberation Committee member, but they may continue to be a fully active member of the association.
- 1.3.15 The release shall communicate with the Convoyer.
- 1.3.16 The Convoyer shall be totally responsible for the safe travel of the convoy to the destination.
- 1.3.17 The Convoyer shall consider the personal safety of the transport driver and any other member of the release team as precedence.
- 1.3.18 The Convoyer shall at all times observe and apply all occupational and safety protocols and procedures at all times.
- 1.3.19 The Convoyer shall be responsible for the safe release of the convoy.
- 1.3.20 The Convoyer shall not release the convoy until authorization from their lease panel “Head” has been received.
- 1.3.21 The Convoyer shall communicate with the release panel.
- 1.3.22 The Convoyer must ensure that adequate water and feed are available to the birds prior to release.
- 1.3.23 The Convoyer must ensure the birds receive adequate rest prior to release. (Min 4Hrs)
- 1.3.24 The Convoyer after confirmation from the panel head shall release the convoy as close as practicable to the official release time.

1.4 Protocols

- 1.4.1 The Liberation Committee or any related party shall not receive or indulge in communication with the association membership in matters related to the release.
- 1.4.2 The WPF membership shall include the member, life partners, partners, kindred, affiliates or any other association
- 1.4.3 The members shall not influence, attempt to influence, offer assistance, threaten, cajole or in any way communicate with the members of the release panel before or after the scheduled race.

- 1.4.4** The Liberation Committee has a mandatory reporting obligation to report any such incidences or attempted communications to the BOM within 24 hours of such communication. They shall name and detail the exact nature of the communication. Failure to do so shall result in a one (1) week suspension from all association activities.
- 1.4.5** The Panel member has the right of appeal in all instances.
- 1.4.6** The Convoyer or any related party shall not receive or indulge in communication with the association membership in matters related to the release.
- 1.4.7** The Association membership shall include the member, life partners, partners, kindred, affiliates or any other associated person/s
- 1.4.8** The members shall not influence, attempt to influence, offer assistance, threaten, cajole or in any way communicate with the members of the release panel before or after the scheduled race.
- 1.4.9** The Convoyer shall have a mandatory reporting obligation to report any such incidences or attempted communications to the BOM within 24 hours of such communication. They shall name and detail the exact nature of the communication. Failure to do so shall result in a one (1) week suspension from all association activities.
- 1.4.10** The Convoyer has the right of appeal.

1.5 Penalty

- 1.5.1** The WPF member found to be guilty of such an offence shall have a mandatory three (3) week association membership suspension.
- 1.5.2** A Secondary breach shall incur a further mandatory Six (6) week association membership suspension.
- 1.5.3** A third breach shall incur the association membership to be suspended for the duration of the current racing season.
- 1.5.4** The member shall in all instances have the right of appeal.
- 1.5.5** Objections
All objections to the performance of the Liberation Committee and conveyor must be made via the members club executive (Chair, secretary, treasure) directly to the delegate of the clubs electorate.
- 1.5.6** The delegate has the obligation to table said objection/s to the full committee at the soonest available opportunity.

2. Race Delays and Holdovers

- 2.1.1** Where the release is delayed because of adverse weather conditions, such delay will remain in force until the Hold –over time is declared. When the hold-over is declared the pigeons will be held for a planned release the next day.
- 2.1.2** **Second Day** The Liberator must decide, either individually or in consultation with the BOM or the President, to:
- a) Release the pigeons at a pre-determined time or
 - b) In the case of adverse Weather conditions still prevailing, hold the Birds at the original Release Site until holdover-time is again reached.

When the holdover-time is declared with no release, the following will apply.

1. The Liberator Responsible in Consultation with the Management Committee or the General Secretary must decide to Hold the Birds at the Original Release Site for a planned Release on the Third Day or
2. Declare the Race cancelled and the Pigeons returned and released at a suitable location near Melbourne.

2.1.3 Third Day Special races (Breeders Plate)

Hold the birds at the original site until it becomes evident the Race must be declared cancelled and the Pigeons returned and released at a suitable location near Melbourne.

3. Rain or Fog or Heat

3.1.1 Pigeons must not be released into rain or fog.

3.1.2 **Heat** - Liberation Committee must be mindful of the temperature en route to the race point Where temperature conditions are expected to be adverse or excessive at any location the pigeons will be passing through at the time of the day, en route flying home, a hold over should be declared or the race cancelled as per the procedures noted above.

3.2 Winds

Pigeons will not be liberated in adverse or excessive winds. It shall be at the discretion of the liberation committee to determine whether the wind strength encountered on the trip home interferes with the pigeon's orientation and ability to home safely .If the liberation committee determines that the winds are adverse or excessive birds must be held until winds abate or a holdover is declared.

4. Release Time

4.11 During the months of June to August pigeons are to be released as follows:

4.1.2 Under clear sky conditions – release a minimum of 15 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area.

4.1.3 Under over-cast sky conditions – release a minimum of 30 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area.

4.1.4 During the months of September and October pigeons are to be released as follows:

4.1.5 Under clear sky conditions – release at the discretion of the person(s) responsible for releasing the birds.

4.1.6 Under over-cast sky conditions- releasing a minimum of 30 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area.