

Dispute Procedure

52) Disputes with regards to all racing results (Clubs, Federations, Sections) Should be dealt by the Racing Organisation prior to the NEHU Appeals Committee

53) Disputes between members and clubs where possible should be resolved at Club or Federation level. When a dispute arises between Members, Clubs, Federation or Race organisations that cannot be resolved at Club or Federation level then the following procedure must be adhered to before any disputed decision can be referred to the appeals committee.

- a) Disputes between members of the same Club: – should be heard at a special meeting convened by the Club, only to deal with the specific complaint. If a member disagrees with the decision of their Club, then he should appeal to their Federation. Following the decision of the Federation then either party (club or member) may then appeal to the Appeals Committee. In writing and by recorded postal delivery within 14 days of a decision being made by the Club or Federation.
- b) Disputes between Clubs / members of different clubs, but of the same Federation: - should be heard at a special meeting convened by the Federation only to deal with the specific complaint. If a Club / member disagree with the decision of their Federation then either party (Club or member) may appeal to the Appeals Committee, in writing and by recorded postal delivery within 14 days of a decision being made by the Federation.
- c) Disputes between members from different Federations / Race Organisations: - should initially address their complaint to the persons club they are in dispute with. The Club should convene a special meeting to deal with the specific complaint.
If either party disagrees with the club's decision, then they can appeal to the clubs Federation who must hold a special meeting. Either member can appeal to the Appeals Committee if they disagree with the Federation Decision in writing by recorded delivery within 14 days of being notified of the decision.
- d) Disputes between different Federations but belonging to the same Race Organisation: - should be heard at a special meeting convened by their Race Organisation only to deal with the complaint. If a Federation disagrees with the decision of their Race Organisation, then they may appeal to the Appeals Committee. In writing and by recorded postal delivery within 14 days of a decision being made by the Race Organisation.
- e) Should a dispute reach Federation level then the members / Club giving evidence will vacate the meeting before the reviewing Clubs, making up the Federation Panel, review the evidence provided by both parties before coming to a balanced, fair, and informed decision.
- f) Should the Federation Panel require further consideration of the evidence outside the timeframe of the meeting or should either party wish to supply additional evidence in light of the points raised at the meeting. The Federation Panel reserve the right to adjourn the meeting and allow reasonable time for such evidence to be reviewed and / or gathered, before re-convening the meeting to confirm the outcome of the case.
- g) Any Member suspended by his Club or Federation will not be allowed to race, show or exhibit pigeons until the suspension is lifted. All members of a partnership will be covered by the suspension. The suspension will apply to all clubs they are members of.
 - a) If a Federation upholds a Clubs decision to suspend a member/s then no transfers will be done by the NEHU Office unless directed by General Council.

- h) Clubs / Federations must inform the Union secretary in writing, immediately on suspending a member.
- i) Only General Council can suspend a member / Club from the Union. This will be the consequence of the General Council confirming the suspension at the Annual General meeting.
- j) Appealing against a decision made by the Appeal Committee must be made in writing and delivered to the Union secretary by recorded postal delivery within 14 days of their decision been made. This appeal will be heard by the General Council at the next scheduled meeting.
- k) Should any member or affiliated society be suspended by the General Purpose and Finance Committee then any appeal will be heard by the Management Committee. Any appeal must be made in writing and delivered to the Union Secretary by recorded postal delivery within 14 days of their decision been made.
- l) It should be in the case of a loft suspension each individual of the partnership should have Their cases heard individually. No member should be guilty by association.

Appeals Committee

54) The Appeals Committee shall consist of the elected Vice Presidents and four members of the management committee. Appeals should take place within 21 days of an appeal being received by the Union Secretary. A Vice President in attendance shall take the chair. If no Vice President is available, the appeal committee shall appoint a chair from those members in attendance and will have a deliberate and a casting vote.

Decisions made by the Appeals Committee shall have the same weight as that of the General Council and shall be final unless, or until, they are reversed by a decision of the General Council.

The appeals panel shall be made up of 5 members of the Appeals Committee

Appeal meetings may be held in the Union Office

General Council

55) For a dispute to be heard by General Council the following procedure must be followed: -

- a) Only the dispute been heard will be discussed.
- b) The member / club will receive 10 days' notice by recorded postal delivery stating the time and place of the meeting, the nature of the question arising for decision and the particulars of the charges, if any, alleged against any Society or member.
- c) The Council shall have the power to proceed with the matter in the absence of any party affected by the outcome, on proof that the parties had been notified.
- d) The Council shall hear the evidence of the parties and any evidence that may be entered on their behalf. The Council 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 Council.
- e) A Member may choose to have his case represented by a third party.

- f) No member shall be allowed to sit and adjudicate upon any case in which, in the opinion of the majority of voters present, he is an interested party.
- g) The decision of the council shall be communicated to the parties as soon as practicable and take effect immediately.
- h) The decision of the Council is final.
- i) Where Council has previously suspended Members / Clubs and they are requesting to have their suspension lifted, then the suspended parties must apply in writing to the Union Secretary to have their case heard before Council.
- j) No Club can remove a suspended member from their Club membership unless Council agrees to this request. Any such request must be made in writing and delivered to the Union Secretary by recorded postal delivery.

Races, Exhibitions and Shows

56) The Union may promote, manage, and hold Races, Exhibitions, Shows or appliances connected with the sport of racing pigeons. The Union may offer or award prizes for any competitions connected with promoting, managing and holding Races, Exhibitions and Shows.

Only union members will be allowed to participate in Union Classic Races.

Members from other recognised Homing Unions may be allowed to compete in such Races, Exhibitions and Shows if agreed in advanced. All birds must wear recognised Union rings.

No member of the Union shall be permitted to compete in any race or show in which entries of persons not members of a recognised Homing Union are allowed to enter.

The Union may take contributions from the union funds to promote such Races, Exhibitions and Shows. The Union may take contributions from such Races, Exhibitions and Shows whether managed by the Union or other persons.

The Union will only recognise as official any race or show which has been advertised as been held under the Rules of a recognised Homing Union.

57) All open races organised for members of the NEHU, not transported by the UNC; WDA; NNA; or DC; must be licensed. The organisers must forward the rules governing such races to the secretary of the union on application for a licence.

58) All Clubs, Federations wishing to run Breeder Buyer Ring / Ring Schemes must apply for a licence from the union office and must produce a copy of the rules.

The charge for this licence will be £10.00

These competitions can only be run by an affiliated Organisation, and the organiser must be a member of that Organisation. In the case of Breeder Buyer competitions these rules must be presented to and read out to competitors prior to the first bird being sold.

Any complaints regarding the results or sales of the competitions will only be assessed by the Appeals Committee provided a licence has been obtained

59) Clubs, Federations or Race Organisations may race on a Sunday.

Rings

60) No un-rung bird shall be entered into any race or show held by the Union or under the rules of the Union.

61) Federation shall be responsible for ring orders, which must be submitted to the union secretary by 1st May in the year proceeding issue. Failure to do so will result in the previous years' order being repeated.

Rings will be available for payment and collection on the 1st of December.

. Should the Federation request postal dispatch these will be sent by recorded delivery which will be charged to the Federation.

Individual members may purchase rings direct from the Union Office (minimum order being 10).

Postal applications must include a stamped addressed envelope and name of Club.

Federations to be responsible for payment of any rings ordered by that Federation.

Payment to be made a minimum of 5 days before rings are issued.

62) In all races it shall be deemed to be the ring and not the bird that is entered.

All rings bought through the Union are entitled to compete for any Club or federation prizes, except when it has been agreed otherwise: - e.g. nomination race.

63) Rings must not be supplied to shops or other trading concerns.

A Club or its members may supply rings to a prospective new member on the understanding that they will be joining their club.

64) A computer printout of your own loft rings for the past 10 years will be available on request from the Union office. There will be no charge for this service other than a self – addressed envelope.

Rings older than 10 years must be re –registered to enable member to compete with them in races or shows.

65) Name and address rings cannot be used while the pigeon is racing or showing. Plain plastic, numbered rings and rings with the owners' telephone number on may be used for racing. These cannot be used for showing.

66) Wing stamping is allowed with the owner's name, address and telephone number. The Union office will provide wing stamps and ink pads for clubs wishing to undertake voluntary wing stamping.

67) Transfers and Registrations forms for the registering and transferring of rings may be obtained from the Union Office or Club Secretaries, free of charge. The applicant must supply postage for the return of the vendors' card/s and the new owners' card/s.

Before transfers are completed, the Union Secretary will notify the owner who will be allowed 1 day to confirm or object to the transfer. Should the owner fail to reply within the 1 day then the transfer will be completed.

Birds will be allowed to compete in races and shows once transfer is completed

All applications for transfers must be made on the unions' official printed forms. Or via the online system

Vendors must supply new owner with transfer form.

It is the responsibility of Vendors and new owners to ensure rings are properly transferred

67a) NON-NEHU members to be charged £5.00 per form

If new owner becomes a member of the union paying NEHU Subscription, then transfers will be processed normally.

68) Transferring of rings to a Partnership applies when a member/s takes on a new partner/s or when a partnership is dissolved, or the constitution of a partnership is altered in anyway. In all cases any changes of circumstances to a partnership will require a fresh registration of all the rings. The original partner/s must sign the Change of Partnership form/s to the new partner or partners.

On application to change or form a new Partnership a Change of Partnership form accompanied by a printout of all the rings owned by the 'old partner/s' will be supplied by the Union office. On completion of a new Partnership form a new print out of all the rings held by the new Partnership will be supplied.

Last date of acceptance for new or altered partnerships will be the 31st of January of each year.

Change of Partnership forms must be accompanied by a letter of approval from the club.

Organisation of Finances

69) Clubs, Federations and Racing Organisations shall determine income and expenditure via decisions at an Annual General Meeting, General Meetings or Committees set up for that purpose.

- a) No Pooling, nominating or transport training of pigeon shall be compulsory.
- b) Donations must be expended based on donor wishes.
- c) Clubs, Federations and Racing Organisations shall arrange a banking account. All cheques to be signed by two officials. Bank statements and/or bankbooks must be examined by the President/Chairperson once per month. It is recommended that duplicate issue of statements be arranged direct to that official.
- d) Clubs to decide how much may be held as petty cash, due to problems with bank accounts And bank charges. This amount to be minuted in club minute book
- e) Two auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nominations or no suitable nominations then the General Council shall appoint a Professional Auditor on an annual basis.

70) A question, regarding the accuracy of the figures in the Statement of Accounts must be sent to the Union Office 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting in order that they may be looked into and explanations given to the delegates concerned by the Auditors at the Annual general Meeting.

71) The maximum of 100% can be charged above the cost of sending a pigeon to a race. E.g. the cost of a basket £13.00p for 25 birds equals 52p per bird. The maximum amount a Club can charge would be £1.04p, (the basket charge and number of birds to a basket are examples only). No Club that imposes limits may charge more than the cost of trainers, plus 10% maximum fee, plus any Federation birdage charge.

72) Clubs, Federation and Racing Organisations should pay for all services and items from the N.E.H.U. office via Cheque which bears the name of their organisation. Cheques must be payable to 'North of England Homing Union'.

72a) Clubs can pay via personal cheque due to difficulties with obtaining club bank accounts
Treasurer can hold more cash deemed necessary and agreed and minuted by the club

73) No person shall be appointed as an official of the North of England Homing Union who would benefit financially, either directly or indirectly. This would not however de – bar such persons from appointment at Club or Federation level, where they may receive payment for performing their duties.

74) The mapping of all member pigeon lofts will be carried out by a designated person of the NEHU.

Charges for mapping are: - existing Nehu members £40.00
New Nehu members £20.00
Under 16 free.

75) Any member of the union having a clearance sale shall be debarred for 3 years from competing in any race or show. In case of hardship, applications may be made to the Union secretary, such to be dealt with by General Council.

Pigeon Health

76) Vaccination against Paramyxovirus should be carried out to E.E.C. Regulations.

All pigeons that are used for racing showing or training must be vaccinated.

A DEFRA approved vaccine must be used in accordance with vaccine manufacturer's instructions.

Pigeons must be vaccinated at least 28 days before racing, showing, or training for immunity to take effect.

Vaccinations must be witnessed by a club or Federation Official or a Veterinary Surgeon who will sign the vaccination certificate on the front of the vaccination sheet. They must also sign after the last pigeon recorded on the vaccination sheet.

a) The original copy of the vaccination certificate should be retained by the club and a certified true copy lodged with the members federation and any other clubs they are members of.

The vaccination certificate should be held for 2 years.

b) All old birds intended for racing, showing, or training must be vaccinated by the 1st of March

c) All young birds intended for racing, showing, or training must be vaccinated by the 1st of June

d) Any birds vaccinated after this date must be recorded on a separate vaccination and cannot be race, showed, or trained for 28 days

It is recommended that ALL pigeons should be vaccinated against Paramyxovirus disease and that only Licenced vaccines be used: - Colombovac Pmv

Nobilis Paramyxo P201

Colombovac Pmv/Pox

77) Any loft that vaccinates against Pigeon Pox must abide by the following: -

Members must notify their Club Secretary with the date of vaccination and the name of person/s who witness the vaccination.

The vaccinated birds must be kept in the loft for a period of 21 days.

78) If a loft competes in two or more Clubs and is stopped by one Club through suspected pigeon disease, i.e., Pox, then the loft is stopped in all other Clubs.

Club and Federation Boundaries'

79) Clubs may not join another Federation outside their Organisation without permission being granted by Council.

80) No new Club shall be admitted to the N.E.H.U. which is formed within the boundary of an existing Club, other than a specialist or nomination Club, without the consent of the existing Club.

81) No newly elected Club to the Union may within its first 5 years of existence extend its inaugural boundary without the express authority of the Council.

82) A member who is not a member of any other Club or within the boundary of a Club, but within the boundary of a Federation shall be allowed to basket their pigeons at the nearest Club and fly for Federation honours. Advance notice must be given to the receiving Club and members so accommodated may be required to provide race panniers. Birdage costs will be those appropriate to the receiving Club.

Once that member has been offered membership to a Club or his loft comes within the boundary of a Club, then he must accept membership of such Club.

83) Any member within a club boundary cannot be refused membership of that club unless the club can prove he is an 'undesirable member', a defaulter or he is already a member of another club.

83a) when a club no longer exists due to lack of members or is disbanded by its members.

Those members left still wanting to race pigeons must be accepted into their nearest club,

Loft position to nearest club boundary in that Federation

Regardless of club boundaries within their federation

83b) A club which is not competitive in racing for a season will be withdrawn from the NEHU

Membership and will no longer exist. For such members club rule 82 will apply

84) Any member of the union shall be compelled to promptly acknowledge any reported bird and make immediate arrangements for its return.

A member being notified a second time has 7 days to acknowledge the reported bird and make arrangements for its return. Failure to do so will result in automatic suspension until he produces evidence of acknowledgement to the union secretary.

- a) The NEHU Office in the event of a lost bird being reported, may provide contact details of the bird's owner to the reporting persons.

85) Wednesday Club Clocks: - all members using their clocks for Wednesday racing must have their clocks sealed before leaving the Club House, and also before returning them to the Club House.

86) Member(s) racing to more than one loft location must use the shortest distance. This does not apply if a member moves from one loft to another providing that the old loft is closed down.

87) Letters to Club Secretaries regarding Federation meetings to be sent via email's (if no email address is available then posting will apply.)