

DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL

JANUARY 2024

The purpose of this document is to establish regulations and procedures to prevent the use of substances, (prohibited substances) considered to harm racing pigeons and give unfair advantages to pigeon flyers. Abuse of drugs in the sport will cause the following side effects and health problems with pigeons: Premature sterility, lack of adequate feathering, immune system break down, damage to liver, kidneys, and sudden death, among others. A pigeon flyer can obtain extraordinary performances from very ordinary pigeons by raising the birds' endurance thresholds, slowing the molting process, enhancing muscles and strength, aiding in the prevention of specific illnesses and increasing metabolic conditions. There is doubt whether the winner won on his own ability, or was aided with drugs to achieve the great performance. Thus, drugs deprive fame and fortune from the honest birds and trainers that achieved their success through effort, preparation and their own abilities.

The World Anti-doping Code, which outlines rules and regulations for athletes, has a section for animals that includes: “ **In any sport that includes animals in competition, the governing bodies for that sport should establish and implement anti-doping rules for the animals included in that sport. The anti-doping rules shall include a list of classes of prohibited substances, appropriate testing procedures and approved laboratories for sample analysis.**”

The owner of the racing pigeon, which will be called the “pigeon flyer”, will be held responsible whenever a prohibited substance (PEDS) is administered to their pigeons. The use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons means exposing racing pigeons to substances, of whatever nature, found to be harmful to racing pigeons or that may be expected to be harmful in excessive quantities and/or concentrations. It should be noted that there are many drugs such as antibiotics and anti-viral drugs that do have therapeutic effects on racing pigeons, and will not be deemed prohibitive. *It is however the responsibility of the pigeon flyer to make sure that there are no other prohibited substances included in these therapeutic drugs. It is also the responsibility of the pigeon flyer to be able to identify all chemicals in those products that do not contain information on the labels, as they may also contain prohibited substances. The pigeon flyer may contact the manufacturer or distributor to request a written analysis of the ingredients in the unlabeled product. The pigeon flyer will at all times be held responsible, whenever a prohibited substance is administered to their pigeons.*

To overcome the doping problems in racing pigeons it requires reliable methods to detect illegally medicated drugs. The following classes of substances will be considered prohibited in racing pigeon competition:

- I. *Drugs which mask pain and injury:*** These drugs have pain killing characteristics.
- A. Narcotic Analgesics: Powerful pain killers such as Opiates, Morphine, etc.
 - B. Anti-inflammatories, both Non-steroid, and Corticosteroids: (*Procaine and CBD are examples*)

Corticosteroids which are common in eye drops, delay a pigeon's molting, enabling it to train harder and race later in the season. They also have anti-inflammatory effects.

- II. *Drugs that unfairly improve performance:*** These drugs enhance the athletic ability of the bird by enhancing physical characteristics, and increase the heart rate and respiratory rate.
- A. Beta-agonists and other Bronchodilators: Both open birds' respiratory tract and improve breathing by adding oxygen to the blood.
 - B. Anabolic steroids: Anabolic steroids build up a pigeon's muscles, boosting performance (Boldenone is one of many).

III. *Drugs which stimulate the nervous system by increasing heart rate and pressure:*

- A. Amphetamines, or closely related substances of any kind (Cathinone is one of many).

IV. *Drug Masking Compounds:*

- A. Masking Agents: Which are used purposely to interfere with detection of prohibited drugs in the pigeon.

The _____ has adopted a drug testing protocol that all pigeon flyers must familiarize themselves with. The owner of racing pigeons will be referred to as the "pigeon flyer", and ***will at all times be held responsible, whenever a prohibited substance is administered to his or her pigeons.***

The effects of different drugs and drug types are constantly being researched, which means that the list of prohibited drugs can be changed at any time, and the pigeon flyers will be notified of these changes. It is important to understand that the classes of compounds that are prohibited have many brand names, and it is up to the pigeon flyer to be aware of these. Most of these are products would not be ordinarily found in most supply houses and pet shops. Be aware that some eye drops list a steroid on the bottle, and are sold over the counter. Any questions regarding the legality of substances being used can be referred to the drug testing committee. The drug committee will not put out a specific list of banned substances, however, because it would be too large a list, and then some may look for PEDS that are not listed. Improper use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons means the exposure of racing pigeons to prohibited substances for the purpose of: ***Influencing the performance of the racing pigeon participating in or being prepared for participation in a race.***

Every pigeon flyer must sign a written declaration that they understand, and follow, the protocol outlined in this document. **This signed declaration will remain in effect, and is binding for as long as the flyer is participating in any races falling under the jurisdiction of the _____.** *Any pigeon flyer who does not have a signed declaration is prohibited from flying any race affiliated with the _____.* It is the responsibility of the club secretary to keep a record of all signed petitions, and to bar any individual from shipping a race, who does not have a signed declaration on file. This declaration will pertain to all races flown by clubs belonging to the combine, including: *FUTURITIES, BOND RACES, DERBIES, and other SPECIAL RACES.* All pigeon fliers should keep a record of products used. In the case of a positive test for the presence of a prohibited substance, a pigeon flyer will be able to determine the origin of the substance in the unlikely event that he or she is unaware of its origin. **This will not release the pigeon flyer from any responsibility and or consequences that might be levied for the prohibited substances found.**

ANY CLUB THAT REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO A REQUESTED DRUG TEST, WILL RECEIVE NO COMBINE HONORS FOR THAT WEEK, AND WILL NOT BE LISTED ON ANY COMBINE RESULT SHEET. THE ENTIRE CLUB WILL BE BANNED FROM SHIPPING ALL FUTURE RACES SPONSORED BY THE COMBINE, UNTIL THEY SUBMIT TO THE DRUG TESTING. IF THAT PARTICULAR CLUB REFUSES FUTURE TESTING, THEN THAT CLUB WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE _____, SUBJECT TO DECISIONS MADE BY THE _____ DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE.

ANY INDIVIDUAL FLYERWHO DOES NOT SUBMIT TO A REQUESTED DRUG TEST, WILL LOSE ALL HONORS AND PRIZES ASSOCIATED WITH THAT PARTICULAR RACE. ONCE THIS OCCURS, THE HONORS AND PRIZES FOR THAT PARTICULAR RACE CANNOT BE RECOVERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL FLYER. IT IS UP TO THE PARENT CLUB TO ENFORCE THIS RULE. NO PRIZES OR HONORS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE CLUB SECRETARY. IF THAT PARTICULAR FLYER REFUSES FUTURE TESTING, THEN THAT FLYER WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE _____, SUBJECT TO DECISIONS MADE BY THE _____ DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE.

ALL AND ANY DRUG TESTING WILL BE PERFORMED, AND EVALUATED BY THE DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE OF THE _____ ONLY. ANY INDEPENDENT DRUG TESTING DONE BY ANY CLUB OR ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE _____ DRUG TESING COMMITTEE IS STRICTLY

PROHIBITED, AND WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID. THE CLUB ATTEMPTING TO PERFORM SUCH TESTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE DISBARMENT FROM THE _____ AT THE DISCRETION OF THE _____. DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE. THIS PERTAINS TO ALL CLUBS ASSOCIATED WITH THE _____, AND ALL SPECIAL RACES SPONSORED BY THOSE CLUBS INCLUDING BONDS, FUTURITIES, DERBIES, AND ANY OTHER SPECIAL RACES. ANY CLUB OFFICER MAY REQUEST A DRUG TEST FROM THE _____. DRUG TESTING COMMITTEE FOR ANY RACE SPONSORED BY THAT CLUB. ANY _____ MEMBER MAY ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEASON TO VOICE ANY CONCERNS PERTAINING TO DRUG TESTING. ANY CLUB THAT IS FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO PAY FOR DRUG TESTING SHOULD VOICE THAT CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE.

**ADDITION TO THE
DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL
POST TESTING PROCEDURES FOR RACES
INVOLVING BREEDERS/HANDLER**

. For auction races, convention races and all other races where breeders send birds to handlers to compete:

. The drug testing committee must notify the pigeon handler, and breeder of positive results within 5 business days ***after receiving notification by the lab*** of a positive test for prohibited substances, *and both will be provided a copy of the lab report.*

. The handler will be summoned before the drug testing committee, at which time he may discuss the report findings, and have a prepared rebuttal, and or a means of defense. All handlers must be afforded this opportunity in the face of a positive test for a prohibited substance.

. All prizes and race positions in question in the race tested ***will be suspended until a decision by the committee has been reached***, in accordance with the testing protocol. This could potentially delay race results. Upon testing positive for a prohibited substance, and ***after the recommendation of the drug testing committee***, a handler found guilty of a violation of the regulations outlined in this document will be subject to the following sanctions:

. All pigeon(s) testing positive for prohibited substances will be disqualified from the race. All prizes and honors associated with the race in question, will be forfeited by the **handler as well as the breeder**. The breeder will be refunded any fees they paid into the race. The breeder and handler will be notified by phone and in writing of the disqualification.

. ***DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE BREEDER IS ALSO PENALIZED FOR THE ACTION OF THE HANDLER WHO IS FOUND GUILTY OF ADMINISTERING PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES, AND TO DETER SUCH ACTIONS BY THE HANDLER, THE HANDLER WILL BE BANNED FROM FLYING ALL RACES SPONSORED BY THE _____ FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS. IN ADDITION, THE A.U. AND I.F. WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE MEMBER IN BAD STANDING.***

All decisions of the _____, and the drug testing committee are final and binding, and shall not be subject to review or appeal of any kind, including legal action.

TESTING PROCEDURE

- All samples will be collected under the responsibility and supervision of previously appointed “samplers”. Procedure will follow the protocol outlined in this document.
- All collected samples will be stored under frozen conditions at the club or in a secure pre-determined location.
- Instruments and equipment used for the collection of samples required for determining the presence of prohibited substances will be supplied by the designated sampler.
- All instruments and equipment, must be kept clean, and used in such a manner as to prevent cross contamination, and to protect the integrity of the sample. This could include: cages, sealed bottles, wooden spatulas, disposable gloves, plastic sheeting, metal seals, sealing wire, security bags, spoons, stationary etc.
 - Non- absorbent sheeting will be used for each test, and will be changed after each test.
 - All documentation will be carefully prepared by the sampler, and completed for all tests conducted.
 - A previously prepared sampling kit made up by the sampler, will be opened for each test conducted. The presence of either the pigeon flyer or a designee and a sampler, must be present to witness the opening of the kit and observe the testing the procedure. If there are any complaints by the pigeon flyer pertaining to the procedure of the test, he or she must voice and write those concerns ***at the time of testing***. The pigeon flyer must sign off on the procedure if everything goes according to protocol. ***The pigeon flyer who owns the birds, (or a designee), and the official samplers are the only people to be in the testing room at any one time during sample collections.***
- On the morning of the identified race, (*which is only known to the sampler*), the sampler has the option to contact the club secretary to schedule a test for the first, second, and third place *lofts*, and possibly any big pool or board winner, *at the request of the club secretary*. MULTIPLE POSITIONS BY THE SAME LOFT WILL BE SAMPLED AS ONE TEST. The day following the race results, the first, second and third place *lofts*, as well as any identified pool or board winner must be present with their pigeons at the designated club to be tested. ANY FLIER WHO FAILS TO SHOW WITH HIS BIRDS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM ALL HONORS AND PRIZES, *as described in the protocol above*.
- The drug testing committee will also have the option of having a predetermined list of all pigeon fliers to be tested for any particular race, *and to conduct a test the night of shipping*. It is up to the sampler, to determine the number and names of the particular pigeon flyers to be tested. All pigeon flyers scheduled to be tested for a particular race will be notified upon entering the club house or shipping building. They will be escorted

to the drug testing room with their entire race entry. ***It is left up to the discretion of the samplers to choose which particular pigeons, and how many pigeons*** are selected from the total entry to be placed in cages and tested. ***A new testing kit will be used for each different loft tested. This will include a new set of gloves used by the sampler.***

- The entire band numbers of tested pigeons must be noted on the data sheets supplied. The filled sample bottles are immediately sealed, seal numbers are recorded, and samples are immediately placed in a secure freezer by collectors. ***Any remarks about the sampling process, by either collectors, or the pigeon flyer must be noted at this time.*** The samplers and pigeon flyer must sign the sampling form indicating compliance with the protocol. Sealed samples are stored in a secured freezer for shipment at the soonest mailing available.

- Samples are sent out at the soonest mailing available to a registered lab testing facility:

- a. TVMDL - College Station
PO Drawer 3040
College Station, TX 77841-3040

- After testing is completed the pigeon flyer with his pigeons must be escorted by someone assigned by the club representing the race, directly to the designated shipping area for drug tested bird where the flyer will immediately register birds and have them placed in shipping crates. An extra station for tested fliers would be desirable, however if none is available, tested fliers will be given priority on the shipping line. If for any reason the birds do not go directly to the shipping table, that particular flyer and all of that particular flyer's birds, will be disqualified from shipping that particular race.

POST TESTING PROCEDURES

·The drug testing committee must notify the pigeon flyer of positive results within 5 business days ***after receiving notification by the lab*** of a positive test for prohibited substances *and be provides a copy of the lab report.*

·The pigeon flyer will be summoned before the drug testing committee, at which time he may discuss the report findings, and have a prepared rebuttal, and or a means of defense. All pigeon flyers must be afforded this opportunity in the face of a positive test for a prohibited substance.

· So as not to delay prizes for flyers in a regular club race or combine special, it is up to each individual club whether they want to pay flyers for positions won before test results are received. However it will be up to the club to get those prizes back in case of a positive test for PEDS. Upon testing positive for a prohibited substance, and ***after the recommendation of the drug testing committee***, a pigeon flyer found guilty of a violation of the regulations outlined in this document will be subject to the following sanctions:

·The first offense will be disqualification of that flyer from that race, suspension of that flyer from flying the rest of the series of races associated with the positive test, along with the forfeiture of any prizes associated with the race in question, and all honors associated with that race, and will also forfeit all monies paid for advance. So as not to disqualify a breeder/handler race for that season, the flyer in question will be allowed to fly those races, with the understanding that all their birds will be tested for those particular races, in addition:

·The pigeon flyer in violation will have to pay for all expenses associated with their positive test., as well as all future tests for a period of 1 full year, the flyer will also be listed as “in violation of list specific PED”, on the subsequent combine sheet.

·The second offense will be suspension, not exceeding 12 months from the day of the violation. In addition, there will be the forfeiture of any prizes won in the race, along with all honors associated with that race, in addition:

·The pigeon flyer in violation will have to pay for all expenses associated with their testing when their pigeons are selected for future tests.

·A third violation could result in expulsion from the combine. This will be determined by the drug testing committee. Behavior that may be seriously harmful to the ethics, and objectives of the club, may also suggest expulsion.

All decisions of the _____, and the drug testing committee are final and binding, shall not be subject to review or appeal of any kind, including legal proceedings.

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE BY PIGEON FLYER

I, _____ of the _____ H.P.C. declare on this day, _____, _____, 20__ that I have read, understand, and will cooperate fully with procedure, and abide by the conditions set forth in the document entitled “Drug Testing Protocol”, which explains the use of prohibited substances in homing pigeons. I agree to comply with the conditions and procedures of said document, including consequences associated with positive test results. ***I agree that I will not administer any prohibited substances to any of my pigeons.*** I also agree to entrust my pigeons with whomever the club hires to transport, feed, and water the race birds. I accept that all precautions and care will be taken to ensure that there will be no tampering while collecting samples, or with sealed crates, and that the introduction of any prohibited substances in route to a race is remote and unlikely.

I hereby indemnify the _____, against all and any form of prosecution, or the institution of any legal actions, and accept the procedures and consequences outlined in the document as being a reasonable and fair way to control the use of prohibited substances in racing pigeons.

Flyer Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

**NOTICE OF POSITIVE TEST
FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

Dear _____,

With regard to the drug test administered on _____, sample number _____, which was assigned to your racing pigeon sample. Your sample tested positive for the following substances: _____ A copy of the drug testing document sent by the lab is enclosed. All honors and prizes associated with this race will be suspended until you appear before the drug testing committee to discuss the results.

You may prepare a rebuttal, or a means of defense for the meeting. At this meeting, the committee will decide according to the parameters set forth in the Drug Testing Protocol document any action, if any, that will be taken. Any sanctions against you will begin immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

Please note that any private contact or direct communication with the laboratory is prohibited. You have 5 business days to schedule a meeting with the drug testing committee regarding this positive test. After this time, the committee will assume that you do not wish to discuss the findings, and the committee will rule accordingly. You will be notified by phone or certified mail of any sanctions against you.

Please contact _____ at phone number _____ to schedule a meeting within 5 days of your notification about this matter.

Sincerely,

The _____ Drug Testing Committee