

RPRRA RULES – PROPOSED RULE CHANGES – February 2025 AGM. Prepared by Ian Evans

Over the past 12 months I have been approached by a number of people asking for help to achieve change in the RPRRA. As a result, with the help of some other like-minded people I have drafted the following rules changes that can simply be downloaded/printed and submitted to your local region. These proposals need to come from clubs/organisations. Therefore, you will need to agree these proposals at a club meeting before submitting to the region. In order to be placed on the RPRRA AGM propose changes it is essential that these proposals are sent to your local region ASAP. Your local regions deadlines may differ.

What the proposals hope to achieve?

The proposed rule changes focus on the removal of all RPRRA regions and a change from a Council based system to a smaller group of 5 individuals (executive Committee). These changes will help make financial efficiencies (see note below). They will aim to make the decision-making process far quicker and more effective; therefore, reacting to threats and opportunities in a far more efficient way.

These proposals will also aim to allow a far greater percentage of the membership to decide on the direction of the Association by moving from the current convoluted process for voting to a simple 1 member 1 vote basis, utilising online and paper ballots. This will include the election of an Executive Committee every three years by the membership; again 1 member 1 vote and any alteration to rules will also be based on 1 member 1 vote.

The Executive Committee will be able to meet more often and at reduced cost utilising online meeting tools wherever possible.

The proposals will reduce the cost of running the association, how?

The cost of running the regions: £5 of every member subscription goes to the region. Without accurate membership numbers that don't seem available the following cost of running the regions can be applied.

13,000 members = £65,000

15,000 members = £75,000

In addition, each region appoints representatives to sit on Council. The cost of council can conservatively be estimated at around £15k. So, we can conclude the cost of running the regional/Council structure is anything between £80k and £90k. Coupled with moving meetings online; Replacing this Governance structure will help reduce the cost of running the association.

One proposed change that is included in the proposal centres around how subscriptions are set. Traditionally the subscription value has been set in the rules; this has made budgeting impossible. There needs to be flexibility in this respect; something I tried to propose while I was CEO. See proposed change to rule 27.

Note; If these proposals are successful, we will need a period of transition. This will include the fact that the existing Council will need appoint an Executive Committee from their numbers to act as the Executive for a period of one year where they will put in place basis and infrastructure to implement the new rules/Governance structure.

The (Insert club name) club held a meeting on (insert date) where the majority of members present voted in favour of submitting the following rule changes for the next RPRA AGM

Please note that if these proposals are successful, we acknowledge we will need a period of transition. Therefore, these proposals are made on the strict understanding that for a period of one year only the Executive Committee will be appointed at the AGM from the existing Councillors attending the AGM. During this period of one year the temporary Executive will put in place the infrastructure to implement the new rules/Governance structure.

In the event that an Executive can not be elected from the existing Council members the CEO will take steps to appoint an Executive as a matter of urgency.

Delete Rule 2

In these rules the following words and expressions shall have the following respective meanings unless the context requires otherwise: 'the Association' means The Royal Pigeon Racing Association. 'Club' means any club or society all the members of which are individuals or partnerships of individuals and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with Rule 17. See Appendix H. 'Group' means any federation, amalgamation, combine or organisation all the members of which are Clubs or combinations of Clubs and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17. 'Council' means the Council of the Association established under these Rules and 'Councillor' means a member of the Council. 'Chief Executive' means the Chief Executive of the Association. 'Individual Member' means a member of the Association who has been admitted to membership by a Local Region Committee pursuant to Rule 15 and who is not a member of a Club. 'Local Region' means a division of the Association consisting of all members of the Association whose registered membership addresses lie within the boundaries of a geographical region specified by the Council pursuant to Rule 9 (a list of the boundaries of the current Local Regions is attached hereto as Appendix B). 'Local Region Committee' means the governing body of a Local Region. 'National or Specialist Club' means any club which does not organise a full race programme annually. 'Occasional member' is a member who takes part in a competition under an Open Race licence. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group.

Replace With

In these rules the following words and expressions shall have the following respective meanings unless the context requires otherwise: 'the Association' means The Royal Pigeon Racing Association. 'Club' means any club or society all the members of which are individuals or partnerships of individuals and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with Rule 17. See Appendix H. 'Group' means any federation, amalgamation, combine or organisation all the members of which are Clubs or combinations of Clubs and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17. '**Executive Committee**' means the **Executive Committee** of the Association established under these Rules and '**Committee Member**' means a member of the **Executive Committee**. 'Chief Executive' means the Chief Executive of the Association. 'Individual Member' means a member of the Association who has been admitted to membership by **The Executive Committee** pursuant to Rule 15 and who is not a member of a Club. 'National or Specialist Club' means any club which does not organise a full race programme annually. 'Occasional member' is a member who takes part in a competition under an Open Race licence. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 3.

In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears (a) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and words importing the feminine gender include the masculine; (b) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular; (c) 'United Kingdom' includes RPRA members in the Republic of Ireland and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; (d) references to a member's Local Region or Local Region Committee are references to the Local Region within the geographical boundaries of which that member has his registered address or its Committee and references to an Organisation's Local Region or Local Region Committee are references to the Local Region within the geographical boundaries of which that Organisation has its headquarters or its Committee; (e) headings to Rules are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules; and (f) any reference to a statute or statutory provision shall be construed as a reference to that provision as it may have been, or may from time to time be, amended, modified or re- enacted.

Replace With

In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears (a) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and words importing the feminine gender include the masculine; (b) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular; (c) 'United Kingdom' includes RPRA members in the Republic of Ireland and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; **(d)** headings to Rules are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules; and **(e)** any reference to a statute or statutory provision shall be construed as a reference to that provision as it may have been, or may from time to time be, amended, modified or re- enacted.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 9.

Within boundaries prescribed by the Council, the Association shall constitute Local Regions. Every Organisation having its headquarters within such boundaries shall be deemed to be affiliated to that Local Region and every member of the Association having his registered membership address within such boundaries shall be deemed to be a member of that Local Region. The constitution and organisation of any Local Region shall be determined by that Local Region provided that such constitution and organisation is consistent with these Rules, adopts all the provisions of these Rules which are applicable to Local Regions and obliges all members to observe the provisions of these Rules.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 10.

All local administration of the Association within a geographical area prescribed by the Council pursuant to this Rule shall be vested in the Local Region for that area, subject only to appeal to the Appeals Committee in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 11.

Each Local Region shall hold its annual general meeting at least 14 days prior to the last Friday in February in each year.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 12.

Any member appointed to serve on a Local Region Committee must (a) Be a member of and be duly appointed by a Club or group having its headquarters within such geographical area. (b) Be a fully paid up member of such a Club, or a Club which is a member of such a group, and (c) Unless he/she is a member of a National or Specialist Club, have his/her registered membership address within the geographical area of such Local Region, irrespective of whether his/her loft is within the boundaries of another Local Region

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 13.

Officers or officials of any of Local Region Committees shall be deemed to be agents of the Association in all matters authorised by these Rules or the Rules of such Local Region but shall not have power to pledge the credit of the Association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 14.

Any individual may apply to become a member of the Association by applying to the Local Region Committee for the area in which he resides. Any such application shall be upon a form to be obtained from the Local Region Committee which form shall require the applicant to state whether he has ever been a member of a Club or Organisation concerned with the racing of pigeons and if so to give details of such Club or Organisation. Such application form shall be signed by the applicant and by two members of the Association to whom the applicant is personally known.

Replace with

Any individual may apply to become a member of the Association by applying to the **Executive Committee**. Any such application shall be upon a form to be obtained from the **Chief Executive**. The form shall require the applicant to state whether he has ever been a member of a Club or Organisation concerned with the racing of pigeons and if so to give details of such Club or Organisation. Such application form shall be signed by the applicant and by two members of the Association to whom the applicant is personally known.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 15.

A Local Region Committee shall have the right to refuse to grant membership of the Association to an applicant where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association. Unless a Local Region Committee is so satisfied, it shall admit an applicant who has complied with the provisions of Rule 14 to membership of the Association.

Replace With

The Executive Committee shall have the right to refuse to grant membership of the Association to an applicant where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association. Unless **The Executive Committee** is so satisfied, it shall admit an applicant who has complied with the provisions of Rule 14 to membership of the Association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 17.

Any pigeon racing or showing organisation may apply for affiliation to the Association by writing to the Secretary of the Region within which its headquarters are situated. The written

application must be made by February 1st and include: The name of the organisation, which may only include the word National if its membership is open to all members of the Association. The full names and addresses of at least eight competing lofts for a club, or three competing members for a group. A copy of the domestic rules of the organisation which must include the route the organisation wishes to fly and all rules in the Association Standard Rules for Affiliated organisations. A written statement to justify the reasons for affiliation. A deposit of £50 which may be returned less advertising costs. The fully compliant application shall be advertised by the Region Secretary in two of the UK national papers devoted to pigeon racing and showing, allowing 21 days from the date of publication during which any member, organisation or Region may submit a written and signed objection to such affiliation. The Region Secretary shall copy any written objection to the applicant organisation which then may submit a written response. At the expiry of the 21 days objection period the Region Secretary shall as soon as practicable, refer the application with any objections and responses to a meeting of the Region Committee at which neither the applicant nor the objector may make verbal representation unless requested to do so. The decision of the Region Committee is final and shall be communicated in writing to all parties concerned. Affiliation shall take immediate effect if granted. An organisation refused affiliation cannot reapply to any Region for a period of 12 months.

Replace With

Any pigeon racing or showing organisation may apply for affiliation to the Association by writing to the **Chief Executive**. The written application must be made by February 1st and include: The name of the organisation, which may only include the word National if its membership is open to all members of the Association. The full names and addresses of at least eight competing lofts for a club, or three competing members for a group. A copy of the domestic rules of the organisation which must include the route the organisation wishes to fly and all rules in the Association Standard Rules for Affiliated organisations. A written statement to justify the reasons for affiliation. A deposit of £50 which may be returned less advertising costs. The fully compliant application shall be advertised by the **Chief Executive in one of the UK national papers devoted to pigeon racing and showing, on the association website and social media pages**; allowing 21 days from the date of publication during which any member **or** organisation may submit a written and signed objection to such affiliation. The **Chief Executive** shall copy any written objection to the applicant organisation which then may submit a written response. At the expiry of the 21 days objection period the **Chief Executive** shall as soon as practicable, refer the application with any objections and responses to a meeting of the **Executive Committee** at which neither the applicant nor the objector may make verbal representation unless requested to do so. The decision of the **Executive Committee** is final and shall be communicated in writing to all parties concerned. Affiliation shall take immediate effect if granted. An organisation refused affiliation cannot reapply for a period of 12 months.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance and to reduce advertising costs

Delete Rule 24.

Each Club shall pay an annual fee of £10 to the Local Region in which its headquarters is situated. The Annual fee must be paid before the last day of February. Any Club which fails to

pay its annual fee of £10 by March 1st, shall in addition to such annual fee, pay a penalty of £10.
Group Fees

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 27.

Each Club (including any National or Specialist Club) shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region. (a) an annual subscription to the Association of £11 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club. (b) and an annual subscription to the Club's Local Region of £4 for every member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription to the Local Region through another Club. (c) all Junior members under the age of 18 who are members of a Club will pay an annual subscription to the Association of £3 (inclusive of VAT) except any Junior member that has paid their subscription to the Association through another Club. and an annual subscription of £2 (inclusive of VAT) to the Club's Local Region except any junior member that has paid their subscription to the Local Region through another Club.

Replace with

Each Club (including any National or Specialist Club) shall pay to the **Association**. (a) an annual subscription to the Association for each member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club. **The annual subscription will be set by the Executive Committee annually in advance of 1st November each year.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance. Also to allow the Association to budget more efficiently.

Delete Rule 28.

For the purpose of the computation of annual subscriptions, each partner in any partnership of members of the Association admitted to membership of a Club shall be reckoned to be a separate member. (a) all members must pay an RPRA annual fee. Where a member is a partner in two or more different partnerships located at the same or different addresses an RPRA fee must be paid for each loft number where he/she is a partner. Both fees shall be paid to the Local Region. (b) any partnership containing a deceased member can apply to their Local Region Committee for a payment exemption of RPRA subscriptions for the deceased member. Once agreed by the Local Region Committee such exemption shall commence from the following year's subscriptions.

Replace With

For the purpose of the computation of annual subscriptions, each partner in any partnership of members of the Association admitted to membership of a Club shall be reckoned to be a separate member. (a) all members must pay an RPRAs annual fee. Where a member is a partner in two or more different partnerships located at the same or different addresses an RPRAs fee must be paid for each loft number where he/she is a partner. Any partnership containing a deceased member can apply to the **Executive Committee** for a payment exemption of RPRAs subscriptions for the deceased member. **If** agreed, such exemption shall commence from the following year's subscriptions.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 29.

Each Club shall pay the said annual subscriptions to the Association and the Club's Local Region prior to 1st March in each year and together with such payment shall send to the Secretary of the Club's Local Region Committee a list showing the names and addresses of all the members of the Club. If an individual becomes a member of Club after 1st March in any year, that Club shall provide to the Secretary of the Club's Local Region Committee the name and address of such individual and shall pay the annual Association subscription and the annual Local Region subscription in respect of such individual unless he has already paid his Local Region subscription through another Club.

Replace With

Each Club shall pay the said annual subscriptions to the Association prior to 1st March in each year and together with such payment shall send to the **Association** a list showing the names and addresses of all the members of the Club. If an individual becomes a member of Club after 1st March in any year, that Club shall provide **Association with** the name and address of such individual and shall pay the annual Association subscription in respect of such individual unless he has already paid through another Club.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 30.

All National and Specialist Clubs shall have on their annual subscription form a statement to the effect 'I certify that I have paid my RPRAs subscription to . . . Club.' All members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay their RPRAs subscriptions and Region subscriptions through their local club or region. Members who are only members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay these fees directly to their Local Region Secretary.

Replace With

All National and Specialist Clubs shall have on their annual subscription form a statement to the effect 'I certify that I have paid my RPRA subscription to . . . Club.' All members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay their **annual** subscriptions through their local club. Members who are only members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay these fees directly to the **Association**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 31.

If any Club shall fail to pay the due annual Association subscription and the due annual Local Region subscription for any member by 1st March in any year, that Club shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region Committee an additional £0.50 per member in respect of whom either the annual Association subscription or the annual Local Region subscription has not been paid when such subscription is paid. Such surcharges of £0.50 shall become the property of the Club's Local Region.

Replace with

If any Club shall fail to pay the due annual Association subscription for any member by 1st March in any year, that Club shall pay to the **Association** an additional £0.50 per member in respect of whom the annual Association subscription has not been paid.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 32.

An individual Member shall pay (a) An annual subscription of £11 to the Association and (b) An annual subscription of £4 to his Local Region. (c) An individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to the Association an annual subscription of £3. (d) an individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to their Local Region an annual subscription of £2. All individual subscriptions shall be paid to the Secretary of the Local Region not later than 1st March each year and are inclusive of VAT. Individual members will only be entitled to the privileges and benefits of the Association when the fees for that year have been paid. Individual members may apply from 1st November for the following years membership

Replace With

An individual Member shall pay an annual subscription to the Association. **The annual subscription will be set by the Executive Committee annually in advance of 1st November each year.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 34.

Each Secretary of a Local Region Committee shall issue an Association membership card to each member of the Association in respect of whom the annual Association subscription and the annual Local Region subscription is paid and shall send such card to the Club which made payment of the subscription for the member.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 35.

Prior to 30th April in each year, the Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall send to the Chief Executive all annual Association subscriptions received by him, together with a list of the Clubs which have paid their annual affiliation fee to the relevant Local Region, giving the names and addresses of the Secretaries of all such Clubs. Within four weeks after 30th April the Chief Executive shall notify any Local Region Committee Secretary who has failed to send all annual Association subscriptions to the Chief Executive by 30th April.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 36.

Each Local Region shall apply all Local Region subscriptions received by it in accordance with the objects of the Association. If any Local Region secedes from the Association the Local Region shall pay to the Chief Executive all monies of which the Local Region Committee then stands possessed and shall deliver to the Chief Executive all documents and things in the ownership, possession or control of the Local Region for the furtherance of the objects of the Association

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 37.

Any resolution affecting any alteration in the amount of annual subscription to the Association or a local region passed by an annual general meeting of the Council shall take effect on 1 November following the date on which the annual general meeting is held. PART F: MANAGEMENT The Council

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 38.

The ultimate control of the affairs of the Association shall be exercised by the Council in general meetings provided that the Council may in its absolute discretion seek a vote from all members of the Association on any matter or resolution. If the Council determines to put a matter or resolution to the vote of all members of the Association, the Council shall specify the matter or resolution to be put to members and shall provide voting forms to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee but the Local Region Committee shall administer the taking of such vote and shall bear any costs and postage associated therewith. The Council shall determine the date by which any such vote shall be taken and shall specify such date to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee. In the event that a straight majority of members of the Association vote for or against any matter or resolution put to the vote in this manner, the Council shall be obliged to take the necessary actions to give effect to that vote. In all other cases, the Council shall not be obliged to comply with the view expressed by the majority of votes cast on any such matter or resolution but shall take such votes into account in the Council's deliberations.

Replace with

The ultimate control of the affairs of the Association shall be exercised by the **Executive Committee** in general meetings provided that the **Executive Committee** may in its absolute discretion seek a vote from all members of the Association on any matter or resolution.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 39.

The Officers of the Association shall be a President and three Vice Presidents who shall be elected from delegates representing four different Local Regions at the annual general meeting of the Association and shall hold office for one year. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election provided that no officer shall hold the same office for more than five successive years. The conduct of the nominations for and election of officers shall be regulated by the Council.

Replace With

The Executive Committee of the Association shall be a President and four Vice Presidents who shall be elected by **the association members; 1 member 1 vote**, at the annual general meeting of the Association and shall hold office for **three** years. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election. **The Executive committee shall provide members with a ballot paper and/or online voting options.**

Applicants for the Executive committee shall provide a CV outlining their experience and qualification that will enable them to deliver the responsibilities associated with the role. This should also include how they intend to deliver the objectives and aims of the association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 40.

The Chief Executive shall be appointed upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the Council shall consider appropriate. A Councillor shall not be eligible for the office of Chief Executive while holding office as a Councillor. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to attend Committee and Council meetings of the Association and to ensure a record of the minutes are taken. All money paid to the Chief Executive, either as remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in respect of the business of the Association, shall be included in the accounts of the Association.

Replace with

The Chief Executive shall be appointed upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the **Executive Committee** shall consider appropriate. An **Executive Committee** member shall not be eligible for the office of Chief Executive while holding office as an **Executive Committee** member. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to attend Executive Committee and to ensure a record of the minutes are taken. All money paid to the Chief Executive, either as remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in respect of the business of the Association, shall be included in the accounts of the Association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 41.

The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Local Region. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Local Region Committee to attend all meetings of the Local Region Committee and to record and keep the minutes thereof. The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall be paid such salary as the relevant Local Region Committee shall determine. All payments made by a Local Region Committee to its Secretary, whether as remuneration or as reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Secretary in respect of the business of the Local Region, shall be shown in the accounts for the Local Region.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 42.

Each Local Region with a membership not exceeding 1,500 shall be entitled to appoint one Councillor. Each Local Region with a membership numbering not less than 1,501 and not more than 2,500 shall be entitled to appoint two Councillors and each Local Region with a membership numbering more than 2,500 shall be entitled to appoint three Councillors, Appointments of Councillors shall be made at the Annual General Meeting of each Local Region. Councillors will hold office from the date of the Annual General Meeting at which they are appointed until the conclusion of the next following Annual General Meeting of the Local Region and shall be eligible for re-election.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 43.

No member shall be eligible to be appointed a Councillor unless he has attended meetings of a Club which is affiliated to the Local Region purporting to appoint him as a Councillor within the year prior to the annual general meeting of the Local Region at which he is appointed.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 44.

At all Council meetings where a Councillor cannot be present, his/her place may be taken by a reserve delegate at all Committee meetings and each reserve delegate be given full powers.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 45.

No person who is currently, or has been previously, fully employed by the Association shall be eligible for appointment as a Councillor. This shall also apply to persons financially interested in or representing any trade concern or business involved with appliances, apparatus, foodstuffs, periodicals, newspapers or any other item relating to the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons. Secretaries of Local Region Committees & Secretaries of clubs are eligible for appointment as Councillors notwithstanding that they are or may be paid to perform their respective offices. In the event of any doubt being raised as to the eligibility of any member for appointment as a Councillor the Council will determine whether or not the member is eligible.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 46.

At the annual general meeting of the Council to be held following an annual general meeting of a Local Region each Councillor appointed by the Local Region must be prepared to produce to the President of the Association confirmation signed by the Secretary or President of the Local Region Committee that he was duly elected as a Councillor at the annual general meeting of the Local Region together with confirmation signed by the Secretary or President of a Club which nominated him as a representative to the Local Region Committee that he was so nominated and that he has attended meetings of the Club in the year prior to the annual general meeting of the Local Region. Council Meetings

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 47.

Subject as set out in these Rules, the Council shall determine the dates upon which general meetings of the Council shall be held and shall regulate its own proceedings.

Replace with

Subject as set out in these Rules, the **Executive Committee** shall determine the dates upon which general meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held and shall regulate its own proceedings. **Wherever possible these meeting shall take place online utilising appropriate meeting tools.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 48.

Any Local Region Committee acting through its Secretary or a Councillor appointed by that Local Region may request the President to include any matter in the general business specified in any such notice but no such matter shall be so specified unless the Chief Executive has received such a request more than 21 days before the date upon which the meeting is due to be held in the case of any general meeting other than the annual general meeting and 42 days before the date on which the meeting is due to be held in the case of the annual general meeting (excluding in each case the date of the meeting and the date on which the request is received by the Chief Executive).

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 49.

An annual general meeting of the Council shall be held on the last Friday in February each year and other general meetings shall be held as often as may be required.

Replace with

An annual general meeting of the **Association** shall be held on the last Friday in February each year; **meetings of the Executive Committee** shall be held as often as may be required.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 50.

Not less than twenty eight days notice in the case of each Annual General Meeting and not less than 10 days notice in the case of any other general meeting (excluding the date of the meeting and the date on which the notice is posted) specifying the place, date and time at which the meeting is to be held and the business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting shall be sent by post to all Councillors and Reserve Delegates to Council and shall be made available to all newspapers published in the United Kingdom specialising in the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons, provided that in the case of general meetings other than the Annual General Meeting the notice made available to newspapers shall not specify the business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting.

Replace with

Not less than twenty eight days notice in the case of each Annual General Meeting (excluding the date of the meeting and the date on which the notice is posted) specifying the place, date and time at which the meeting is to be held and the business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting shall be sent to all **Executive Committee members and shall be published in at least one** newspapers published in the United Kingdom specialising in the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons. **The notice should also extend to the Associations website and social media pages and wherever possible emails should be sent to all association members.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 51.

The President of the Association may at any time call a Special Meeting of the Council and the President shall hold a Special Meeting within 21 days after receiving a written request for a special meeting signed by no fewer than a majority of Councillors. A special meeting shall be called with such period of notice and by such means as the President of the Association shall determine. No advertising of a special meeting shall be required. Only business of a non-routine or urgent nature shall be dealt with at a Special Meeting of Council.

Replace with

The President of the Association may at any time call a Special Meeting of the **Executive Committee** and the President shall hold a Special Meeting within 21 days after receiving a written request for a special meeting signed by no fewer than a majority of **Executive Committee members**. A special meeting shall be called with such period of notice and by such means as the President of the Association shall determine. No advertising of a special meeting shall be required. Only business of a non-routine or urgent nature shall be dealt with at a Special Meeting.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 52.

The Council may form such Committees of Councillors as the Council may from time to time determine. The Council shall be empowered to delegate its authority to any such Committee either wholly or partly and whether or not subject to any conditions. The composition of any such Committee shall be a matter for the Council save that the Management Committee of the British Homing World shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Council and shall consist of the President, three Vice-Presidents, plus one councillor from each of the remaining Local Regions not already represented, plus the Editor for the time being of the British Homing World and the Chief Executive. Proceedings at Meetings

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 53.

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting or special meeting of the Council unless a quorum consisting of a majority of all Councillors and including Councillors appointed by not less than five Local Regions is present.

Replace With

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting or special meeting of the **Executive Committee** unless a quorum consisting of a majority of members **are** present.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 54.

Each Councillor shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless any Councillor demands a secret ballot either before or on the declaration of the result of a show of hands. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The declaration by the Chairman of a general meeting or special meeting that a resolution has or has not been passed, whether on a show of hands or on the result of a secret ballot, shall be final.

Replace with

Each **Executive Committee** member shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands. The declaration by the Chairman of a general meeting or special meeting that a resolution has or has not been passed shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 55.

The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside as Chairman of any general meeting or special meeting of the Council or of any committee meeting. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Councillors present shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 56.

No resolution shall be passed at any general meeting of the Council unless the general nature of the business has been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting. The Chairman of any general meeting of the Council shall have authority to permit any matter to be raised and discussed at the meeting notwithstanding that it may not have been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting and the Chairman's determination as to whether any proposed resolution or matter falls within the ambit of business mentioned in the notice convening a meeting shall be final.

Replace with

No resolution shall be passed at any general meeting of the **Executive Committee** unless the general nature of the business has been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting. The Chairman of any general meeting shall have authority to permit any matter to be raised and discussed at the meeting notwithstanding that it may not have been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting and the Chairman's determination as to whether any proposed resolution or matter falls within the ambit of business mentioned in the notice convening a meeting shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 57.

The Council and all Committees shall cause minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of the Council to be entered in books maintained for the purpose and in particular shall cause to be entered in such minutes: (a) the names of the Councillors present at any meeting of the Council. (b) the wording of all resolutions or decisions of any meeting. (c) details of all appointments of officers of the Association (d) a list of which councillors voted for, against and abstained on all resolutions or decisions of any meeting. This will include all propositions put forward at an AGM. This information will also appear in any publication relating to such meetings.

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** shall cause minutes of all resolutions and proceedings to be entered in books maintained for the purpose and in particular shall cause to be entered in such minutes: (a) the names of the Committee members present at any meeting (b) the wording of all resolutions or decisions of any meeting. (c) details of all appointments of officers of the Association (d) a list of which Executive Committee members voted for, against and abstained on all resolutions or decisions of any meeting. This information will also appear in any publication relating to such meetings.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 58.

The minutes of any Council meeting shall be considered by the next ensuing general meeting or special meeting and if agreed by that meeting to be a true record shall be signed by the Chairman of that meeting and the Chief Executive.

Replace with

The minutes of any meeting shall be considered by the next ensuing general meeting or special meeting and if agreed by that meeting to be a true record shall be signed by the Chairman of that meeting and the Chief Executive.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 59.

The Association shall pay or reimburse Councillors for the cost of second class return railway fares or if travelling by car an allowance of 45p per mile, hotel costs will be paid for by the Association. In attending meetings of Council or any Committee of the Council the following sums by way of expenses will be paid; (a) when necessary for a Councillor to arrive for a Thursday evening meeting - £20. (b) when necessary for a Councillor to arrive Thursday night - £10. (c) in respect of any Saturday - £20 irrespective of what time the meeting finished. (d) in respect of any other day - £40.

Replace with

When travelling for Association business; Executive Committee members shall be reimbursed for the cost of second class return railway fares or if travelling by car an allowance of 45p per mile; hotel costs will be paid for by the Association **only where overnight stay is essential.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 60.

(a) The President of the Association shall be paid an allowance for personal expenses of £2,000 per annum. (b) Members of Council or salaried staff nominated to represent the Association at any function or meeting shall be paid his/her travelling and accommodation - such costs to be kept to a minimum. Any person accompanying a nominated representative does so at his/her expense.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 61.

The Association shall procure that such insurance cover as the Council considers appropriate from time to time against the risks of loss of life, personal injury and loss or damage to personal

property shall be taken out and maintained by the Association in favour of Councillors in respect of their attendances at meetings of the Council or any Committee of the Council.

Replace With

The Association shall procure that such insurance cover as the **Executive Committee** considers appropriate from time to time against the risks of loss of life, personal injury and loss or damage to personal property shall be taken out and maintained by the Association in favour of **Executive Committee** members in respect of their attendances at meetings of the **Association**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 63.

The banking accounts of the Association shall be kept at such banks or building societies as the Council shall appoint in the name of the Association and all money belonging to the Association shall be paid into such an account. Cheques on any such account shall be signed by such persons as the Council may prescribe.

Replace With

The banking accounts of the Association shall be kept at such banks or building societies as the **Executive Committee** shall appoint in the name of the Association and all money belonging to the Association shall be paid into such an account. Cheques on any such account shall be signed by such persons as the **Executive Committee** may prescribe.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 64.

The Council shall cause true accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association.

Replace With

The **Executive Committee** shall cause true accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 65.

The accounts shall be kept at the office of the Association or such other place as the Council may determine. The Council shall determine to what extent the accounts of the Association or any of them shall be open to inspection by members and the members shall have only such rights of inspection as are given to them by the Council. Auditors 66. (a) Every year the accounts of the association shall be examined by qualified auditors, such auditors shall be appointed at the Association A.G.M.

Replace with

The accounts shall be kept at the office of the Association or such other place as the **Executive Committee** may determine. The **Executive Committee** shall determine to what extent the accounts of the Association or any of them shall be open to inspection by members and the members shall have only such rights of inspection as are given to them by the **Executive Committee**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 66. (b)

Local Regions shall appoint auditors at each AGM.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 67.

Not less than 28 days before the date upon which the Council's annual general meeting is due to be held the Council shall publish an audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the Association. The balance sheet shall be taken as at such date as the Council shall determine. The income and expenditure account shall be in respect of the period commencing with the date upon which the most recent audited published income and expenditure account of the Association ended and ending with the date upon which the balance sheet is taken. A copy of such audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be sent to each Councillor and to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee.

Replace with

Not less than 28 days before the date upon which the **Associations** annual general meeting is due to be held the **Chief Executive** shall publish an audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet. The balance sheet shall be taken as at such date as the **Executive Committee** shall determine. The income and expenditure account shall be in respect of the period commencing with the date upon which the most recent audited published income and expenditure account of the Association ended and ending with the date upon which the balance

sheet is taken. A copy of such audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be sent to each Executive Committee member.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 68.

The Council shall procure that prior to publication the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the Association shall have been audited by the Association's auditors and that attached to the said accounts upon publication shall be a certificate from the Association's auditors stating whether in their opinion the accounts exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association. For the purpose of enabling the Association's auditors to conduct their audit the Council shall procure that the auditors shall have access to the books of the Association and that the officers or employees of the Association give to the Association's auditors such information or explanations as they may seek in the performance of their duties.

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** shall procure that prior to publication the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the Association shall have been audited by the Association's auditors and that attached to the said accounts upon publication shall be a certificate from the Association's auditors stating whether in their opinion the accounts exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association. For the purpose of enabling the Association's auditors to conduct their audit the **Executive Committee** shall procure that the auditors shall have access to the books of the Association and that the officers or employees of the Association give to the Association's auditors such information or explanations as they may seek in the performance of their duties

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 69.

The Secretary of every Local Region Committee shall forward a copy of the audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet of that Local Region to the Chief Executive and such accounts may be published by the Council. All Region Balance Sheets shall be issued to all affiliated Organisations & Region Committee Members at least seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 71.

Disputes, complaints and grievances between members or between members belonging to different organisations on matters connected with the sport or between members and an Organisation to which they may belong including appeals against any decision of such Organisation, shall be heard and determined as laid down by these rules by the Local Region within whose limits the person or Organisation involved in the dispute resides or is established. Any Local Region may expel or suspend a member from the Association in any of the circumstances specified in the immediately preceding Rule whether or not any Organisation of which the member in question is a member takes any action against him. The procedure to be adopted by a local Region in any matter which may lead to the expulsion or suspension of a member shall be the same as that which an Organisation is obliged to adopt.

Replace With

Disputes, complaints and grievances between members or between members belonging to different organisations on matters connected with the sport or between members and an Organisation to which they may belong including appeals against any decision of such Organisation, shall be heard and determined as laid down by these rules by the **Executive Committee**. The **Executive Committee** may expel or suspend a member from the Association in any of the circumstances specified in the immediately preceding Rule whether or not any Organisation of which the member in question is a member takes any action against him. The procedure to be adopted by the **Executive Committee** in any matter which may lead to the expulsion or suspension of a member shall be the same as that which an Organisation is obliged to adopt.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 72.

If an Organisation shall be guilty of conduct which renders it unfit to be affiliated to the Association the Local Region to which it is affiliated may expel or suspend that Organisation for such period as the Local Region Committee may determine.

Replace With

If an Organisation shall be guilty of conduct which renders it unfit to be affiliated to the Association the **Executive Committee** may expel or suspend that Organisation for such period as the **Executive Committee** may determine.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 73.

An Organisation shall notify its Local Region Committee of the exclusion, expulsion or suspension of a member as soon as possible after a decision to that effect has been taken and such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall take effect immediately, unless an appeal is lodged with the Local Region Committee in accordance with Rule 82, in which event such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. In the event that no such appeal is lodged, the Local Region Committee shall confirm the decision of the Organisation unless the Local Region Committee considers that the decision of the Organisation was not made in accordance with these Rules or the rules of the Organisation. The award of any prizes, pools, nominations, specials, etc won after the date of the decision by an Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend a member shall follow the ultimate result of any appeal by the member against exclusion, expulsion or suspension. The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall notify the Chief Executive of the name and address of each member suspended or expelled by the Local Region or whose suspension or expulsion is confirmed by the Local Region Committee.

Replace with

An Organisation shall notify the **Chief Executive** of the exclusion, expulsion or suspension of a member as soon as possible after a decision to that effect has been taken and such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall take effect immediately, unless an appeal is lodged with the **Executive Committee** in accordance with Rule 82, in which event such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. In the event that no such appeal is lodged, the **Executive Committee** shall confirm the decision of the Organisation unless the **Executive Committee** considers that the decision of the Organisation was not made in accordance with these Rules or the rules of the Organisation. The award of any prizes, pools, nominations, specials, etc won after the date of the decision by an Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend a member shall follow the ultimate result of any appeal by the member against exclusion, expulsion or suspension.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 74.

Notice of the expulsion or suspension of any Organisation by a Local Region shall be communicated to the Chief Executive by the Secretary of the Local Region Committee as soon as possible after the decision to that effect. The Chief Executive shall notify such expulsion or suspension to the Secretaries of all other Local Region Committees and Secretaries of all Organisations to which members of such expelled or suspended Organisations paid subscriptions. Effect of Expulsion or Suspension from the Association

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 75.

During the period of expulsion or suspension any member expelled or suspended shall cease to be a member of the Association and shall not be permitted to attend any meeting held under the Rules of the Association except that they may be invited to attend a Local Region or Council meeting when applying to have a suspension lifted but for that item on the agenda only. No address, loft or ring belonging to or registered in the name of an expelled or suspended member shall be recognised by the Association during the period of expulsion or suspension. It shall, however, be within the right of any member other than an expelled or suspended member at any time to apply for the 'freeing' of any such ineligible address, loft or ring and the Local Region Committee may grant such a request.

Replace with

During the period of expulsion or suspension any member expelled or suspended shall cease to be a member of the Association and shall not be permitted to attend any meeting held under the Rules of the Association except that they may be invited to attend **an Executive Committee** when applying to have a suspension lifted but for that item on the agenda only. No address, loft or ring belonging to or registered in the name of an expelled or suspended member shall be recognised by the Association during the period of expulsion or suspension. It shall, however, be within the right of any member other than an expelled or suspended member at any time to apply for the 'freeing' of any such ineligible address, loft or ring and the **Executive Committee** may grant such a request.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 76.

Upon the expulsion or suspension of any organisation all its members shall cease to be members of the Association. A member of any suspended Organisation may apply to a Local Region Committee to continue to be a member of the Association by membership of another Organisation or by becoming an Individual Member. Such application shall be by letter addressed to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee. The decision of the Local Region Committee on any such application may be given without holding any formal enquiry or hearing any evidence.

Replace with

Upon the expulsion or suspension of any organisation all its members shall cease to be members of the Association. A member of any suspended Organisation may apply to **the Executive Committee** to continue to be a member of the Association by membership of another Organisation or by becoming an Individual Member. Such application shall be by letter addressed to the **Chief Executive**. The decision of the **Executive Committee** on any such application may be given without holding any formal enquiry or hearing any evidence.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 77.

Expulsion from the Association is Time-Limited. Such expulsion can be appealed under the provisions of rules 82/83 or lifted under the provisions Rules 80/81. Past RPRA members previously expelled for life may apply to the appeals committee of Council for reinstatement provided that they have served a minimum ten year period. All appeals for reinstatement must be supported by character witnesses who are already members of the RPRA. Before the hearing the applicant must agree to accept the appeals committee of Council decision as final and binding before their case for reacceptance into the RPRA will be heard. The organisation or Region that made or confirmed the original expulsion (if known) must be informed and given the opportunity to supply written comment on the application if they so wish.

Replace with

Expulsion from the Association is Time-Limited. Such expulsion can be appealed under the provisions of rules 82/83 or lifted under the provisions Rules 80/81. Past RPRA members previously expelled for life may apply to the **Executive Committee** for reinstatement provided that they have served a minimum ten-year period. All appeals for reinstatement must be supported by character witnesses who are already members of the RPRA. Before the hearing the applicant must agree to accept the **Executive Committees** decision as final and binding before their case for reacceptance into the RPRA will be heard. The organisation that made or confirmed the original expulsion (if known) must be informed and given the opportunity to supply written comment on the application if they so wish.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 78.

The Chief Executive shall keep a register of all suspended and expelled members whose names and addresses are notified to him by the Secretaries of the Local Region Committees.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 80.

Any member wishing to apply for the lifting of suspension imposed upon him or confirmed by a Local Region may apply to that Local Region. Any application shall be in writing and shall be

accompanied by a fee of £5. The decision of the Local Region upon any such application shall be final.

Replace with

Any member wishing to apply for the lifting of suspension imposed upon him may apply to **the Executive Committee**. Any application shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a fee of £5. The decision of **the Executive Committee** upon any such application shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 81.

Any members wishing to apply for the lifting of their suspension imposed by Council must make an application in writing to Council.

Replace with

Any members wishing to apply for the lifting of their suspension imposed by **Association** must make an application in writing to the **Executive Committee**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 82.

Any member (a) excluded from membership of an Organisation or expelled or suspended from membership of the Association by an Organisation, or (b) aggrieved by a decision of an Organisation made at a meeting held in accordance with the procedure set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations under the heading 'Grievances and Disciplinary Matters' or (c) having a dispute with an Organisation shall have the right to appeal to the Local Region to which that Organisation is affiliated. The following provisions shall apply to any such appeal (1) Any such appeal shall be made by notice in writing delivered to the Secretary of the Local Region committee within 21 days of the date of the decision of the Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend such member or within 21 days of the date of the meeting of the Organisation at which the decision was made to which the grievance relates or within 21 days of the member's dispute with the Organisation arising shall state the member's grounds of appeal. The notice shall be accompanied by a payment of a fee of £20 which shall be returned to the appellant if his appeal is successful. (2) Upon receipt of any notice of appeal the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall inform the relevant Organisation of the appeal and the grounds of appeal and request any written evidence which it may wish to submit. If the appeal is against or concerning a decision made at a meeting of the Organisation the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall request a copy of the notice concerning that meeting sent to the appellant. The Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall give not less than 10 days notice of the date and place appointed for the hearing of the

appeal to the appellant, the relevant Organisation and all members of the Local Region Committee. Any such notice shall be sent to the parties concerned by recorded delivery post and shall be accompanied by particulars of the appeal. (3) At the hearing of the appeal by the Local Region Committee, the appellant and the relevant Organisation shall be entitled to attend, be represented, give evidence and receive and consider written statements or explanations furnished by the other party. (4) Witnesses will not be allowed into the hearing until they are called individually to give their evidence and answer questions. They will not be allowed to leave the room until all the witnesses have been examined. (5) The appellant and the relevant organisation may call witnesses on his or its behalf and/or make a verbal statement to the Local Region Committee. (6) Subject as laid down in these Rules the Chairman of the Local Region committee shall have discretion as to the conduct of any hearing and the procedure to be followed at it. (7) No member of a Local Region Committee shall attend any hearing by the Local Region Committee of any appeal affecting an Organisation of which he is a member unless he represents such Organisation at the appeal. (8) The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be made as soon as practicable following the hearing, shall take effect from the date on which it is made and shall be communicated to the parties to the appeal and to the Chief Executive forthwith. (9) The Local Region Committee may rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of an Organisation except that the Local Region Committee may not vary a suspension to an expulsion. The Local Region Committee may order that any meeting of the Organisation be reheld if not satisfied that the rules of the Organisation have been fully and properly complied with. Appeals to the Council 83. (a) The Council of the Association shall appoint annually an appeals committee consisting of one member from each Region, five to form a quorum. The current President to be the chairman, in his absence, the committee will elect a Chairman from the floor. Appeal meetings to be held at the discretion of the current President.

Replace with

Any member (a) excluded from membership of an Organisation or expelled or suspended from membership of the Association by an Organisation, or (b) aggrieved by a decision of an Organisation made at a meeting held in accordance with the procedure set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations under the heading 'Grievances and Disciplinary Matters' or (c) having a dispute with an Organisation shall have the right to appeal to the **Executive Committee**. The following provisions shall apply to any such appeal (1) Any such appeal shall be made by notice in writing delivered to the **Chief Executive** within 21 days of the date of the decision of the Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend such member or within 21 days of the date of the meeting of the Organisation at which the decision was made to which the grievance relates or within 21 days of the member's dispute with the Organisation arising shall state the member's grounds of appeal. The notice shall be accompanied by a payment of a fee of **£40** which shall be returned to the appellant if his appeal is successful. (2) Upon receipt of any notice of appeal the **Chief Executive** shall inform the relevant Organisation of the appeal and the grounds of appeal and request any written evidence which it may wish to submit. If the appeal is against or concerning a decision made at a meeting of the Organisation the **Chief Executive** shall request a copy of the notice concerning that meeting sent to the appellant. The **Chief Executive** shall give not less than 10 days' notice of the date and place appointed for the hearing of the appeal to the appellant, the relevant Organisation and all members of the **Executive Committee**. Any such notice shall be sent to the parties concerned by recorded delivery post and shall be accompanied by particulars of the appeal. (3) At the hearing of the appeal, the appellant and the relevant Organisation shall be entitled to attend, be represented, give evidence and receive and consider written statements

or explanations furnished by the other party. (4) Witnesses will not be allowed into the hearing until they are called individually to give their evidence and answer questions. They will not be allowed to leave the room until all the witnesses have been examined. (5) The appellant and the relevant organisation may call witnesses on his or its behalf and/or make a verbal statement. (6) Subject as laid down in these Rules the Chairman shall have discretion as to the conduct of any hearing and the procedure to be followed at it. (7) No member of the **Executive Committee** shall attend any hearing by the **Executive Committee** of any appeal affecting an Organisation of which he is a member unless he represents such Organisation at the appeal. (8) The decision of the **Executive Committee** shall be made as soon as practicable following the hearing, shall take effect from the date on which it is made and shall be communicated to the parties to the appeal and to the Chief Executive forthwith. (9) The **Executive Committee** may rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of an Organisation except that the **Executive Committee** may not vary a suspension to an expulsion. The **Executive Committee** may order that any meeting of the Organisation be reheld if not satisfied that the rules of the Organisation have been fully and properly complied with.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 83. (a)

The Council of the Association shall appoint annually an appeals committee consisting of one member from each Region, five to form a quorum. The current President to be the chairman, in his absence, the committee will elect a Chairman from the floor. Appeal meetings to be held at the discretion of the current President.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 83. (b)

Any organisation a decision of which has been rescinded, modified or varied by a Local Region Committee and any member of the Association on whom or in whose interests a decision of the Local Region Committee has a direct, material and adverse effect may, unless the decision of the Local Region Committee is expressed by these Rules to be final, appeal to Council for a re-hearing of the matter in question. The Appeal will be heard by an elected Appeals committee, consisting of one member from each region, minimum of 5 Councillors to form a quorum. For each Appeal process the RPRA President will select the committee required, taking in to account interested parties and other associated issues. No Councillor from a Region which the appellant is a member shall be eligible. The following provisions shall apply to any such appeal. (1) The appellant shall give notice in writing to the Chief Executive within 21 days after the relevant decision of the Local Region Committee stating the grounds of appeal. The notice shall be accompanied by payment of a fee of £30 (together with value added tax at the applicable rate) which shall be returned to the appellant in the event that the appeal is successful. (2)

Upon receipt of any such notice the Chief Executive shall forward a copy to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee in question who shall, within 21 days after receipt of such copy notice forward to the Chief Executive copies of the written evidence considered by the Local Region Committee together with the grounds upon which the Committee's decision was made. (3) The Chief Executive may, after consultation with the President and Vice- Presidents and with their advice set out in detail, refer any appeal back to its source if (a) it is found to have been incorrectly submitted, (b) it is out of time, or (c) the terms of interpretation set out in the Rules of the Association have not been observed. (4) The Chief Executive shall give not less than 10 days notice of the date and place appointed for the hearing of the appeal to every party to the appeal and to each eligible member of the Appeals Committee. With such notice the Chief Executive shall send a copy of the written evidence and grounds upon which the decision of the Local Region Committee was made which he has received from the Secretary of the Local Region Committee. (5) At the hearing of the appeal by the Appeals Committee, all parties to the appeal may attend or be represented and may give evidence provided that no evidence shall be given which was not given at the relevant hearing before the Local Region Committee unless the Appeals Committee consents to such evidence being given and notice of intention to tender such fresh evidence, accompanied by full particulars, shall have been served upon the Chief Executive and the other party or parties to the appeal at least 7 days prior to the hearing. (6) At the hearing to the appeal by the Appeals Committee it will be permissible for a representative from the Local Region Committee to be available for corroboration of the evidence heard before the Local Region Committee. (7) No Councillor shall be present at the hearing of an appeal from the decision of a Local Region Committee of a Local Region of which he is a delegate unless he represents the appellant or another party to the appeal or is present only for the purpose of corroborating evidence heard before the Local Region Committee. (8) The Appeals Committee may rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of the Local Region Committee and the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. 'See Appendix I'

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 84.

No individual, organisation, Region, or the Council shall be held liable for expenses incurred by any party or parties to an objection or an appeal held under RPRA rules.

Replace with

No individual, organisation or the **Executive Committee** shall be held liable for expenses incurred by any party or parties to an objection, or an appeal held under RPRA rules.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 85.

The Association 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 racing or showing homing pigeons or any matter which in the judgement of the Council directly or indirectly affects the interests of the Association. Any application by a member or an Organisation for legal advice or assistance shall be made in writing to the Local Region to which such member belongs or such Organisation is affiliated accompanied by a written statement of the facts of the case and any relevant evidence. Upon receipt of such application the Local Region Committee may take such steps as it deems expedient. No Local Region Committee shall incur any greater expenses than £100 in any one case without the authority of the Council. Legal charges and rewards to informants not exceeding £100 in any one case shall be paid out of Local Region funds.

Replace with

The Association 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 racing or showing homing pigeons or any matter which in the judgement of the **Executive Committee** directly or indirectly affects the interests of the Association. Any application by a member or an Organisation for legal advice or assistance shall be made in writing to the **Chief Executive** accompanied by a written statement of the facts of the case and any relevant evidence. Upon receipt of such application the **Executive Committee** may take such steps as it deems expedient.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 86.

When in the opinion of the Association's Solicitor a case warrants pursuing by the Association, the President may authorise a Local Region Committee to proceed notwithstanding the fact that the limit of £100 may be exceeded and such action shall be put to the next general meeting of the Council for confirmation. The Council and each Local Region Committee shall have the power to initiate legal proceedings or to take such steps as it considers expedient to procure or assist in procuring the punishment of offences which in the opinion of the Council or the Local Region Committee affect the interests of the Association or its members and may offer and pay rewards for information concerning such matters. Shooting etc

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 97.

The Council has the authority to designate the size, shape, composition, type and quality of ring which shall be issued by the Association. Such rings shall be available for purchase by

members and Organisations from the Association. Rings issued with the serial letters 'SR' are only eligible for showing.

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** has the authority to designate the size, shape, composition, type and quality of ring which shall be issued by the Association. Such rings shall be available for purchase by members and Organisations from the Association. Rings issued with the serial letters 'SR' are only eligible for showing.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 106.

In the event of dissolution or termination of a partnership, alterations of the registered owner's name will be made upon payment of a fee of £5.00 per partner (inclusive of value added tax) provided that the succeeding owner is resident at the registered address of the former partnership. Proof of dissolution or termination of a partnership shall be furnished to the Chief Executive and all of the partners in the ex-partnership must sign the Association's standard form. Should it not be possible to obtain the signatures of all the former partners for any reason, a covering letter explaining the circumstances must be forwarded to the Secretary of the relevant Local Region Committee who, after investigation, may give permission for the partnership to be dissolved. All rings on pigeons removed from or to an address other than that at which the owner of such rings is registered must be transferred by means of submission of the standard single ring transfer form.

Replace with

In the event of dissolution or termination of a partnership, alterations of the registered owner's name will be made upon payment of a fee of £5.00 per partner (inclusive of value added tax) provided that the succeeding owner is resident at the registered address of the former partnership. Proof of dissolution or termination of a partnership shall be furnished to the Chief Executive and all of the partners in the ex-partnership must sign the Association's standard form. Should it not be possible to obtain the signatures of all the former partners for any reason, a covering letter explaining the circumstances must be forwarded to the **Chief Executive** who, after investigation, may give permission for the partnership to be dissolved. All rings on pigeons removed from or to an address other than that at which the owner of such rings is registered must be transferred by means of submission of the standard single ring transfer form.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 111.

If the finder is a member of the Association or of a homing union recognised by the Association, it shall be compulsory for the owner to communicate with the finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, with instructions either to return the pigeon or for the pigeon to be transferred to the finder. If the pigeon is returned, the owner shall pay to the finder such amount as may be agreed between them or, failing agreement, the sum prescribed by the Council for this purpose from time to time if the bird is delivered by independent carrier by road or such higher expenses as are incurred by the finder in delivering the bird to the owner. In the event of the finder not wishing to have the bird transferred to him, he shall state so at the time of reporting the finding of the bird to the Chief Executive.

Replace with

If the finder is a member of the Association or of a homing union recognised by the Association, it shall be compulsory for the owner to communicate with the finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, with instructions either to return the pigeon or for the pigeon to be transferred to the finder. If the pigeon is returned, the owner shall pay to the finder such amount as may be agreed between them or, failing agreement, the sum prescribed by the **Executive Committee** for this purpose from time to time if the bird is delivered by independent carrier by road or such higher expenses as are incurred by the finder in delivering the bird to the owner. In the event of the finder not wishing to have the bird transferred to him, he shall state so at the time of reporting the finding of the bird to the Chief Executive.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 112.

If the Chief Executive is informed that the owner has failed to claim a pigeon or had failed to communicate with a fancier finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall notify the secretary of the owner's Local Region Committee with a copy being posted to the member. If the member has not informed the Local Region Committee that the matter has been resolved within 7 days after such notification by the Chief Executive, the President and Secretary of the Local Region Committee may suspend such member from membership of the Association. Such suspension shall be effective until the next meeting of the Local Region Committee and shall be subject to confirmation at that meeting.

Replace with

If the Chief Executive is informed that the owner has failed to claim a pigeon or had failed to communicate with a fancier finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall notify the member that **unless** the matter has been resolved within 7 days after such notification by the Chief Executive, the **Executive committee** may suspend such member from membership of the Association.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 115.

If, after investigation by the Local Region, it is not possible to trace the present whereabouts of the owner of a stray pigeon, the ring on that pigeon shall be transferred to the finder.

Replace with

If, after investigation, it is not possible to trace the present whereabouts of the owner of a stray pigeon, the ring on that pigeon shall be transferred to the finder.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 117.

A member may be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled from membership of the Association if after investigation by the Committee of the Local Region of which he is a member is found to have in his possession without just cause any bird which is not his property.

Replace with

A member may be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled from membership of the Association if after investigation by the **Executive Committee** is found to have in his possession without just cause any bird which is not his property.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 121.

During the racing season, each member must ensure that every pigeon raced or trained by him is either wing stamped on at least three flights or carrying a ring, in either case clearly showing the name and address of the owner or the telephone number of a person or Organisation to whom the pigeon should be reported if it becomes a stray. Any pigeon not so rung or wing stamped will not be accepted for racing under any circumstances whatsoever and Marking Committees must ensure that this is strictly adhered to. Any case of noncompliance may, after investigation by the Local Region Committee, entail the suspension of the relevant member.

Replace with

During the racing season, each member must ensure that every pigeon raced or trained by him is either wing stamped on at least three flights or carrying a ring, in either case clearly showing the name and address of the owner or the telephone number of a person or Organisation to whom the pigeon should be reported if it becomes a stray. Any pigeon not so rung or wing stamped will not be accepted for racing under any circumstances whatsoever and Marking

Committees must ensure that this is strictly adhered to. Any case of noncompliance, after investigation by the **Executive Committee**, may entail the suspension of the relevant member.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 124.

Officials of any Organisation, including conveyors, assistant conveyors, official liberators, clock setters, the Chief Executive and Secretaries of Local Region Committees must be Members of the Association. All conveyors, assistant conveyors and official liberators must be licensed by the Association, such licence to be obtained from the Secretary of the Committee of the Local Region of which the applicant is a member. Licences shall apply from the 1st January to 31st December inclusive and the fee for a licence shall be £10.00 of which £4.00 will be retained by the Local Region and £6.00 (inclusive of VAT) shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive. A Local Region Committee shall be entitled to refuse to grant any such licence where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be final.

Replace with

Officials of any Organisation, including conveyors, assistant conveyors, official liberators, clock setters, the Chief Executive must be Members of the Association. All conveyors, assistant conveyors and official liberators must be licensed by the Association, such licence to be obtained from the **Chief Executive**. Licences shall apply from the 1st of January to 31st December inclusive and the fee for a licence shall be (£10.00 inclusive of VAT) shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive. **The Executive Committee** shall be entitled to refuse to grant any such licence where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The decision of the **Executive Committee** shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 126.

A code of conduct for licensed conveyors and official liberators is set out in Appendix C hereto and must be fully complied with. The Council may make such alterations or additions to the code of conduct as it thinks fit from time to time. Failure to comply with the code of conduct will result in the withdrawal of a licence from the relevant official.

Replace with

A code of conduct for licensed conveyors and official liberators is set out in Appendix C hereto and must be fully complied with. The **Executive Committee** may make such alterations or additions to the code of conduct as it thinks fit from time to time. Failure to comply with the code of conduct will result in the withdrawal of a licence from the relevant official.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 28.

Any Organisations carrying out pigeon racing must apply to the Committee of the Local Region to which it is affiliated nominating the route which it wishes to fly. Should any existing Organisation wish to change its specified route, such alteration can only be made with the consent of the Committee of the Local Region to which that Organisation is affiliated. The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be final.

Replace with

Any Organisations carrying out pigeon racing must apply to the **Executive Committee** nominating the route which it wishes to fly. Should any existing Organisation wish to change its specified route, such alteration can only be made with the consent of the **Executive Committee**. The decision of the **Executive Committee** shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 128. (b)

Any Organisation wishing to change its name must have the approval of the respective Region Committee.

Replace with

Any Organisation wishing to change its name must have the approval of the **Executive Committee**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 131.

An open race is one which is open to members of more than one club and individual members. No open race shall be held unless it has been licensed by the Committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation arranging the race is affiliated. Application forms must be obtained from RPRA Headquarters or from the Local Region Secretary.

Replace with

An open race is one which is open to members of more than one club and individual members. No open race shall be held unless it has been licensed by the **Executive Committee**. Application forms must be obtained from RPRA Headquarters.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 132.

Any Organisation wishing to hold an Open Race must apply for a licence to the Secretary of that Organisation's Local Region Committee or the Organiser's Local Region Committee, as applicable, on an application form approved by the Council and sent to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee so as to be received by him not less than 21 days before the date of the proposed race. With such application the Organisation shall send a copy of the rules to be adopted for the proposed race and a fee of £10 which shall be retained by the Local Region. The Local Region Committee shall be entitled to refuse to grant a licence for an open race if it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The Local Region Committee shall refuse to grant a licence for an open race unless the Organisation arranging the race undertakes to ensure that the rules of the race are implemented.

Replace with

Any Organisation wishing to hold an Open Race must apply for a licence to the **Executive Committee**, on an application form approved by the **Executive Committee** and sent to the **Chief Executive** as to be received by him not less than 21 days before the date of the proposed race. With such application the Organisation shall send a copy of the rules to be adopted for the proposed race and a fee of £10. The **Executive Committee** shall be entitled to refuse to grant a licence for an open race if it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The **Executive Committee** shall refuse to grant a licence for an open race unless the Organisation arranging the race undertakes to ensure that the rules of the race are implemented.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 133.

(1) The rules relating to racing set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations shall apply. (2) The licence number for the open race issued by the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall appear on all notices in any journal or newspaper advertising the race, on all result sheets and on any other form of advertising at the premises of the Organisation arranging the race. (3) In any advertising of an open race the

Organisation arranging the race must state the code number for the liberation site for the race and if there are provisions for the use of ETS. (4) In all open races where special prizes and/or pools are offered for competition, the full conditions governing the race must be published at any time when the offer of such special prizes and/or pools is made. (5) A certificate of the time of setting and checking the competitor's clock together with the readings of the clock shall be given to him on demand free of cost, except for postage where incurred. (6) A copy of the income and expenditure account in connection with the race must be sent to the secretary of the local region committee which granted a licence for the race within 60 days of publication of the provisional result of the race. (7) The Organisation arranging the race must publish on the result sheet the flying distance of all competitors who win a prize. (8) The provisional result of the race must be published within one month from the date on which the race was flown and the prize money, special Page 9 prizes and pools must be paid to the winners within three months from the date on which the race was flown except that in the event of an appeal to the Local Region or the Council on any dispute concerning the race, the Local Region or the Council shall have the power to extend such period to enable the appeal to be dealt with. (9) No prize shall be paid until the winner has furnished to the Organisation arranging the race a certificate that he is a member of the Association or other union recognised by the Association. (10) Failure by the Organisation arranging the race to comply with any of the rules relating to an open race will result in the Local Region Committee cancelling the licence for the race. (11) Any person competing in an event which requires an Open Race licence shall be termed to be an occasional member of that particular Organisation. Should there be any dispute relating to this event, by either the Organisation or a participating member, then procedures as laid down in, Rules 70/71 and 168/169 be followed.

Replace with

(1) The rules relating to racing set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations shall apply. (2) The licence number for the open race issued by the **Executive Committee** shall appear on all notices in any journal or newspaper advertising the race, on all result sheets and on any other form of advertising at the premises of the Organisation arranging the race. (3) In any advertising of an open race the Organisation arranging the race must state the code number for the liberation site for the race and if there are provisions for the use of ETS. (4) In all open races where special prizes and/or pools are offered for competition, the full conditions governing the race must be published at any time when the offer of such special prizes and/or pools is made. (5) A certificate of the time of setting and checking the competitor's clock together with the readings of the clock shall be given to him on demand free of cost, except for postage where incurred. (6) A copy of the income and expenditure account in connection with the race must be sent to the **Chief Executive** which granted a licence for the race within 60 days of publication of the provisional result of the race. (7) The Organisation arranging the race must publish on the result sheet the flying distance of all competitors who win a prize. (8) The provisional result of the race must be published within one month from the date on which the race was flown and the prize money, special prizes and pools must be paid to the winners within three months from the date on which the race was flown except that in the event of an appeal to the **Executive Committee** on any dispute concerning the race, the **Executive Committee** shall have the power to extend such period to enable the appeal to be dealt with. (9) No prize shall be paid until the winner has furnished to the Organisation arranging the race a certificate that he is a member of the Association or other union recognised by the Association. (10) Failure by the Organisation arranging the race to comply with any of the rules relating to an open race will result in the **Executive Committee**

cancelling the licence for the race. (11) Any person competing in an event which requires an Open Race licence shall be termed to be an occasional member of that particular Organisation. Should there be any dispute relating to this event, by either the Organisation or a participating member, then procedures as laid down in, Rules 70/71 and 168/169 be followed.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 139. (b)

These Rules may be altered by the Council at any annual general meeting provided that not less than 28 days notice of the proposed alteration has been given to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee and advertised in the British Homing World.

Replace with

The rules/Association rules may be altered **by a majority of association members voting utilising paper and online ballots. The Executive Committee will publish proposed rules changes at least 28 days in advance of the AGM in the British Homing World, The Associations website and social media. Voting is to close 1 week before the AGM. The Executive Committee will ensure an independent count of votes and will keep records of such vote for at least 12 months. The vote will be announced and come into effect from the AGM.**

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 140.

The Council shall be empowered to make alterations to these Rules as regards punctuation and grammar only and provided that the meaning of any Rule is not thereby changed.

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** shall be empowered to make alterations to these Rules as regards punctuation and grammar only and provided that the meaning of any Rule is not thereby changed.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 141.

Should any member of the RPRA wish to make a proposal to alter or insert a new rule, they must submit the proposition in writing to their Organisation secretary. The secretary will then circulate the proposals to all members of the Organisation giving 7 days' notice of the meeting. Should the proposition be carried, the Organisation secretary will forward them to their local Region secretary who will in turn circulate them to all Organisations affiliated to the Region. Any proposition that is carried by the Region will be sent to the Chief Executive, to be included at the AGM of Council. Council may submit propositions to the Chief Executive, not less than 42 days prior to the date of an annual general meeting of the Council. Any such proposal must submit the full text of any rule proposed to be revised as it would if the proposal was accepted.

Replace with

Should any member of the RPRA wish to make a proposal to alter or insert a new rule, they must submit the proposition in writing to their Organisation secretary. The secretary will then circulate the proposals to all members of the Organisation giving 7 days' notice of the meeting. Should the proposition be carried, the Organisation secretary will forward them to the **Chief Executive, not less than 42 days prior to the date of an annual general meeting of the association**; to be included at the AGM **of the Association**. The **Executive Committee** may submit propositions to the Chief Executive, not less than 42 days prior to the date of an annual general meeting of the Association. Any such proposal must submit the full text of any rule proposed to be revised as it would if the proposal was accepted.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 142.

The Council shall have power to make and alter Rules and regulations to cover any emergency. Such Rules or regulations may be made or altered at a general meeting or a special meeting and shall operate until rescinded by the Council or until the next annual general meeting at which the requisite publication of the proposed alteration of the Rules can be given, whichever is sooner.

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** shall have power to make and alter Rules and regulations to cover any emergency. Such Rules or regulations may be made or altered at a general meeting or a special meeting and shall operate until rescinded by the **Executive Committee** or until the next annual general meeting at which the requisite publication of the proposed alteration of the Rules can be given, whichever is sooner.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 143.

At intervals not exceeding ten years, the Council shall carry out an assessment of the rules. Any amendments which it may deem desirable to be made in the interests of the proper conduct of the sport of racing or showing pigeons shall be proposed as alterations and given the requisite publicity before an annual general meeting of the Council.

Replace with

At intervals not exceeding ten years, the **Executive Committee** shall carry out an assessment of the rules. Any amendments which it may deem desirable to be made in the interests of the proper conduct of the sport of racing or showing pigeons shall be proposed as alterations and given the requisite publicity before an annual general meeting of **Association**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 145.

The Council's determination on the interpretation, construction and operation of these Rules shall be final.

Replace with

The **Executive Committees** determination on the interpretation, construction and operation of these Rules shall be final.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 158.

All members of National or Specialist Clubs shall be required to notify the secretary of the Club of the identity of the Local Region of which the member is a member.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 161. (a)

No birds shall be accepted for competition in any races arranged by an Organisation unless all fees and subscriptions are fully paid up by that member wishing to enter those birds. Any member of the Organisation who is also a member of another Organisation must have fully paid all due subscriptions to all such Organisations before he is permitted to compete in any race. A member will produce his membership card on demand each year, to any organisation which arranges races in which he intends to compete, to establish that he has paid his Association

subscription. If a member does not comply with this rule, he shall be disqualified from racing in any race.

Replace with

No birds shall be accepted for competition in any races arranged by an Organisation unless all fees and subscriptions are fully paid up by that member wishing to enter those birds. Any member of the Organisation who is also a member of another Organisation must have fully paid all due subscriptions to all such Organisations before he is permitted to compete in any race. If a member does not comply with this rule, he shall be disqualified from racing in any race.

Reason; To cut costs. No real need for membership cards

Delete Rule 165.

Upon the dissolution of an Organisation, notice of dissolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated, together with the minute book, final balance sheet and names and addresses of members of the Organisation at the time of dissolution. If such notice is not sent to the Committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated before the annual general meeting of the Local Region, the Organisation will be liable for payment to the Local Region of the Association fees for its members for the following year.

Replace with

Upon the dissolution of an Organisation, notice of dissolution shall be sent to the **Chief Executive** together with the minute book, final balance sheet and names and addresses of members of the Organisation at the time of dissolution. If such notice is not sent to the **Chief Executive** before the annual general meeting of the Association, the Organisation will be liable for payment of the Association fees for its members for the following year.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 166. (a)

Should the membership of a club fall below four full subscribing members, the Region committee shall have the power to dissolve the club and ensure that the assets are shared between the remaining members. In the event of assets being subject to a lottery or charitable grant, those assets must be returned to the said lottery or charitable organisation or as they determine.

Replace with

Should the membership of a club fall below four full subscribing members, the **Executive Committee** shall have the power to dissolve the club and ensure that the assets are shared

between the remaining members. In the event of assets being subject to a lottery or charitable grant, those assets must be returned to the said lottery or charitable organisation or as they determine.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 166. (b)

Where, after investigation by the Local Region, it is found that an organisation has ceased to function and has not done so for at least three years, the Region Committee may withdraw the affiliation of that organisation.

Replace with

Where, after investigation by the **Executive Committee**, it is found that an organisation has ceased to function and has not done so for at least three years, the **Executive Committee** may withdraw the affiliation of that organisation.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 170.

If the Organisation fails to hold a meeting to consider a grievance within 28 days' of receipt by the secretary of notice from a member requiring a meeting to be called, the Organisation may be the subject of disciplinary action by the Local Region to which it is affiliated.

Replace with

If the Organisation fails to hold a meeting to consider a grievance within 28 days of receipt by the secretary of notice from a member requiring a meeting to be called, the Organisation may be the subject of disciplinary action by the **Executive Committee**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 171.

If a member of an Organisation is aggrieved by the decision of the Organisation or the committee, as appropriate, he has a right of appeal to the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated under the provisions of the Rules of the Association within 21 days of the decision being given.

Replace with

If a member of an Organisation is aggrieved by the decision of the Organisation or the committee, as appropriate, he has a right of appeal to the **Executive Committee** under the provisions of the Rules of the Association within 21 days of the decision being given.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 174.

Should any member of an Organisation at 1st April in any year be in arrears for any sum owed to the Organisation the secretary of the Organisation shall send him a recorded delivery letter notifying him of the balance of his account in detail. The member shall be debited with the postal charges incurred and shall be notified that unless a remittance is received or the debt disputed within 21 days he will be suspended by the Organisation and reported to the Local Region. The suspension shall be noted in the Organisation's minute book prior to the notification being sent to the Local Region.

Replace with

Should any member of an Organisation at 1st April in any year be in arrears for any sum owed to the Organisation the secretary of the Organisation shall send him a recorded delivery letter notifying him of the balance of his account in detail. The member shall be debited with the postal charges incurred and shall be notified that unless a remittance is received or the debt disputed within 21 days he will be suspended by the Organisation and reported to the **Chief Executive**. The suspension shall be noted in the Organisation's minute book prior to the notification being sent to the **Chief Executive**.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 199.

The Council of the RPRA shall make rules and regulations prohibiting the use of performance enhancing drugs/ substances. Contravention of these rules and regulations shall entail suspension. 'See Appendix G' Adjudication

Replace with

The **Executive Committee** of the RPRA shall make rules and regulations prohibiting the use of performance enhancing drugs/ substances. Contravention of these rules and regulations shall entail suspension. 'See Appendix G' Adjudication

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance

Delete Rule 200.

Anything arising not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the Committee or all members whose decision shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the Local Region within 21 days from the date of such decision.

Replace with

Anything arising not provided for in these Rules shall be decided by the Committee or all members whose decision shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the **Executive Committee** within 21 days from the date of such decision.

Reason: To remove the Region and Council Structure and move to an Executive Committee approach to Governance