



**THE NATIONAL PIGEON
ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN**

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

2026 EDITION

SECTION A: THE CONSTITUTION

A1. THE NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association is:

THE NATIONAL PIGEON ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

A2. OBJECTS

The objects for which the Association is established are:

- (a) To promote the breeding, keeping and exhibition of pigeons in every way in which the Association or the National Committee of the Association shall think proper.
- (b) To make, adopt, vary, annul and publish rules and conditions for the regulation of the breeding, keeping and exhibition of pigeons and to take all such steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable for enforcing such rules and conditions.
- (c) To provide for the affiliation of clubs, societies and organisations promoting the keeping, breeding and exhibition of pigeons.
- (d) To provide for the proper custody, insurance, protection, exhibition, awarding, distribution or other dealings with all cups, shields or prizes awarded by the National Pigeon Association.
- (e) To purchase or otherwise acquire any property of interest to the Fancy which shall be considered for the benefit of the Association or calculated to promote or assist in the promotion of any of the objects of the Association.
- (f) To purchase, manufacture or sell, under such conditions as may be decided upon by the Association or by the National Committee, marking rings to denote the age, size and identification number of pigeons and to acquire or purchase any patent, trade mark or registered design or register any patent, trade mark or design to be used in connection with such marking rings.
- (g) To subsidise any publication dealing with fancy pigeons and to print a newsletter or other publication relating to pigeons at the discretion of the National Committee.

- (h) To subscribe from the funds of the Association to any fund, club or society having as one of its objects the breeding, keeping or exhibition of pigeons and grant such other prizes as the Association or the National Committee shall consider advisable.
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A3. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

These appointments shall be made from Associate Members of the Association at the AGM as follows:

- (a) President who shall act as Chair at the AGM.
 - (b) Vice President who shall act as the Vice Chair at any AGM where the President is not available.
 - (c) The President shall serve for a period of two years and thereafter will be ineligible for election to that capacity or that of Vice President.
 - (d) The Vice President shall serve for a period of two years and may offer his or herself for re-election to any capacity, particularly as a Vice President or President. A Vice President should be regarded as the next nominee for the Presidency.
 - (e) The President and Vice President shall have full voting rights.
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A4. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY, RING SECRETARY AND TREASURER

The appointment of General Secretary, Ring Secretary and Treasurer will be by the National Committee as required. These appointments shall only have full voting rights if elected by ballot to the National Committee.

A5. ADMINISTRATION

The Officers of the Association and the National Committee shall administer the general affairs and property of the Association within its Constitution and Rules including the approval and appointment of Championship Shows.

The Officers of the Association are President, Vice President, Secretaries and Chair of the National Committee.

A6. A NEW CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OR RULES

Where a proposed new Constitution or any amendment to the Constitution is put forward, this should be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting. Any proposed new Constitution or amendments should be circulated for the information of the members.

The Constitution, after adoption, can only be changed after 3 years have elapsed. Any proposal to make such a change can therefore only be submitted on a three yearly basis.

Proposals for changes to the rules may be made annually at the AGM. All proposals are voted on by postal ballot only.

A7. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A minimum period of 21 days notice must be given before the holding of an AGM.

(a) Any proposal for inclusion on the Agenda for the AGM must be sent in writing to the General Secretary to be received by the 31st August.

Such proposals must carry the name of the proposer and be seconded by at least 5 additional members of the Association.

(b) Proposers should indicate whether their propositions are to add to, delete from or amend existing clauses of the Constitution or Rules. They should clearly indicate any present clauses affected and give full details of and an explanation of the reason for the proposed changes. The National Committee may make proposals.

(c) Details of proposals will be circulated to members with a Newsletter and AGM Agenda. Members will be advised that they must register their votes by post. Details of arrangements will be circulated to all members.

(d) Postal voting papers must be returned to the Ballot Scrutineer to arrive no later than 14 calendar days before the AGM. The number of votes cast will then be verified by the President to determine the outcome at the AGM.

(e) Matters relating to the Constitution or any vote of confidence must be voted in favour by at least 60% of those voting.

(f) All other matters shall be decided by a simple majority of those voting.

(g) Where the votes cast on either side are of equal number the Chair shall have a casting vote.

(i) The General Secretary and President shall ensure that a full record of the proceedings is minuted, printed and presented to the following AGM for endorsement.

A8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The National Committee shall call a Special General Meeting under the following circumstances:

(a) When two thirds of the National Committee considers that it is essential to do so.
or

(b) When thirty or more members of the Association make a written request for a meeting. Such a request must state in full, the business to be considered and be accompanied by a deposit of £400.00 to help defray the costs involved. A deposit so lodged will be refunded if the motion tabled is carried. No other business will be discussed.

Arrangements for any such meeting will be notified to members.

A9. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be of two classes, namely affiliated and associate members. Affiliated members are societies, clubs or organisations affiliated to the Association. Associate members are individual persons or partnerships accepted as members of the Association.

(a) Affiliated Membership

Any club, society or organisation established within Great Britain and having as one of its objects the keeping, breeding and exhibition of pigeons may apply to the Association for admission as an affiliated member. Such application shall be made in writing to the General Secretary with the full name and address of the Secretary and upon acceptance in writing by the National Committee shall be admitted as an affiliated member.

Should an application for affiliation be received from an organisation representing a breed or breeds which are covered by an existing club, society or organisation then such affiliation will only be granted if the National Committee are satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the breed and the membership of the Association.

(b) Associate Membership

Any individual or partnership may apply to become an associate member of the Association upon application to the General Secretary or Ring Secretary.

Associate members only are allowed to purchase rings from the Association and rings will not be issued to such member until the membership fee for the current year has been paid.

(c) Juvenile Associate Membership

Such membership shall be from the age of 7 years to under 17 years of age. The date of birth should be included with Juvenile applications.

A10. MEMBERSHIP FEES

To cover the accounting year membership fees shall be for the period September 1st to August 31st. (amended 14-02-2016)

Only Associate Members for the year beginning January 1st prior to the AGM are eligible to vote.

Upon the payment of the membership fee by any member these rules, including any subsequent alterations or modifications thereof duly made, shall constitute a binding contract between the Association and all members thereof.

No member shall be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of the Association until he/she shall have paid his/her appropriate membership fee.

The annual fees payable by affiliated members and associate members to the funds of the Association shall be decided by resolution at the Annual General Meeting. Any alteration in the fees payable by either type of membership of the Association shall take effect from the date decided by the Annual General Meeting.

A11. VOTING RIGHTS

Except as at clause A7(f) herein, voting on any matter shall be resolved by a majority vote.

Each Associate Member shall have one vote.

A12. SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Members may, for reasons of conduct considered not to be in the best interests of the Association or on a complaint from any of its Affiliated Clubs or Societies, be suspended or expelled from membership. Such suspension or expulsion is subject to the following safeguards:

- (a) That the member concerned is invited in writing to attend a meeting of the Association's Disciplinary Committee which shall normally consist of the Vice President plus two members of the National Committee not including the Chair. The

letter will give at least two weeks' notice of the date, time and location of the meeting, along with the reason why the action is being considered. Either a fellow member or a friend may accompany the member at the meeting. The Disciplinary Committee shall provide the National Committee with the results of their findings.

- (b) Should the member not attend the meeting referred to above, the Disciplinary Committee shall consider the known facts of the case and report their findings to the National Committee.

- (c) Following proper consideration of the report of the Disciplinary Committee, The National Committee may, by a majority of those present, suspend or expel the member concerned.

- (d) The National Committee shall, without undue delay, ensure that the suspended or expelled member is notified in writing of the reason or reasons for this action.

- (e) A suspended or expelled member shall have a right of appeal. Any appeal must be made in writing to the General Secretary, detailing the grounds for the appeal within fourteen days of the date of the letter of notification.

- (f) An appeal properly made shall be heard as soon as is practicable after receipt of the Notice of Appeal.

- (g) The General Secretary shall write to the appellant indicating the date, time and place of the appeal, giving at least two week's notice. The member concerned has the right to be accompanied by a fellow member or friend at the appeal.

- (h) Such appeal shall be heard and decided on by an Appeals Committee normally consisting of the President, Chair and one other member of the National Committee who shall not have been a member of the Disciplinary Committee of the case under review.

- (i) The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

- (j) On any application for membership from a person who has previously been suspended or expelled from membership of the Association, or who has in the past shown by his/her conduct that he/she would not be a suitable member of the Association, the General Secretary or Ring Secretary should place such application for membership before the National Committee for approval or rejection. The National Committee is not obliged to give the reason for any rejection to the applicant.
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A13. OTHER APPEALS

An application to appeal against any other decision of The National Committee should be submitted to the General Secretary, in writing, within 28 days of notification of the decision. The application should include the grounds for the appeal.

A14. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Secretaries who shall remain in office for an unspecified period of time and at the discretion of the National Committee.
- (d) Nine elected members, each of whom shall serve for three years, after which time they must stand down. Retiring members can seek further periods of office.
- (e) The National Committee shall appoint its own Chair from the elected members annually.
- (f) One third of elected members shall retire at each AGM, their places being filled in accordance with the Constitution. Where vacancies arise during the term of office, the unexpired portion of that term will be filled at the next annual ballot. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes after the official vacancies have been filled will become the elected replacement to serve the remaining portion of the vacated position.
- (g) Nominations to serve on the National Committee shall be made in writing in a form approved by the National Committee, such form providing for a proposer, a seconder and a signed declaration from the nominee expressing willingness to serve if appointed by way of an annual ballot. Such form must be delivered to the General Secretary by hand or post no later than August 31st. Late arrivals will not be accepted. The General Secretary will acknowledge by first class post receipt of postal nomination forms.

All nominees to the National Committee of The Association should have been a member of The Association for the immediate previous five years, and also a ring buyer for the same five years. Furthermore, each member of the National Committee should remain a member during their period of office.
- (h) No person who is ineligible for Membership of the Association shall be able to hold any office within the Association. All such positions require Officers to be Members of the Association.

(i) Quorum

Meetings of the National Committee may commence but cannot cast votes unless a quorum of 50% of voting members is present.

(j) Special Meetings

Special meetings of the National Committee may be called by the President and/or Chairman and shall be called within 21 days after a written request signed by not less than five members of the National Committee has been received.

(k) Removal from National Committee

Members of the National Committee will be removed from office if they:

- (i) Fail to attend three consecutive meetings during their term of office without the permission of the National Committee. Such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.
- (ii) Act contrary to the majority decisions of the National Committee or the declared objectives of the Association.
- (iii) Any member of the National Committee who is guilty of dishonourable conduct may be removed from the National Committee by a decision of the other members and refused permission to stand for office for a specified period. Such member being subject to the procedures appropriate to the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee.

(l) Working Parties

The National Committee may appoint Working Parties to explore and report on specific projects. Members of the Association may be co-opted to assist.

The Working Parties will address their subject and submit their written comprehensive report to an appropriate National Committee Meeting. The function of such Working Parties shall be to investigate, study and report, making recommendations to the National Committee on the actions that are appropriate, in respect of the matter/s referred to them.

Working Parties will be subject to the following:

- (i) They will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members of the National Committee, plus if considered necessary on the grounds of expertise a maximum of one non-voting co-opted person from outside the National Committee. The tenure of office of any co-opted member shall not normally exceed twelve months. Co-opted members shall take no part in normal committee business other than for the reason that they were co-opted, but may be present as an observer.
- (ii) The National Committee shall appoint a chair of each working party.

- (iii) The Working Party Chair will give a progress report at each meeting of the National Committee.
- (iv) Working parties shall not take any action on behalf of the Association without the prior and specific authorisation of the National Committee.
- (v) Unless time permits, all business of working parties should be conducted via the appointed sub-committee Chair 'off site' or immediately prior to a National Committee meeting. The Chair will report as per sub-section (iii) of the rules governing working parties.
- (vi) The Working Party Chair will prepare and present a written report of the group's activities to the National Committee.
- (vii) The National Committee shall review the activities of all Working Parties annually. Following such review, a Working Party will either be requested to continue with its work or be wound up.

(m) **Meetings**

The National Committee shall meet as considered necessary in order to conduct the business of the Association. There will normally be at least three meetings each calendar Year.

The Chair shall conduct all meetings of the National Committee. If he/she is not in attendance the President should do so. If both are absent, then the Vice President will conduct the meeting. If none are present, then the committee members present shall elect a Chair for that meeting only.

(n) **Minutes**

The General Secretary shall ensure that minutes of all meetings are taken and circulated to all members of the National Committee as soon as possible. Draft Minutes may also be circulated in a suitable publication approved by the National Committee. Minutes finally approved by the National Committee will be circulated to all members of the Association as soon as is practicable.

(o) **Receipts and expenditure**

The National Committee shall ensure that the funds of the Association are administered as follows:

- (i) Annual fees, donations, contributions, bequests and any other monies due to the Association will be paid into an account operated by the National Committee in the name of the Association at such bank as the National Committee decide, as appropriate for the benefit of the Association.

- (ii) Two of three nominated members of the National Committee must sign cheques drawn on the account, one of whom shall be the Treasurer.
- (iii) The funds belonging to the Association shall be applied only in the furtherance of the objectives of the Association.
- (iv) Annually at the AGM the members present will appoint an Auditor or Accountant who shall produce a report and annual accounts to the appropriate Annual General Meeting confirming the financial status of the Association for the previous financial year.

A15. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In the event that the National Committee decides that it is necessary or desirable to dissolve the Association, they shall make the following arrangements:

- (a) Arrange a Special General Meeting giving the membership no less than 60 days notice.
- (b) Any such notice must provide the reasons for the dissolution of the Association, the date, time and place of the meeting.

Should a proposition calling for the dissolution of the Association be passed, in accordance with the above, the National Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other such organisations having objectives similar to the objectives of the Association, as the members of the Association may determine, or failing that, shall be applied to some other purpose for the furtherance of the keeping, breeding and exhibition of pigeons.

A16. DISSOLUTION OF AN AFFILIATED CLUB, SOCIETY OR ORGANISATION

Where a club, society or organisation has requested the National Pigeon Association to act as trustee, on their dissolution, the Association shall arrange for the safekeeping of any trophies or property and dispose of such in accordance with the wishes of the club, society or organisation. Otherwise those and other remaining assets after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities may be given or transferred to such other organisations having similar objectives to those expressed by the club, society or organisation in their rules or any authority lodged with the Association.

A17. DEFINITIONS

Wherever the context or meaning requires, words implying the singular shall mean the plural and male/female and vice versa.

SECTION B: THE RULES

B1. ISSUE AND TRANSFER OF RINGS

(a) The Association's rings are sold on the condition that the pigeons wearing them are exhibited only at shows held under Association rules or approved by the Association. Approved shows to include all recognised Championship Shows and Shows held under the auspices of any National Organisation. All Agricultural Shows are exempt from this rule.

(b) Rings of different sizes, uniquely marked, will be allocated to the various varieties of Pigeons and each of such sizes will be numbered consecutively. Pigeons must wear the correct size allocated to the variety to which they belong.

(c) The Association will issue size C rings for Show Racers for exhibition purposes only.

Birds wearing such rings cannot, under any circumstances, be flown in any race approved by The Royal Pigeon Racing Association or any other recognised racing pigeon organisation. However, such birds may be exhibited at any shows held under NPA rules and RPRA rules. Show Racers bearing an NPA ring may also wear a Star & Garter Charity ring.

(d) Rings issued by this Association, or pigeons wearing such rings, may be transferred to or from any person being a member except such as are under expulsion by the Association or where in the opinion of the Committee of the Association such transfer would be detrimental to the general interest. The Association will register foreign rings to a resident of this country, provided the person is a member of the Association.

(e)(i) All changes of ownership of any ring, or pigeon wearing a ring issued by this Association, should be notified to the Ring Secretary. No pigeon is eligible for exhibition by a new owner until the Ring Secretary has been notified of the change of ownership and the ring has been properly transferred to such new owner for a minimum of 14 days before the exhibition. All responsibility for the transfer of rings lies with the Vendor (seller). Responsibility of ownership remains with the person to whom the ring(s) were issued until such time as the transfer of ring(s) is completed.

(ii) If a lost bird is reported by a non-fancier (i.e. member of the public), the owner must make arrangements to claim the bird immediately. Failure to do so may result in suspension/expulsion. If a lost bird is reported by another fancier, the owner should make arrangements to claim it within 14 days. Failure to do so will result in a final reminder to claim the bird sent by the Ring Secretary. Failure to claim the bird within a further 14 days may result in suspension/expulsion.

The person whose name appears in the Association Official Ring register will be regarded as the owner for the purpose of claims for lost birds.

(f) The date of issue and duration of issue, the price and fee for transfer for the ensuing year will be determined by the National Committee of the Association.

(g) The following rings are also recognised for the purpose of exhibition by this Association.

(i) Rings issued by the governing bodies of the various flying pigeons in classes limited to such varieties.

(ii) Foreign rings, on pigeons exhibited in this country by an exhibitor residing in a foreign country where such rings are recognised, or a pigeon wearing a foreign ring is registered with the Association by a resident in this Country.

(h) Any person giving or selling rings to or obtaining rings for a person suspended/expelled by the Association or a non-member or to whom a supply of rings has been refused shall be liable to suspension/expulsion. The Association reserves the right to refuse a supply of rings to any person or persons.

B2. SHOW RULES

B2.1 General

a) All Pigeons Shows must apply to the APHA for a Bird Gathering Licence, as per the Government guidelines at the time of the event.

b) All entries are accepted only on the condition that the Exhibitors consent to the Rules of the Show, and of the Association and current DEFRA regulations including registering with the relevant authorities to obtain CPH Holding Numbers.

- c) All pigeons entering any show, exhibition or sale (gathering) must be vaccinated for paramyxovirus with an authorised vaccine. The Government's Veterinary Medicines Directorate has of Feb 2026 approved two medicines for vaccinating against paramyxovirus: Colombovac PMV and Nobilis Paramyxo P201
- d) A Vaccination Certificate must be signed and completed, containing the date of vaccination, details of the vaccine used and the batch number, alongside the full ring numbers of the pigeons vaccinated.
- e) Any persons entering a show, exhibitions or sale (gathering) must provide upon entry to the event a copy of their vaccination certificate.
- f) All show secretaries/event organisers must retain a copy of the vaccination certificate alongside other DEFRA/APHA required paperwork.
- g) All entries are accepted only on the condition that the Exhibitors consent to the Rules of the Show and of the Association and current DEFRA regulations.
- h) All pigeons must bear the correct sized ring either issued to, or transferred to the Exhibitor.
- i) No pigeon shall bear any distinguishing marks or ring other than the ring for each variety issued or recognised by the Association. Split, or joined rings are not allowed.
- j) No pigeon, other than those entered for exhibition, shall be placed in an exhibition pen, neither shall any pigeon be removed from an exhibition pen without the express consent of the Show Manager/Secretary during the duration of the exhibition.
- k) No person suspended/expelled from exhibiting by the Association shall be eligible to judge, exhibit or act as an official at any show under NPA rules. Any person borrowing or lending pigeons for exhibition shall be liable to suspension/expulsion by the Association.
- l) The judges appointed to award the prizes are empowered to disqualify and report to the Secretary of the Show any pigeon which they may consider "faked" or where, in their opinion, any fraudulent practice has been employed, and to withhold any prize or prizes where in their opinion the exhibits are not of sufficient merit. Any Exhibitor attempting to influence a Judge in his awards, either verbally or in writing, or marking his pens in any particular way, and any Judge failing to report such action by an exhibitor, shall be liable to suspension/expulsion by the Association.
- m) The Committee of the Show shall report to the Association any exhibit where in their opinion, there has been an infraction of the Rules of the Show, or NPA Rules, or where in their opinion any fraudulent or improper practice has been employed.
- n) All protests against the awards must be delivered to the Secretary of the Show not later than 3 p.m. in the case of a one-day Show and not later than 2 p.m. on the second day in the case of a Show lasting more than one day, or if by an official of the Association at any time during the Show. A deposit of £20.00 must be paid to the Secretary of the Show, which sum will be forfeited if in the opinion of the Committee of the Show and Judge, such protest is not justified. The decision of the Judge in all cases to be final subject to the right of the Committee of the Show to deal with protests duly made.
- o) The Committee of the Show shall detain any pigeon disqualified under Rule (g) or reported under Rule (h) and submit it to the Association for examination and report and all disqualifications and fraudulent or improper practices of any kind by an Exhibitor shall be reported forthwith by the Secretary of the Show to the Association and to the Exhibitor.
- p) The Committee of the Show shall withhold all prizes and prize money that may have been won by the Exhibitor of a pigeon which has been disqualified under Rule (g) pending the decision of the Committee of the Association and if the disqualification be upheld all prize money won by the Exhibitor at the Show may be forfeited.
- q) The Committee of the Show reserves the right to refuse any entries of pigeons. No pigeon of a variety for which a breed class is provided in the schedule shall be allowed to compete in any other class except that, in addition to the breed class, pigeons may be entered in Challenge or other Duplicated Classes at the discretion of the Show Committee. NPA Certificates cannot be awarded to Challenge or Duplicate classes.
- r) Classes may be cancelled at the discretion of the Committee of the Show and classes may be amalgamated within the breed.
- s) All pigeons exhibited at owner's risk and neither the Committee of the Show nor the Association will be responsible for any mistake, delay, negligence, loss or damage from whatever cause.
- t) Should an appointed Judge be prevented from officiating, the Committee of the Show reserves the right to substitute another and to appoint additional Judges and to make any alteration it may consider necessary for the success of the Show, subject to the conditions governing the awarding of NPA certificates where appropriate.

- u) Multi breed Show Organisers can nominate Judges, to judge other breeds contained within the relevant sections, as long as the Judge in question is already registered to judge two breeds from that section. On acceptance of the judging appointment, the judge should familiarise themselves with the current written standard of the breed in question.
 - v) Pigeons which, in the opinion of the Committee of the Show are unhealthy will not be exhibited, but will immediately be returned to the owners and the entry fees forfeited.
 - w) Subject to Clause A12 of the Constitution any person contravening these Rules may be suspended/expelled from membership of the Association. The Association may forward to the Secretaries of the Shows held under these Rules, the name of any person suspended/expelled from exhibiting, with instruction to refuse any entries from such person during the period of such suspension/expulsion.
 - x) Any breed of pigeon without a written, approved Club Standard shall not be eligible to compete for a "Best in Show" award at an approved NPA Championship Show.
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B2.2 Championship Shows

(a) Show Date

The date for each Championship Show will be approved by the National Committee and circulated in advance by the General Secretary. Any proposed changes of date should be notified to the General Secretary as soon as possible.

(b) Shows to be Open

All shows granted Championship Status must be for OPEN Competition and it is stressed that, unless any person is barred from exhibiting by the NPA, Show Organisers should ensure that Shows are advertised to and entries accepted from anyone interested in showing.

(c) Limitation of Entries

Entries can be restricted with NPA approval and any application for Certificates should include this. A limitation will only be approved if it is considered that the hall remains adequate to cater for a show of Championship Status. Limitation should appear on schedules when approved. Where a limit applies, entries should be accepted in strict order of receipt.

(d) Advertising

Any Show granted Championship Status must be advertised in the official journal or the NPA or any other pigeon periodical designated by the Committee prior to the closing date for entries. The advertisement should contain the closing date.

(e) Championship Status

The list of Championship Shows will be published each year. Alterations, additions or subtractions may be made from time to time after review by the National Committee. Challenge Certificates will only be awarded at these shows.

In addition to the named shows, Championship status may be granted to Specialist and Umbrella Clubs which elect to hold their Annual Club Show at a venue away from the recognised Championship Shows to qualify for Championship Status.

Where a Specialist Club elects to hold its Annual Show at a venue away from a recognised Championship Show, all other Championship Rules must be strictly adhered to by that Specialist Club and certificates will only be awarded to breeds catered for by that Specialist Club.

(f) Application for Certificates

Applications for Certificates should be made at least 3 months before the Show date, enclosing a draft schedule or typed list of classes for approval. Certificates will not be approved in the absence of such a draft. A schedule should not be printed unless it shows all the judges in their respective positions and the draft supplied to the General Secretary has been approved.

(i) Certificates will be awarded from 1st October to the 14th February in the following year.

(ii) The Certificate Return and any outstanding monies for Certificates must be forwarded to the General Secretary within 21 days of the show or Championship Status may be Suspended for the following year

(g) Challenge Certificates

For a certificate to be awarded a group of classes must contain at least two classes catering for both sexes and all ages. The one and ONLY exception to this rule being an NPA approved National Young Bird Show, which must have two classes catering for both sexes

(i) The judge should only award a Challenge Certificate if there is an exhibit of sufficient merit.

(ii) A certificate can only be awarded on the decision of one judge, two or more judges may not make a joint decision in relation to the award of a certificate.

(iii) If a ring worn by any certificate winning bird is found not be registered to the exhibitor the certificate will be permanently withdrawn and deleted from NPA records. Any exhibitor who exhibits such a ring or rings on more than one occasion

may be suspended/expelled from the Association.

(h) Markings within a Breed

- (i) Where it is considered that there are two different markings within the same breed, so closely resembling each other that they are judged from a similar standard, a certificate may be awarded when they are shown together in the same group of classes.
- (ii) Where a colour or type has a separate group of classes, a certificate may be awarded for each group of classes.
- (iii) Two certificates cannot be awarded to the same group of classes.
- (iv) Any standard colour not catered for should be shown in Any Other Colour group of classes.
- (v) Where markings are split up within a breed there must be at least two classes catering for each marking.

Examples:

Right

- 1. Lace AA Cock 2. Lace AA Hen

Wrong

- 1. Lace Any Age 2. Tailmark Any Age

Colours within Breed

Examples:

Right

- 1. Yellow or Red Adult 2. Yellow or Red YB

Wrong

- 1. Yellow Any Age 2. Red Any Age

(i) Food and Water

Food and water must be made available at all Championship Shows. Exhibitors may bring their own pots for use after judging where necessary. For any two-day show, Show Organisers will ensure birds are fed and watered.

(j) Backing Material

All pens should have some form of backing material, preferably white, so that all birds are shown to the best advantage, undisturbed. The ends of each row should also be covered.

(k) Judging and Administration of Show

- (i) In order to maintain as high a standard of judging at Championship Shows, judges should only be asked to judge in which they are competent.

- (ii) A form will accompany each NPA certificate. The Show Secretary should complete the top portion before handing to the judge. When awarding a Certificate Judges are required to enter the details on the form.
- (iii) The Show Secretary should complete the Certificate for issue and also complete the NPA certificate return.
- (iv) Judges should make sure that all the details are recorded on the form and that all details of the bird, particularly the ring number, are correct.
- (v) A catalogue of entries shall be produced in sufficient numbers to allow judges a copy and a supply be available for sale to exhibitors and the general public.
- (vi) A separate catalogue should be kept available for the person(s) making out NPA Challenge Certificates.
- (vii) Immediately after a show a marked catalogue showing all exhibitors and results should be sent to the General Secretary with the list of certificates awarded.
- (viii) Any Certificate not awarded should be retained by the appropriate Show Secretary for use in future years.

(l) Championship Certificates

- (i) To become a Champion a pigeon must win 5 Challenge Certificates under four different judges with no more than two as a young bird.
- (ii) Any person obtaining the required number of Challenge Certificates for the same bird should apply to the General Secretary for the appropriate form to claim a Champion Certificate for the bird.
- (iii) A bird can only be a Champion once. One Champion Certificate only will be awarded regardless of how many Challenge Certificates the bird has won.
- (iv) Champion Certificates will be issued free to members of the National Pigeon Association.
- (v) Non-members will be charged the equivalent of the Annual members' subscription free. If the offer is not Accepted, the certificate will not be issued. In either case the bird will be recorded as a champion in the NPA records.

(m) General

- (i) Failure to observe these conditions may lead to the withholding of Challenge Certificates at future shows.
- (ii) In the event of a dispute arising over the awarding of Challenge or Championship Certificates, the decision of the National Pigeon Association will be final and binding.
- (iii) Definition of an Umbrella Club in relation to approval for Championship Status An Umbrella Club is a club or show society in which there must be a General Secretary and approved committee, formed from existing Breed clubs, that are within the same group of breeds. For example, Tumblers, Blowers, Colour Pigeons etc. and application for the granting of Championship Status would be subject to normal NPA Rules. Only

one such show can be held each year for any group of breeds and must be open to all breeds within the group from those Breed Clubs who wish to participate. A breed may be dealt with by one Umbrella Club only

C. GENERAL SCHEMES, COMPETITION & ARRANGEMENTS

C1. Master Breeders Certificate

- (a) The National Pigeon Association may issue Master Breeders Certificates to fanciers whose skill and ability as a breeder has enabled them to produce pigeons of outstanding quality which consistently win high honours at Championship Shows for both themselves and/or other fanciers.
- (b) The quality of the birds produced by the breeder and his show Records should be outstanding examples in the art and science of breeding top quality pigeons.
- (c) No more than two Master Breeder Certificates will be awarded each year.
- (d) NPA Committee members cannot be nominated whilst in office.
- (e) Information must come from Breed Clubs or Societies for Master Breeders Certificates. Therefore, candidates must be nominated by the above and the application must certify that the Club's members have approved the nomination.
- (f) All records submitted should be about the birds bred by the nominee. The Records must be submitted to the General Secretary on the official Master Breeders Award application form.
- (g) The Nominee for Master Breeder must have been a member of the NPA for 10 years consecutively prior to the application.
- (h) The nominee must have raised the breed on which he is seeking recognition for a period of ten years.
- (i) The nomination should define one who breeds consistent NPA Certificate winners, Best of Breed at large shows with quality entries, particularly at their Breed club show. Also the person should be willing to help others by supplying good stock which in turn gives him more competition and determination to breed even better stock.
- (j) The nominee will need to provide as much information as possible regarding:
 - (a) Ring numbers
 - (b) Shows & dates
 - (c) Judges
 - (d) Special awards

- (k) The NPA National Committee will vet all applications and decide on awards to be made.
 - (l) A Master Breeders Certificate is for one breed only at the time of nomination.
 - (m) Application forms can be obtained from the General Secretary or downloaded from the NPA website.
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C2. Hall of Fame Awards

The National Pigeon Association may present Hall of Fame Awards each year to fanciers who are worthy of this high honour. To be eligible for this award, fanciers must have bred and exhibited pigeons for ten years or more and have been a member of the NPA in continuous good standing during that period and most importantly have rendered valuable service on behalf of the pigeon fancy in general.

- (a) Not more than two awards shall be made in any one year.
 - (b) NPA Committee members cannot be nominated whilst in office.
 - (c) Nominees must have been a member of the NPA for at least ten years continuously.
 - (d) Hall of Fame nominations must come from Show Societies or Breed Clubs, and the application form submitted to the General Secretary must certify that the members have approved the nomination.
 - (e) The NPA National Committee will vet all applications and decide on awards to be made.
 - (f) Application forms can be obtained from the NPA Secretary or downloaded from the NPA website.
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C3. NPA Ring Nomination Competition Rules

The aim is to create a bit of extra interest at the National Show and to show the skill of the breeder in ringing their best birds for the scheme. The competition is to be run at the NPA National Show at BPSS (or other designated venue as agreed) in early December

- a. The competition is for current year bred birds only

- b. Members who wish to participate in the competition will be allocated ring numbers by the Ring Secretary at purchase of their current year rings upon payment of same
 - c. Birds with registered rings to be included in classes at the designated show
 - d. A max of 5 rings per ring size (A/B/C/D/E/F) can be purchased from the Ring Secretary. The nomination rings will usually be the first 5 in the batches of rings sizes purchased by the member, but this is confirmed by the Ring Secretary. Therefore, no extra rings are purchased but these 5 numbers will be entered into the category at the show
 - e. Cost is £1 per ring - in addition to normal ring cost
 - f. Only birds wearing registered rings can enter the competition
 - g. Ring Nominations to be noted on the BPSS entry form (or other designated venue as agreed) and the show secretary will produce judges' sheets for the relevant sections. The competition is to be judged independently at the show
 - h. All birds are independently verified by NPA officials prior to judging on the day of the show
 - i. Please ensure your Nomination rung birds are placed in the correct pens as indicated on your entry form. NO birds will be moved after verification
 - j. The competition will consist of 7 sections. Blower, Tumblers, Head & Wattle, Form, Short Faced, Colour & Structure inc. Trumpeters and finally Flyers
 - k. 100% of all the income into the scheme - plus an additional £100 from The NPA - will be paid out as prize money
 - l. Each section winner to be awarded 10% of the total prize fund plus an NPA rosette. The remaining 30% of the prize fund plus a Ring Nomination Champions rosette will be awarded to the overall Ring Nomination Champion
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C4. Conditions for Recognition of a New Breed

- (a) Any individual submitting a new breed for recognition must be a member of the NPA.
- (b) A minimum of three generations should be produced for inspection, to ensure that the breed is capable of reproducing its image.
- (c) A minimum of two pairs of the new breed should be taken by independent fanciers and allowed to breed as proof of their capabilities of reproducing their own image.

- (d) Before the NPA would consider the formal acceptance of a new breed, a further two years' probation would have to be undergone, with the breed being reconsidered at the end of that time.
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C5. Registration and Changes to Breed Standards

- (a) Requests for changes to standards can either be:
 - (i) Amendments to existing British Breed Standard or
 - (ii) Application for the registration of a Standard for a Foreign Breed.
 - (b) In either case the application must be made by a Breed Club and be submitted on the appropriate application form which is available from the General Secretary or downloaded from the NPA website
 - (c) Any change that would adversely affect the welfare of the birds will be unacceptable. All Breed Clubs are urged to bear in mind changes which could be made to improve the welfare of the breed.
 - (e) Revised or new standards cannot be introduced until approval is received from the NPA.
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C6. Breed Club Names

Breed Club names must be approved by the National Committee. Any application to change the name of a Breed Club must have been approved by the Club members before such an application can be considered by the National Committee

C7. Communications

The Association fully recognises the importance of communication to its membership. In order to achieve this in a cost effective way Association news and information will be published in any suitable publication catering for pigeons and especially in a News Bulletin which is distributed to every Member. In addition, a member may wish to write privately to the General Secretary on any subject within the Association's sphere of influence.

Any matter which a member wishes to be considered by the National Committee should be addressed to the General Secretary with an appropriate request. That will also apply to any member of the National Committee as a member of the Association.