

GENERAL RULES 2026

R.P.R.A. STANDARD RULES APPLY, PLUS:

1. That the Federation be called the SOUTH COAST FEDERATION.

The RADIUS shall be the county of Sussex and borders, ie, that any Club having its headquarters not extending beyond 10 miles outside the borders of Sussex is eligible for Membership subject to the Federation Committee's decision.

2. The Officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, number to be agreed upon at A.G.M.) Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (who will form an Emergency Committee), Race Controller and minimum Two (2) auditors.

All Officers shall be elected annually. The President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will form part of the General Committee to which will be added Club delegates in the following ratio: "One Delegate from each member club of the Federation" at least one half of the full committee shall constitute a quorum and would constitute an emergency committee

2a. The Federation shall hold General Meetings as and when deemed necessary by the General Committee

2b. South Coast Secretary or an officially appointed person shall take minutes of the meeting and enter them into an official minutes book with fixed leaf pages, a copy of said minutes shall be sent to each member Club secretary within fourteen days of the said meeting, any alteration of the minutes may only be made at the following general meeting, or in the event of the AGM, the following AGM.

2c. The Federation shall hold a general meeting each quarter, to be held in March, June, September and December, the AGM shall be held prior to the December Committee meeting, the dates of the year's meetings to be determined at the preceding AGM.

2d. The minutes of the South Coast Federation meetings be sent to all Member Clubs within 14 days of the Meeting.

3. Club's Affiliation Fee shall be £15 to be submitted with application.

4. The Annual Subscription for all members shall be £60.00. Subscriptions to be paid to the Federation Secretary by April 1st together with the name of each flying member.

5. The Federation Treasurer will work out and send to each Club the amount that the Club owes the Federation, such sum to be paid to the Federation Secretary within 14

days of application for same. In event of failure to comply with this rule, Clubs will be charged 5p in the £ (pound) per week until the debt is discharged.

6. Any Club retiring from the Federation before the end of the season must forfeit all rights Money etc., deposited with the Federation and be held liable for a proportion of any deficit on General Expenditure Account until the following Annual General Meeting.

7. All distances must be measured by the R.P.R.A Computer.

8. Any Federation Officer producing the Federation Committee's authority shall have power to visit any time the Marking room of any Affiliated Club and to inspect Racing and Marketing accounts, or visit any loft during Race Time without notice.

9. The race programme will be discussed at the meeting following the AGM. The General Committee shall, following input from club members, decide a provisional race programme. The programme must be considered financially viable and may be subject to alteration. Any alterations will be advised to member clubs as early as possible.

10. In the event of any Member of the Federation having a complaint the complaint must be in writing through the Members Club Secretary together with a deposit of £20 to the Federation Secretary. Should such a complaint be substantiated the deposit will be refunded, but should the complaint be a frivolous one the deposit will be forfeited.

11. The Average winners of each Club must be sent to the Federation Secretary within 14 days of cessation of (Young Bird Racing. Old Bird, Young Bird & Combined Averages). All Federation Perpetual Trophies must be returned to the Federation Secretary not later than 13th September each year following the winning of such trophies.

11a. Points for the Points Shields will be allocated to the 1st., 2nd., 3rd places only i.e. 6, 5, 4, points respectively.

13. That before any statement of Income and Expenditure is passed, it be circulated to all Clubs and then voted on at Federation Meeting.

14. The Annual General Meeting of the Federation to be held as near as convenient in the first week in December each year.

15. New Clubs applying for Membership of the Federation. Transport Committee have authority to provisionally accept them.

17. Each club is responsible for the upkeep of it's allocated crates.

18. Only R.P.R.A. seals to be used on crates (2) on drop front and (1) top flap.

19. In the event of a tie on any position in voting the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

RACING RULES

1. That all Races of one day duration shall close at 10pm. B.S.T. Hours of darkness shall be from 10pm to 5am. B.S.T.
2. In the event of birds being held over from the appointed day of liberation, they will be liberated as early as possible the following day, Sunday included and to count as a race.
3. Club Nominations will be allowed in all Federation Races but when any Member nominates into other Federated Clubs such nominated birds must be verified through the Club who race mark, crate and pay the Federation dues for such nominated birds. Prizes shall only be allowed one prize per bird.
 - 3a. Hold-Overs Members pay pro rata cost per bird.
4. A list of birds competing and the ring registration numbers. Rubber ring numbers for each Member (race sheet duplicate) to be sent to the Federation Secretary, also a summary of number of crates and birds sent. Same must bear a postmark prior to the liberation or placed in locked post box on the Transporter.
5. Any competitor other than the Officer appointed by the Federation telegraphing or in any way interfering with the liberator in or about the liberation of birds will be debarred from future competitions with the Federation for such time as the Committee may determine.
 - 5a. If any club does not wish to compete in any race of the Federation programme, they must notify the secretary at least 48 hours prior to marking for that race.
6. A copy of each members entry form or ets entry list is to be given to the Transport driver on race marking night.

After each race, on the day of liberation, wherever possible, club secretaries, or an appointed representative, should compile a provisional club result, based on members early times. This provisional result must be forwarded to the Federation secretary, by email or suitable alternative on the same day.

The Federation secretary will compile a provisional Federation result based on the information received (usually first 20). This result will be put on the South Coast Federation website by the end of the day following the race.

The Federation secretary will compile a final result within 10 days of the race taking place.

It is the responsibility of the Club secretaries to liaise with the Federation secretary to ensure that all documentation, printouts, dials, rubbers etc. in respect of any birds wishing to appear on the final result, are received complete and in time.

Each member is entitled to have, in the Federation result, their first 6 birds, plus nominated, breeder buyer or gold rings, if not included in their first 6.

8. That Old bird and Young Bird Federation races, birds to be liberated as early as possible

8a. All race birds on the Federation Transporter to be liberated together simultaneously.

8b. At all times the liberation to be under the sole control of the Race Controller. In the event of adverse conditions the Race Controller has the authority to liberate early or late at his discretion.

8c. The South Coast Federation race controller prior to liberation shall obtain weather reports along the line of flight, and when practical contact other federation club conveyers who are liberating along the line of flight re their liberation times to prevent clashing.

9. The Federation race Controller will notify all Clubs of time of liberation or hold-overs and **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL ANY CLUB MEMBER BE ALLOWED TO PHONE THE FEDERATION SECRETARY REFERENCE LIBERATIONS OR TIMES OF SUCH.**

10. Diplomas will be awarded to the first 20 birds in each Federation race.

11. Each Club crates rotate around the Transporter each week.

12. Open race conditions be formulated by the Federation Committee, in the interests of all Members of the South Coast Federation.

13. Two members not including partnerships will remain with the birds until they are placed on the Transporter. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification from the Federation result, for that week's race.

15. For each Federation race, clubs must have at least 3 club members present before marking takes place. If less than 3 club members are present birds should be marked at another club or they will not be eligible to appear on The Federations final result.

CLOCK RULES

- In case of dispute the Secretary of the Club whose member or members time in on a clock, shall supply the Federation with particulars of the time of setting and checking of each clock as well as the timing of each bird recorded. Failure to do this will entail disqualification from Federation result.
- All clock record sheets, rubber race rings duplicates/envelopes and entry forms to be placed in a sealed box at Club Headquarters at conclusion of clock setting. .
- No Member may puncture his clock except he gives a satisfactory explanation and the clock committee shall take particular notice of which hole the thimble/ring is taken from.