

**Silicon Valley Combine
By-Laws and Race Rules February 24, 2024**

PART 1: Constitution By-Laws

ARTICLE 1

Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Silicon Valley Combine (SVC). This Combine was founded 2020.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

Section 1: To foster and promote the science of breeding, training and racing of Racing Homing pigeons and to safeguard the sport of the same against malign and dishonest practices, so as to maintain this sport as a gentlemen's pastime and to promote sportsmanship of a true quality above reproach.

Section 2: To conduct races between member Clubs affiliated with the SVC within the territory herein provided.

Section 3: To keep a permanent record of the results of SVC races and to issue to the winning lofts, under signatures of the President and Race Secretary, a certificate showing the diploma position won in the race, the speed made, the number of lofts, and the birds competing.

Section 4: To conduct such other business as may be incident to forming and maintaining the Organization.

Section 5: To bear in mind at all times the rights of others and to promote harmony in this organization.

ARTICLE 3

Officers

Section 1: The affairs of this Organization shall be conducted by the following officers: President (Bieu Tran), Vice-President (Gary Cruz), Race Secretary and Recording Secretary(Ralph Aceves), and Sergeant-at-Arms (Open)

ARTICLE 4

Duties of Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1: President

1.1 He shall preside over all meetings and conduct the same in accordance with the Rules of Order stated later in this Constitution.

1.2 He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and be *ex officio* member of all said to the SVC.

1.3 He shall deliver to his successor in office all books, papers, etc. in his possession belonging to the SVC.

1.4 He shall call special meetings for the written request of three members in good standing or shall be and is hereby empowered to declare an emergency exists and proceed immediately by calling a meeting of the Officers, Combine Delegates, and/or the General Membership.

1.5 He shall have the power to fill vacancies which occur in the interim of meetings of this Organization.

1.6 He shall have the power to enforce order and decorum at all meetings of the Organization.

1.7 He shall have the casting vote in case of a tie, but at no other time on an oral vote.

1.8 He shall have the power to appoint a new member, or member of his officers staff or Combine delegation upon absence from two consecutive meetings.

1.9 The President shall conduct all meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, a copy of which shall be present in the SVC house at all times.

Section 2: Vice-President

2.1 In the temporary absence of the President, or in case of his inability to act, the Vice-President shall preside and assume the duties of the President.

2.2 In the event of the office of the President being vacated permanently, the Vice-President shall take full charge of the President's duties until his successor shall have been elected and installed.

2.3 He shall deliver his successor in office all books, papers, etc. in his possession belonging to the SVC.

2.4 The Vice-President shall also oversee the overall maintenance of equipment, building and shipping equipment. He will also ensure shipping baskets are cleaned before every race and ensure SVC stations, cables, and printers are in good working order.

Section 3: Treasurer

3.1 He shall keep a correct record of all money received and spent and make a financially statement annually. He shall submit his books and receipts to the Officers, or any other authorized body, for their audit and approval when called upon to do so.

3.2 He shall keep a record of all names, addresses, and contact information of members from SVC and issue a receipt for all dues received by him.

3.3 He shall disburse no funds excepting on bills duly certified by the President which he shall file as vouchers for money paid out.

3.4 He shall deliver to his successor in office all books, papers, etc. in his possession belonging to the SVC.

3.5 He shall be custodial of all prize money and shall not disburse the same to winners until authorized to do so by the Race Secretary.

3.6 He shall take a receipt or preserve cancelled checks for all prizes paid out and shall retain same until his books have been duly audited and found correct.

3.7 He shall ensure all government filings are submitted and all local, state and federal government taxes and/or fees, and insurance fees paid as required.

Section 4: Race Secretary

4.1 The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the SVC's races. This Secretary shall chair the race committee, consisting also of members appointed by the President. This committee shall resolve all questions and disputes regarding racing competition. The Race Secretary is responsible for conducting and maintaining a record of all loft surveys. He shall ensure that racing supplies are adequately maintained. He shall coordinate the race liberations and make provisions for notifying SVC members of release times.

4.2 He shall manage all race-figuring activities, and is responsible for publishing race results and distributing diplomas and awards.

4.3 The Race Secretary shall also be responsible for conducting shipping procedures according to SVC and AU rules as well as conducting the clock knock off procedures, printing race results.

4.4 He shall keep an accurate record of entries in all SVC races as well as a record of all birds reported.

4.5 He shall show in the official race report the band number, color and sex, air line distance, time of arrival and speed, and all prize and diploma winners. (Electronic Race Report)

Section 5: Combine Delegates

5.1 The Combine Delegates shall represent their clubs at all combine meetings and communicate decisions made and voted by the SVC.

5.2 They shall communicate all combine meetings, agendas and resolutions to all SVC members.

5.3 Combine Delegates shall report all combine activities and raise any issues, decisions, or concerns related to the combine to all members at SVC meetings.

Section 6: Recording Secretary

6.1 He shall perform any and all duties conducive to the general good of the SVC, including without limitation, recording the minutes of SVC meetings, maintaining a SVC Membership roster, and attending to all SVC correspondence. He is subjected at any time to take orders from the President.

6.2 He shall notify all members of the SVC, via US mail, fax, email, or telephone (as the Recordings Secretary shall determine to be most expeditious) of upcoming SVC meetings and events.

6.3 He shall attend to any grievances that may arise and investigate same in conjunction with the Officers or an Investigative Committee.

6.4 He shall deliver to his successor in office all books, papers, etc. in his possession belonging to the SVC.

Section 7: Band Secretary (Blank)

Section 8: Sergeant-at-Arms

8.1 The Sergeant-at-Arms shall, under direction of the presiding officers, maintain order and decorum among the members and all persons present at meetings, events, shipping and clock knock offs, and may even expel persons from the meeting, if necessary.

8.2 He shall also be responsible in ensuring all members participate and help according to their abilities.

8.3 He shall bring to the attention of officers any situation that may require a member to be disciplined, suspended, or expelled or a member who is not contributing to the SVC and SVC activities as per member responsibilities.

Section 9: Board of Directors (Blank)

**ARTICLE 5
Dues and Fees**

Section 1: The annual dues of the membership in the SVC shall be voted upon in December of each year. If needed, there will also be dues for upkeep of the SVC.

Section 2: To participate in a series of races, a member's shipping fees must be paid not later than the night of shipment to the first regular SVC race.

Section 3: Membership dues in the SVC shall be paid through the SVC Treasurer no later than the last day of January of that year.

**ARTICLE 6
Meetings**

Section 1: SVC meetings shall be held as combine officers deemed necessary.

Section 2: President shall designate the time and place of meetings.

Section 3: Two officers in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE 7
Membership and Boundaries**

Section 1: Any reputable Homing Pigeon fancier residing in within boundaries the Fremont RPC, Hayward Homing Club, SFR and West San Jose RPC.

Section 2: A member of the SVC may be a member of as many other Combines as desired, providing the member complies with all obligations to this SVC's Constitution By-Laws and Race Rules.

Section 3: Every member shall be entitled to one vote on all questions coming before the SVC, upon reaching the age of eighteen (18). A member shall be allowed to take part in discussions prior to age eighteen but under no circumstances shall he/she be entitled to a vote.

Section 4: All absentee votes submitted in writing will be recognized.

Section 5: All partnership lofts paying but one yearly dues shall be granted one vote.

Section 6: A member may not pay two yearly dues and receive two votes.

Section 7: There shall be no "black ball" vote cast on a joining fancier unless a conviction of cheating be on his/her record or he/she has a known history of violating the AU's Code of Ethics, including without limitation, Section **310.0**, "AU members have a responsibility to represent our sport and hobby in the highest of standards of conduct: they will not use profane language, engage in abusive argument or disorderly conduct at pigeon functions or in public places where they can be identified with our sport and hobby".

Section 8: No member will be allowed to join the SVC until all financial obligations with any other pigeon organization have been met.

Section 9: Members shall at all times be, and remain, in compliance with the Rules of SVC, their clubs and the AU, including, without limitation, the AU's Code of Ethics. It shall be each individual Member's responsibility to be familiar with the then current rules and regulations of SVC, their clubs, and the AU. The SVC rules shall take priority when there is a discrepancy between their club and US rules exist. When a rule does not exist within the SVC votes rules, the AU rule shall take priority.

ARTICLE 8

Affiliations

Section 1: Every member of this SVC shall be a member of The American Racing Pigeon Union, hereinafter referred to as the AU. Every member shall be a member of the CSRPO.

ARTICLE 9

Dissolution

Section 1: This organization shall be dissolved should the membership fall below the minimum of five (2) club members required by the AU to keep the SVC charter active or is unable to function financially for a period of six (6) months. The property of the organization shall be disposed of to the best advantage and the proceeds, together with the surplus in the treasury, shall be given to The City of Hope, a non-profit organization. (Questions should be addressed to the Board of Directors).

PART II: Race Rules

1. SVC race rules shall take precedence over all local rules and where required the AU rules.
2. All members must use electronic clocks in all races.
3. All birds entered must home to the loft of the competitor in whose name they are entered.

4. Every year in December, the SVC members shall vote on racecourse direction, stations, schedule, bird count for each race, partnership arrangements and fees for the following year. Race fees may be adjusted after final flyer count is determined.
5. In order to maintain competitive racing and to support flyers with smaller lofts, the SVC voted to limit the number of flyers(teams) flying from one location to 2 flyers, and the total maximum number of birds flown from one location limited to the maximum bird count for each race voted by the majority of the members at the December meeting. The definition of location is a property owned or rented by one person. Again, the spirit of this rule is to avoid an overwhelming number of birds flown from one location and thus stifling competition.
6. No old or young bird shall be eligible to compete in the races, unless wearing a regulation size AU, IF or USA seamless band, or a band approved by the AU. No oversized or stretched bands shall be allowed.
7. No old bird shall be placed in the basket of any Young bird race.
8. No person shall assist in scanning his/her own birds.
9. The Race Secretary, with majority approval of his race committee, shall have the power to reject all sick and unfit birds they deem necessary.
10. Birds must be at designated place of shipping at the appointed time as stated. If late they will not be shipped.
11. The Race Secretary shall decide and award contested prizes, settle all arguments and disputes in reference to race entries and returns.
12. All entrance fees and pools must be paid at the time of shipping, since all monies are deposited in the bank as soon as practicable following shipping. It is imperative that all checks be covered by an adequate balance in the account of the shipper. Should a check or entrance fee be returned for lack of funds, then said competitor who presented the check shall indeed and without hearing forfeit all prizes, monies and positions. He shall lose any time towards average speed, also all championship points. No bird or birds from his loft shall receive position on the return sheet or obtain Hall of Fame points. The fancier must still make good the bad check before being allowed to ship again. He is liable for the entry fees while still forfeiting the abovementioned prizes and awards.
13. All birds, as between members and SVC, shall be shipped at the owner's risk.
14. All protests against the decision of the Race Secretary shall be in writing before the prize money is paid out for that competition or race to the SVC President, whose duty it is to notify the Race Secretary. A written vote of those members flying in the race in question shall be taken after both sides of the argument are presented. This vote shall prevail.
15. SVC will only support Benzing electronic clocks limited to the following models: ATIS, Express G2, M1, M2 and M3. The SVC does not provide equipment. Each member is responsible for his own equipment. The SVC does not support or recognize live clocking at this time.
16. Any members with a dispute shall be communicated in writing to the Combine President and the Combine officers will have final resolution.

PART III: Member Responsibilities

As a volunteer social organization, SVC depends on the work and help of all its members to function correctly. As a result, ALL members are expected to participate in maintaining the SVC in good operating order ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITIES. Additional member responsibilities include:

1. Member is responsible for the maintenance and good working order of his clock and clocking equipment.
2. The SVC does not provide loaner or spare equipment to members.
3. Member is responsible for the accuracy of his GPS and race information. The SVC shall provide race results as soon as possible. Any discrepancies or inaccuracies should be brought to the attention of any officer with seven (7) days.
4. All members shall help with all activities, based on their abilities, cleaning shipping baskets, basketing of birds, making copies of race results, posting results, etc.

PART IV: ARBITRATION

Section 1: By the acceptance and/or renewal of their membership in the SVC, either directly, or derivatively as members of individual clubs which are part of said Combine, that is to say by being members of the Combine in accordance with the existing rules, regulations, Constitution and By-Laws of the Combine, each such individual member agrees to, and shall be bound by the commitment and requirement to resolve any and all disputes, whether originated by the Combine itself, a member or members of the Combine, or a SVC which is part of the Combine, relating to or in any way arising out of the rules, regulations, Constitution and By-Laws of the Combine, from time to time in effect, through Binding Arbitration.

Section 2: Said Arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration laws of the State of California, as contained in Code of Civil Procedure 1280 et seq., as now existing, or as may be hereafter modified by the State of California. In the conduct of said arbitration, the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure 1282(a) shall not apply, because there shall be three (3) arbitrators, chosen as follows: Each party to the dispute shall select one arbitrator. These arbitrators shall select a neutral arbitrator. All arbitrators shall be drawn from a list of current members in good standing of the SVC. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in said arbitration laws of the State of California, the arbitration shall be commenced by one party giving written notice thereof to the other party by certified return receipt, U.S. Mail, or by personal service. Upon receipt of personal service, or upon receipt of said service by mail, the other party shall have ten (10) days within which to name an arbitrator. Said notification shall be made by service of the same in writing upon the first party, in the same manner as provided above. Within ten (10) days of the naming of the second arbitrator, the arbitrators so chosen shall select a neutral arbitrator, and further proceedings shall thereafter be pursuant to said arbitration law.

Section 3: By the acceptance and/or renewal of their membership in SVC, each such individual member agrees to the above stated rules, and shall be bound by the commitment and requirement to resolve any and all disputes, whether originated by SVC itself, a member or members of SVC, relating to or in any way arising out of the rules, regulations, or By-Laws of SVC, from time to time in effect, through binding arbitration.

Section 4: Said arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration laws of the State of California, as contained in Code of Civil Procedure 1280 et seq., as now existing, or as may be hereafter modified by the State of California. In the conduct of said arbitration, the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure 1282(a) shall not apply, because there shall be three (3) arbitrators, chosen as follows: Each party to the dispute shall select one arbitrator. These arbitrators shall select a neutral arbitrator. All arbitrators shall be drawn from a list of current members in good standing of the SVC. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in said arbitration laws of the State of California, the arbitration shall be commenced by one party giving written notice thereof to the other party by certified return receipt, U.S. Mail, or by personal service. Upon receipt of personal service, or upon receipt of said service by mail, the other party shall have ten (10) days within which to name an arbitrator. Said notification shall be made by service of the same in writing upon the first party, in the same manner as provided above. Within ten (10) days of the naming of the second arbitrator, the arbitrators so chosen shall select a neutral arbitrator, and further proceedings shall thereafter be pursuant to said arbitration law.

Section 5: As a social volunteer organization, I understand that the SVC, its officers and members are not responsible for any damage or injuries that may occur to me as part of my involvement with the SVC or its activities. I waive any and all liability arising from my participation with SVC.

Ralph Aceves (Secretary)

Signature

Date