

BY-LAWS of the GULFCOAST HOMING CLUB

As revised January 2010

ARTICLE I, Organization and Purpose

1. This organization shall be known as the GulfCoast Homing Club, Inc. It is incorporated as a not for profit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida.
2. The primary purpose of the Club shall be to conduct pigeon races among its members. It shall also conduct social and fraternal events, and other activities related to the racing pigeon sport, as determined from time to time by the membership.

ARTICLE II, Membership, Dues and Fees

1. The Club shall extend a social and fraternal invitation to honorable racing pigeon fanciers for membership who reside within the boundary of "a Line running East and West using Centralia Rd. (CR 476) as its latitude" from the Gulf of Mexico to a point that would meet US 41, west of US 41, north of SR 54 and east of the Gulf of Mexico.
2. All prospective members shall be sponsored for membership by a current member at a regular Club meeting, and must be present in person. A vote will then be taken for approval or rejection by the membership in attendance. The applicant will be on probation for three (3) years from the date of acceptance. Probation for a new member gives him/her all rights enjoyed by all members but will not be eligible to hold any office in the club. The Membership Committee will evaluate new member status after three (3) years.
3. The yearly dues of the Club shall be sixty dollars (\$60.00), due at the first meeting of the year, or at the time a new member is approved for membership. Members who are age 90 and above be given free membership dues for the remainder of their lives. They will only be required to pay AU dues and for their bands to fly with the GHC.
4. Each new member shall pay an initiation fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), with payment of the first year's dues no later than thirty (30) days after being accepted as a member.
5. Each paid up member shall receive fifty (50) Club bands at no charge. Additional bands may be purchased. Club bands are not to be sold to non-members.
6. A \$1.00 trophy fee will be charged each member for each regular race shipped.
7. All dues, fees and any other indebtedness owed the Club, or any of its affiliates, must be paid before a member's dues will be accepted, or a member may enter a Club race, or may participate in any other Club activity.

8. A member not paying current year's dues by March 31st shall be dropped as a member, must reapply to be a member, and must pay the two hundred dollar (\$200.00) initiation fee.
9. The Club shall have available a Social Membership for persons who have an interest in the Club, but who are not currently racing pigeons, or live outside the Club boundaries. Social members shall pay an annual dues of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). A Social member may participate in the non-racing activities of the Club, but cannot propose or vote on any Club business.
10. Fanciers under the age of eighteen years (18) may become Junior Members, if residing within the Club boundaries. There are no Club dues or initiation fee required of a Junior Member. A Junior Member must pay Concourse dues and truck fees, AU dues, and Concourse and Club race fees and shipping charges. A Junior Member competes for diplomas and trophies only, and is not eligible to receive prizes. A Junior Member may not propose or vote on any Club business.
11. A member may be reprimanded, penalized and/or expelled from the Club membership for dishonorable conduct.
12. Any member who has been suspended for one or more years by the GHC or any other local or national racing pigeon organization may reapply for GHC membership and must be approved by a 95% majority vote of members present. If reinstated, the member shall pay a new initiation fee and serve a five (5) year probationary period.

ARTICLE III, Management

1. The officers of the Club shall be President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Race Secretary, Race Statistician, and Building and Grounds Chairperson, and they shall be designated as the Board of Directors specified in the Articles of Incorporation. Term of office for officers shall be one calendar year, however effective with the 2010 term year and thereafter the Treasurer term will run for one year from February 1 thru January 31 to facilitate the closing of the books including the Classic race payouts, etc. Also the Outgoing Treasure is to make a complete financial report at the February Club meeting. The incoming Treasurer will work closely with the outgoing Treasurer to facilitate a smooth transfer of responsibilities during the Month of January.
2. Other positions elected by the membership are the Band Secretary and Chairpersons of all special Club races, along with fifteen (15) members to serve on the Race Committee, Liberating committee consisting of a Chairman and 2 additional members, all for one calendar year terms. There shall also be elected three (or four) Trustees who shall serve staggered three (3) calendar year terms. A Trustee may serve in any other office except that of Treasurer. A Liberation Committee consisting of a chairman and

two additional members. The (3 or 4) Trustees shall be designated as members of the Board of Directors, without voting privileges.

3. Elections shall be held at the December annual meeting. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, which shall report a slate of candidates at the November meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor, and must be seconded. The Slate of Candidates will close at the November meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall discuss and recommend business to be presented at Club meetings, and perform other duties as provided for in these By-Laws, or designated by vote of the membership.
5. Any member, who has a grievance against another member or members, Club business, or affairs, must submit in writing the grievance, with supporting facts and names of witnesses within sixty (60) days of the action. The written complaint must be turned into the President, who in turn will give the complainant a dated receipt. Upon receipt of the grievance the President will have the Trustees select a five (5) person committee that will investigate the grievance and bring back their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Final judgment will be made jointly by the Committee, Trustees and the Board within 45 days of receipt of the complaint.
6. The official and only electric band scanning system (EBSS) for the G.H.C. will be the Benzing models (ATIS, M1, and the ATIS Express version 1.2 or higher). No other systems will be allowed to be used in the G.H.C. regular and special races.

ARTICLE IV, Duties of Officers

1. The President shall preside at all Club and Board of Directors meetings, co-sign Club checks, sign approved minutes of Club meetings, appoint non-standing committee chairpersons, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. He shall not vote at any time, except in the event of a tie vote to break the tie.
2. The 1st Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, or in the case of his Inability to act, assume the duties of the President.
3. The 2nd Vice President shall, in the absence of the 1st Vice President, or in the case of his inability to act; assume the duties of the 1st Vice President.
4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Club and Board of Directors meetings, handle the general correspondence of the Club, and send out meeting notices. The Recording Secretary shall record the business of the Concourse Directors meeting, and report same at the Club meetings.
5. The Treasurer shall handle the financial matters related to the conduct of the business of the Club, and keep record of same, co-sign Club checks, present a report at each

meeting stating all expenses and income since the previous meeting, and the current financial balance. The Treasurer shall also present an annual financial report for the previous year at the February meeting, with copies to be made available to all members. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all members of the Club, the official copy of the By-Laws and Race Rules, and an updated copy of the Concourse and AU By-Laws and Race Rules. The Treasurer shall be accountable to the GHC Board of Directors and receive a yearly salary of \$6000.00.

6. The Race Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of the Club races, and serve as Chairperson of the Race Committee. The Club may vote to have another member as Awards Secretary.
7. The Race Statistician shall handle any race prizes, issue race reports, prepare Club race diplomas and purchase Club trophies as authorized by the Board of Directors.
8. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be a position of trust assigned by the Board of Directors, and shall assist the President in keeping order at Club meetings.
9. The Publicity Director shall be a position of trust assigned by the Board of Directors and shall be authorized to conduct the publicity of the Club races and other activities. No member shall write any article pertaining to Club business, subject to possible suspension.
10. The Band Secretary shall keep the stock of Club bands, issue and/or sell these bands to the members, keep a band number record and handle reports of lost pigeons.
11. The Trustees shall have access to review the Treasurer's records at any reasonable time, audit the records annually and report their findings at the February meeting. They shall also serve with the Treasurer as a Financial Committee to oversee the financial activities of the Club and to make recommendations on same to the Club.
12. Liberating Committee will be responsible for the liberation of the club races regular and special. In the event a member of the Liberating Committee is not participating in the race, the Chairman and Club President will appoint a replacement for that race.

ARTICLE V, Standing Committee

1. A Building and Grounds Committee shall be established and be responsible for the maintenance of the Club buildings, grounds, shipping crates and other equipment. Expenses incurred or projected shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

2. The Race Committee shall aid the Race Secretary in the conduct of the Club races, take measurements for airlines of new lofts and decide any dispute that may arise during any Club race.
3. The Chairman of the Gulfcoast Classic Race Committee or any other such type futurity race committee shall have the right to select a co-chairman and committee members, and shall not vote at committee meetings except in the case of a tie vote. The Committee will be empowered to conduct its own advertising and publicity without conflict with Article IV, 7 of these By-Laws. The Committee will also be empowered to have a separate bank account(s) for the race funds and must provide financial statements with documentation on a monthly basis to the club treasurer.

ARTICLE VI, Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the Club shall be on the second Wednesday of January, February, May, June, August, November and December at 7:00 p.m. at the Club building. The September meeting will be held on the first Wednesday. The December meeting shall be designated as the Annual Meeting.
2. A quorum shall be at least one third of the current paid membership. A quorum has authority to pass motions binding on the absent members.
3. Order of business:
 - Call to order
 - Introduction of Guests
 - Minutes and Communications
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Committee Reports
 - Concourse Report
 - Old Business
 - Vote on New Members
 - Elections of Officers at the December meeting
 - New Business
 - Adjournment
4. The President may call a meeting of the Board of Directors prior to each Club meeting to discuss and recommend business to come before the Club meeting. New business and new members to come before the Club meeting must first be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion and recommendation, except for emergencies, which will be determined by the President.
5. The President shall call a special meeting of the Club or change a regular meeting only with the approval of or at the request of a majority of the Board of Directors. All currently paid members shall be notified of a special meeting or change of meeting

date by Post Card mailed by the Treasurer at least one week before the date set for such meetings.

6. There will be no recording of any type (audio, video, or stenographic) allowed at any GHC meeting without 100% approval by the members present with the exception of the Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE VII, Affiliation

1. The Club shall be affiliated with the American Racing Pigeon Union. Each member shall pay the dues and fees required by these organizations through the Club Treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII,

Gulfcoast Homing Club, Inc. will use AU suggested Race Rules and By-Laws should a need arise that is not covered by the GHC Race Rules and By-Laws as it is published at such a time.

ARTICLE IX Race Awards

The GHC will give awards for the following:

All regular races of the GHC, which includes the regular Saturday Races and the Sprint Series. For all special races the committee handling the special race will handle the awards for the given race.

All Average Speeds and Championships (Championships include both loft and bird)

Old Birds:	100 – 300
	100 – 500
	100 - 600
	400 - 600

Young Birds:	100 – 300
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Combined Old Bird Young Bird

The GHC will have two sections with a boundary line of County Line Road from the East to the West boundaries of the club. There will be awards for overall and first opposite section.

Trophies: Cost will be \$1.00 per loft per race. Trophies will be awarded for the approximate value of the race or championship (regular race approximately twice the value of a Sprint Race)

FINAL ARTICLE, Amendments and Changes

1. Amendments and Changes to these By-Laws and Race Rules and the Articles of Incorporation must be proposed and passed at a regular Club meeting and then voted on for final passage at the next December Annual Club meeting. At the final vote they must be approved by a majority of those members present.
2. Gulfcoast Homing Club, Inc. will use AU suggested Race Rules and By-Laws should a need arise that is not covered by the GHC Race Rules and By-Laws as it is published at such a time.
3. ARTICLE VIII as published prior to this amendment here after be known as FINAL ARTICLE.

These revised By-Laws were passed by vote of the majority of the current paid membership at the December 3, 1990, Annual Meeting to be in effect as of January 1, 1991.

Updated with changes voted at the 12/07/92, 12/06/93; and 12/06/99 Annual meetings.

Updated with changes voted at the Dec.2003; and 12/15/04 Annual meetings.

Updated with changes voted at the Dec.2005 Annual meeting, approved by the Board of Directors 6/06/06

Updated with changes voted at the 12/06 and 12/07 Annual meetings, approved by the Board of Directors May, 2008

Updated with changes voted at the 12.10.2008 Annual meeting.

Updated with changes voted at the 12/09/2009 Annual meeting.