

Denver International CA

December 16, 2023

Constitution & By-Laws

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be **Denver International CA** and it is located in **Denver, Colorado**. Club area includes the greater Denver metropolitan area. Out of area cities include Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins, Boulder, Castle Rock and Greeley unless a current active member of **Denver/ICA**.

Members cannot be excluded because they have been successful in competition.

Section 2. Affiliation: **Denver/ICA** shall be chartered with the **American Racing Pigeon Union (AU)**. The Club will complete and conducts its activities in compliance with the AU rules and Competition Standards. Members may affiliate with any other club or national organization as an individual as desired.

Section 3. Purpose: The Purpose of **Denver/ICA** is to engage in the friendly competition of Registered Racing Homing Pigeons and to foster a positive social environment for members and their families while promoting the Sport of Racing Pigeons.

Section 4. Motto:

Section 5. Sportsmanship: Members of **Denver/ICA** agree to conduct themselves in the spirit of friendly, respectable sportsmanship, fairness and in accordance with the AU Code of Ethics.

Article II - Membership

Section 1. Active Members: Any homing pigeon fancier who has participated in at least 4 races during the previous year, and is current in all dues and fees of **Denver/ICA** as active members. Members must be of good character and have never been expelled by a recognized national racing pigeon organization. **Active members, with a simple majority of those present, participate in voting for daily club functions and financial expenditures.**

Section 2. New Members: Recommendations of individuals as new members in **Denver/ICA** may be made by any active member of the club. A prospective member who has never been a member shall be eligible for membership if he is eligible to be an AU member. Membership shall not be denied based on anyone's sex, race, creed or religion. Acceptance of the applicant as a member is constituted by a majority vote in favor by those current members present and voting.

Section 3. Honorary Membership: **Denver/ICA** chooses to provide a Lifetime Honorary Membership. Membership would be available in the club by invitation from active members. A simple majority of current or active members must vote on the invited prospect to be accepted. (Combines and other organizations usually accept membership by written application.)

Section 4. Probationary Membership: Any new member duly accepted by **Denver/ICA**, shall be a probationary member for twelve (12) months upon being accepted. During the probationary period, the new member has full entitlement to participate in races and other activities sponsored by **Denver/ICA**. **Probationary members may have limited rights and voting privileges during this period.** At the first regular meeting following completion of the member's probationary period, they shall stand for voting into full active member status. A simple majority of active members present may vote to install full active membership status. Once a new member has completed this probationary membership period, the organization shall vote on them prior to conducting any other business and the new member shall be entitled to vote on all item of business considered at the meeting.

Section 5. Junior Memberhip: Any person less than eighteen (18) years of age and accepted by the majority vote of the active members present. Junior members are not allowed to have voting privileges.

Section 6. Associate Membership: Any former flying member who is not presently engaged in racing pigeons. Associates and Junior members are not eligible to vote on **Denver/ICA** business or racing decisions.

Section 7. Partnership Lofts shall be limited to one (1) vote each. Partnership lofts may also be limited by **Denver/ICA** to number of teams or birds that can be entered from one physical or postal address.

Section 8. Family Lofts shall be considered a partnership except that special consideration might be given to junior members and the loft may be limited to number of votes at the discretion of the club.

Article III - Government

Proxy voting shall not be allowed by any Organization affiliated with the AU

Section 1. Voting: A 2/3 vote of the active members present is required to amend or delete any provisions of articles I,II,III. A majority vote of the members present is required on any other issue such as race schedules, race rules, shipping and the election of officers of **Denver/ICA**, except where otherwise noted. All Active members shall have the right to make and second motion from the floor.

I. Governing by Delegates. Delegates may be elected or appointed by the President, as required and allowable with one alternate member. Delegates shall secure the wishes of the members of the club and communicate these to **Denver/ICA** to the best of their ability. Compromise shall always be in the best interests of the Sport in general. Concourse delegates must have attended the previous regular scheduled club meeting in order to represent club.

2. Executive Committee. Made up of the elected officers of the Organization and is chaired by the President. Additional members may be added to the Executive Committee as appointed by the President.

Section 2. Election of Officers. **Denver/ICA** shall include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Race Secretary. Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting every 3 years (starting 2021) during the month of January. Nominations will be made from the floor of the meeting and upon being made; the President shall order that they be added to the list of nominees. All nominees shall have the privilege to decline nomination. Newly elected officers will take charge of their office at the

January meeting. Should an office become open during the year due to resignation or any other cause, the President will appoint a replacement.

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Section 3. Duty of Officers President: The President shall preside over all regular or special meeting and in such a manner as to transact all business. The President shall only vote to break tie votes and shall automatically be on all committees in an advisory capacity. He is the spokesman for **Denver/CA**, and will meet the public and be the spokesman for the organization should the need arise.

Vice-President: The Vice-President will preside at all meeting in the absence of the President, and heads up special committees as appointed by the President, (Publicity or Race Committee) The Vice-President may also serve as **Denver/CA** Constition & Bylaws Advisor to make sure the club operates as intended, and it's constitution and by-laws are kept up to date.

Secretary: The Secretary shall issue notices of **Denver/CA** meetings at least 2 weeks in advance, and shall attend and keep the complete minutes of same. It is the Secretary who will order and issue the bands, and keep the record in accordance with the policies of the AU. The Secretary is responsible for keeping **Denver/CA** By-Laws and Race Rules current, and issues all revision to the members. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to make sure the AU secretary kits with band or diploma orders are returned to the national office in a timely manner.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for the financial assets of **Denver/CA**. The Treasurer will submit a financial accounting to the membership quarterly, or as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall keep the President informed as to any delinquent member accounts, and shall pay **Denver/CA** bills with the President's co-signature on all checks exceeding \$500.00. The Treasurer shall keep in his custody all books and records pertaining to **Denver/CA** and deposit all monies received for dues, bands, surplus received from shipping or any other sources into the **Denver/CA** bank account, in a timely manner. The Treasurer will be sure that bank account signature cards are kept current.

At the termination of this office, the Treasurer shall immediately surrender to the President or New Treasurer, all books, records, and related papers together with such funds or monies in his/her possession. An audit shall always be made by the incoming Treasurer and two (2) members of **Denver/CA** as appointed by the President.

Race Secretary: The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduct of **Denver/CA** races and chairs the Race Committee. The race committee consists of at least 3 members appointed by the President and recorded in the minutes. The Race Secretary is responsible for the conduction and maintaining a record of all loft surveys and shall coordinate the race liberations and make provision for notifying (organization) members of release times. Manages all race-figuring activities and is responsible for publishing race results and distributing diplomas and awards. The Race Secretary will also chair the Loft Registration committee.

Note: The default method for race bird clocking at **Denver/CA** is live clocking with recording, uploading and race results displaying dynamically through the Top Pigeon Website for all race participants. Any adjustments to the live clocking default will result in possible race dis-qualification and/or suspension from the club.

Article IV – Amendments: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws can only be acted upon at the annual meeting. A two-thirds (2/3), majority vote of the active members in attendance shall be required for adoption.

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Article V – Disputes: Disputes (other than race disputes, which are to be handled by the Race Secretary) are to be settled as follows. They shall first be referred to the President for settlement. If his decision is appealed by either party in the dispute, the matter shall be taken up by the Organizations officers for settlement.

If their decision is appealed by either party in the dispute, the entire Organization membership, other than the parties in the dispute, shall decide the issues by majority vote. If the dispute cannot be remedied through the local organization or its affiliates, (i.e. Club to Combine/Concourse, Center, State Organization) and an AU rule is involved, then a complaint may be filed with the AU national office.

Member Termination/Separation: When a member leaves a functioning AU club for any reason, all physical or financial assets shall remain with the club unless specified in a written agreement made dated and signed, between the member(s) leaving and remaining club membership.

Article VI - Expulsion/Suspension: A member accused of dishonorable conduct as outlined by the AU Rules of Conduct (AU By-Law 14), shall be notified to appear before the officers of **Denver/CA**, who will investigate the charges. Such notification to appear shall be in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the hearing and shall specify the charges. As a result of the investigation, the officers shall present their finding to the membership of **Denver/CA** at the next regular or at a special meeting. A secret written ballot will be taken and a two-thirds (2/3), majority vote of all active members would be required to expel or suspend a member. The hearing must follow procedures outlined in the AU's Constitution and By-Laws (Sec. 15 Disciplinary Rules), and must assure the charged individual is afforded "due process". An expelled or suspended member shall forfeit all privileges and claims against the organization.

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Article VII – Dissolution of Association: **Denver/CA** shall not be dissolved without the consent in writing, of two-thirds (2/3) of its active members, obtained in one and confirmed in another special meeting convened for consideration of such dissolution. Upon dissolution, the property shall be disposed of, to the best advantage, and the proceeds, after all bills and obligations have been paid, shall be equally divided among the whole of the membership in good standing as of the date of the initial dissolution meeting.

Meetings: All meetings will be organized by agenda. The meeting agenda will be distributed to all attending members at the beginning or prior to the meeting. Additional items from active members may be added to the agenda prior to the meeting or from the floor during discussions. Meetings will start and end promptly on time.

Quorum: One Half (1/2) of the active members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be held in January. The business of that meeting shall include the election of officers, consideration of any changes to the Constitution and Bylaws; and payment of dues. All members shall be provided written notice of the annual meeting at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

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Regular Meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held once a quarter, or as voted by the membership.

Special Meetings: May be called by the President or in his absence the Vice-President, if deemed necessary.

Notice of special meetings shall be given to each member at least 14 days in advance of the date of the meeting either in writing, personal contact, or by a direct phone call to the member.

The President shall call a special meeting within 14 days of receipt of a signed request from 50% or more of the active members of the club.

Order of Business: The normal agenda of business at regular **Denver/ICA** meetings shall include:

Roll Call; Minutes of Previous Meeting; Proposals for Membership, Financial Report; Committee Reports; Communications; Unfinished Business: New Business and Date of the next meeting, Good of the Sport; Adjournment.

Meeting Decorum: Meetings will always be conducted in an orderly manner, with limited side talking or discussions during the regular course of the meeting. Drinking of alcohol beverages during any meeting, shipping or clock-out is prohibited until the meeting is adjourned or business at hand is complete. Exceptions could be special events (shows, auctions, futurities, etc.)

Membership Dues: Annual dues for members shall be determined at the annual meeting, by a 2/3 majority vote the active members present. **Denver/ICA** dues, as well as those associated with other organizations which the club is affiliated, are due and

payable at the annual meeting. Members are not allowed to race or purchase bands until dues have been paid.

Annual Dues shall be used for any necessary **Denver/ICA** operating expenses. Annual Club, AU dues and the Top Pigeon Clock cellular fee will be collected from each member at the annual January meeting.

Partnership lofts shall each pay dues per year in the same manner provided above. Each individual composing the partnership shall each be assessed the annual dues as per AU membership compliance. (Whether partnerships pay organization dues individually or as one loft is up to the organization as how they are allowed to vote.)

Junior members are members who have not reached their 18th birthday. He/she shall pay the prescribed AU dues for junior and whatever portion of the **Denver/ICA** dues that the regular members decide. (Many organizations waive this expense or greatly reduce the dues for junior members. A club may want to also stipulate that a junior must participate at shipping and handle birds.)

Pro-Rated Dues: Members joining after July 1 of the current year are required to pay full AU Dues plus any late fees, and the pro-rated amount of **Denver/ICA** dues assessed for that year. The fiscal year for **Denver/ICA** dues shall begin January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.

Race Rules: Race rules, special races, diplomas, trophies and other prizes shall be left to the wishes of the current membership provided they do not conflict with the Official AU Competition Standards.

No changes shall be made during the race season in which the above mentioned items are initiated unless approved by 2/3 of the active flying members. Race rules, schedules and release times will be reviewed at the annual meeting. A copy of the rules and race schedule shall be given to each member annually.

Committees: Regular and temporary committees shall be appointed by the President who shall designate a chairman of each.

Loft Certification Committee: *The Race Secretary will also chair the Loft Certification Committee, with a minimum of one other member, to inspect, photograph, and survey member's lofts and file with the national office. Forms may be downloaded from the AU web site.*

Resignation: Any member wishing to resign from the organization must tender his/her in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and must pay all indebtedness which may be due the organization by them, and will forfeit all rights and claims to **Denver/CA** property.

Shortage of Operating Funds: Any shortages of funds shall be assessed equally to all members and restored to the Club treasury. In the event of an assessment of over (\$500), each member may be given the opportunity to pay their portion of the assessment in three or more installments. **Any agreement to money given, invested, or loaned to the club must be recorded in the minutes and a written agreement or contract provided, as appropriate, signed by Club's Officers.**

Note: It is a requirement for an AU Charter, and required practice to file a current copy of your Organizations C&BL with AU National Office should the organization's copy be lost or misplaced.

Advertising and Publicity: By joining **Denver/CA**, Members (or Junior Member's parents or legal guardians) agree to grant the Club a waiver for all rights and privileges to the member's images and/or likeness for the Club's use in promotions, advertising, website, publications, social media, or other media used to promote the Club or in the Club's interest.