# CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FANCY PIGEON ASSOCIATION

**As of 11 July 2026**

**1 NAME:**

1.1 The name of the Association is **"South African Fancy Pigeon Association".**

1.2 The South African Fancy Pigeon Association:

1.2.1 exists in it's own right, independent of it's members;

1.2.2 continues to exist regardless of whether the membership changes or whether there are different office-bearers;

1.2.3 can own property and other assets; and

1.2.4 may sue and be sued in the Association's own name.

1.3 The constitution of the Association is the contractual basis on which each member of the Association commits himself/herself to his/her fellow members. He/she submits to the rules and discipline of the Association. In the event of a breach of any of these terms or directives, action may be taken against the member in terms of the Disciplinary Procedure.

**2 DEFINITIONS:**

2.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, the following in this constitution means:

2.1.1 **Association:** The South African Fancy Pigeon Association and the abbreviation SAFPA has an equivalent meaning.

2.1.2 **Headquarters:** The residential address of the serving National Secretary serves as the head office of the Association.

2.1.3 **Member:** An individual or a partnership.

2.1.3.1 **Junior member:** A member who is between 6 and 18 years old in the current calendar year.

2.1.3.2 **Adult Member:** A member who is 19 years of age or older in the current calendar year.

2.1.4 **Executive Committee:** Elected and appointed management of the SAFPA. The abbreviation EC has a similar meaning.

2.1.5 **Annual General Meeting:** Has the abbreviation AGM with similar meaning, and forms the highest order of authority in the SAFPA.

2.1.6 **Judges Forum:** Has the abbreviation JF with similar meaning, a committee consisting of all qualified judges dealing with matters relating to judging.

2.2 Where reference is made to one gender, it includes both sexes.

**3 OBJECTIVES:**

3.1 Encouraging the love and care of fancy pigeons.

3.2 Improving the quality and standard of fancy pigeons.

**4 MEMBERSHIP:**

4.1 Any person may become a member of the Association by submitting proof of payment of the prescribed membership fees and a completed membership form to the National Ringmaster. SAFPA reserves the right to refuse an application or renewal of membership, without giving reasons.

4.2 Two, or more, members may join as a partnership on payment of the prescribed membership fee. Adult partnerships, and partnerships consisting of an unrelated senior

member and a junior member may consist of a maximum of two (2) members. However, family partnerships may consist of more than two members, only if they include minor children within the family. Junior partnerships may also consist of more than two (2) children from the same family.

4.3 Schools whose children are involved in the National Youth Fair Association can join as a school partnership on payment of the prescribed partnership membership fee for junior members. Where there is only one child in the school involved in the National Youth Fair Association, membership fees will be that of a single junior member. School partnerships may consist of more than two (2) children from the same school. A school partnership is only for children of the school in question and not for adult persons such as parents, teachers, National Youth Show Association organisers or coaches.

4.4 From 4 February 2023, children under the age of 16 years will be exempt from membership fees and can become a member of the SAFPA free of charge. However, they remain responsible for all other expenses, for example the purchasing of rings.

**4.4 Membership grants a member the following rights:**

4.4.1 To purchase rings from the Association.
4.4.2 To display pigeons at any show organized by the Association.
4.4.3 To receive all literature published by the Association.
4.4.4 To be allowed to participate in decision-making during the AGM or any special meeting in accordance with the rules.
4.4.5 To be elected as an office bearer of the Association or any of its structures.
4.4.6 To qualify for prizes, honours and honorary awards in accordance with the rules of the Association.

**4.5 Membership is terminated:**

4.5.1 At death. If a partnership has joined as a lifetime member, the surviving member retains his lifetime membership upon the death of his partner. However, someone else cannot join the partnership and thus share in the benefits of lifetime membership.
4.5.2 Membership is terminated in case of failure to pay the prescribed membership fee before the end of January or to maintain instalment payments in terms of the approved budget.
4.5.3 Where a member's membership is terminated by the EC or an AGM.

**5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC):**

5.1 The ownership and handling of the affairs of the Association is vested in the EC.

5.2 The EC of the Association is composed as follows: National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Editor, National Ringmaster, National Judges Officer, National Youth Representative, and a Representative from each region. A Webmaster is appointed by the EC as a member of the EC depending on the availability of a knowledgeable person within the SAFPA. In the absence of an expert person within the SAFPA, the EC have the authority to contract an external person. Such external person will not serve on the EC.

5.3 The Daily Management EC consists of all the elected and appointed members of the EC, but excludes Regional Representatives.

5.4 In the event of death, resignation or incapacity of any member of the EC, the EC can co-opt a person to fill the position temporarily untill it can be filled by election or appointment.

**5.5 The EC has the following power and duties:**

5.5.1 To make decisions and take steps to give effect to the provisions of this constitution and rules;
5.5.2 To represent the Association in any matter of general interest to the Association;
5.5.3 To maintain, subject to the provisions of the constitution, discipline among the members of the Association;
5.5.4 To check the finances of the Association, Regions and Specialist Clubs;
5.5.5 To enter into contracts on behalf of the Association in connection with it's affairs and property;
5.5.6 To represent the Association in lawsuits;
5.5.7 To establish show dates and establish show rules;
5.5.8 To make the appointment of the judges for the annual Championship Show, on the recommendation of the National Judges Officer;
5.5.9 To determine the prizes awarded at the annual Championship Show;
5.5.10 To make the appointment of the most suitable National Editor, National Ringmaster, National Webmaster and National Youth Representative from nominations received from regions;
5.5.11 To lay down guidelines and make recommendations to the AGM, for the better functioning of and development of the image of the Association.
5.5.12 The EC may delegate any of it's functions to a committee of it's members and may terminate or amend such delegation at any time. Experts may also be co-opted for special projects.

5.6 The EC is required to report annually on provisions 5.5.1 until 5.5.12 to the AGM.

**5.7 Meetings of the Executive Committee:**

5.7.1 The EC meets in the beginning of each year, as well as before and after the AGM. The latter two (2) EC meetings will consequently take place during the Championship Show.
5.7.2 Fourteen (14) days' notice of the time, date and place of EC meetings must be given to each committee member.
5.7.3 Three (3) or 20% (rounded up to the nearest uper number) members of the EC forms a quorum.
5.7.4 If any member is absent from three consecutive EC meetings, without prior apology to the National Secretary, his membership of the EC will be automatically terminated.
5.7.5 The National Secretary must keep a record of all the meetings of the EC. These minutes will not be published unless the EC decides otherwise.
5.7.6 Where a serious matter needs to be dealt with extremely urgently, EC members may cast a vote by e-mail, fax, on the Internet or any other recognised social media platform subject to confirmation by the next AGM. If a majority of EC members support the proposal, it may be implemented. However, such a decision may not be to amend or delete an existing constitutional article. It may only be taken in performance of the responsibilities in terms of the constitution. The decision must be recorded in the minutes of the next EC meeting.

**6 ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:**

6.1 The nomination, qualification and election of members of the EC, excluding Regional Representatives, will take place in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the AGM.

6.2 Honorary Officers:

6.2.1 Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents may be nominated. The posts of Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents are honorary posts and their incumbents have no executive powers.

6.2.2 Past and current outgoing National Presidents of the Association are eligible for nomination as an Honorary President. If any Honorary President is re-elected or appointed to the Executive Day Committee, they lose their honorary position.

6.2.3 Persons who have distinguished themselves within their Regions are eligible for the nomination of Honorary Vice President.

6.2.4 No person who has not been an uninterrupted member of the Association for at least fifteen (15) years is eligible for nomination as Honorary President or Honorary Vice-President and any such nomination is subject to approval by the EC before such application is submitted to the AGM for ratification.

## 7 HONORARY AWARDS:

7.1 In order to reward members for dedicated and exceptional contribution to the Association, for the realisation of it's objectives and for the smooth running of it's administration, colours of honour may be awarded at regional and national level as well as any other honourary or long-service awards.

7.2 The requirements to be met regarding the honorary awards that will be made will be made in accordance with the rules.

## 8 MEETINGS:

### 8.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM):

8.1.1 An AGM must be held every year during the Championship Show.

8.1.2 At least fourteen (14) days notice of the AGM must be given by means of "The Fancy Pigeon", or any recognized social / communication forum to members.

8.1.3 Matters that must be discussed, ratified and approved by the AGM, are the following:

8.1.3.1 All annual and financial reports.

8.1.3.2 Any matter that appears on the agenda.

8.1.3.3 Any other matter which the National President may permit, subject to the prescriptions for amendments of this constitution.

8.1.4 The minimum quorum for any meeting within the SAFPA context, i.e. Specialist Club meetings, Regional meetings and other meetings at National level is the largest of three (3) members or 20% of the members of the Specialist Club, Region or any other grouping within the SAFPA, rounded up to the nearest uper number.

### 8.2 Special General Meeting:

8.2.1 The least of twenty five (25) or 15% of the members of the Association (rounded up to the nearest uper number) may request a special meeting, by making a written request to both the National Secretary and the National President.

8.2.2 The matters for discussion at such special meeting must be clearly set out in the request and the request must reach the National Secretary and National President at least sixty (60) days before the proposed date of the meeting.

8.2.3 The National Secretary shall ensure that the matters for discussion are published at least thirty (30) days before such meeting.

8.2.4 The National President and National Secretary will determine the time and place where the special meeting will be held.

**8.3 Decision-Making:**

8.3.1 Except in the case of an amendment to the constitution, and election of office-bearers, decisions will be taken by a majority vote of the members present at all meetings.

8.3.2 Only two (2) members of a partnership may participate in decision-making, on the provision that no natural person shall have more than one (1) vote, regardless of the fact that he may be a member of multiple partnerships.

8.3.3 School partnerships have only one (1) vote, through a representative who must be appointed by the school.

8.3.4 Amendments to the constitution can only be made with a two-thirds (⅔) majority of votes of members present at the AGM. Notice of any proposed amendment to the constitution must reach the National Secretary at least sixty (60) days before the meeting and such proposed amendments must be published in "The Fancy Pigeon" at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.

8.3.5 No amendments may be made to the constitution which would result in the Association ceasing to continue to exist.

8.3.6 The National President shall have a common and a decisive vote at all meetings.

8.3.7 Members who serve on the Executive Day Committee and are also hisr region`s Regional Representative have two (2) votes that may differ from each other.

**8.4 Minutes:**

8.4.1 Minutes of all Special Member Meetings, Annual General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings of the Association must be held by the National Secretary. Any member shall have the right to inspect the Association’s records at any reasonable time, by following the necessary legislation requirements.

8.4.2 The minutes of the AGM must be published in "The Fancy Pigeon" or sent to members on any recognized social / communication forum.

8.4.3 Minutes of the July EC Meetings must be distributed to all EC members before the end of September.

**9 FINANCE AND ASSETS:**

9.1 The annual membership fee is payable on 1 January of each year.

9.2 Membership fees are determined annually at the AGM.

9.3 New members will be liable for the payment of an entry fee as determined by the AGM from time to time.

9.4 New members who join SAFPA before 30 June, pay the full membership fee, while those who join after 30 June pay only 50% of it.

9.5 A bank and/or other account must be operated in the name of the Association. This account(s) will be jointly managed and controlled by two members of the EC, or a member of the EC and an ordinary member of SAFPA, assigned by the EC.

9.6 Any profits made by the Association shall be used solely for the achievement of it’s purposes set forth herein and no portion of such profits shall be distributed among members, or paid out to any other person.

9.7 The financial year of the Association runs from 1 January to 31 December. Regions and Specialist Clubs may have other year-ends.

9.8 The EC must appoint a registered Auditor to audit the financial accounts of the Association annually and to prepare the financial year-end statements of the Association.

9.9 The Association's Financial Statements and Auditor's Reports must be available and submitted to the Director of Non-Profit Organisations within six (6) months of the financial year-end.

9.10 If the Association wishes to invest funds, they may only be invested with a registered financial institution, as listed in clause 1 of the Financial Institutions Act, 1984. The Association may also acquire bonds listed on a licensed exchange, as set out in the Exchange Control Act, 1985.

9.11 The Association will be liable for the payment of reasonable expenses, incurred by members of the Executive Day Committee for attending special meetings, the EC meeting early in the year and Executive Day Committee meetings. The decision to determine what expenses can be considered reasonable, is made by the full EC.

9.12 Should the Association be dissolved, all such assets of the Association remaining after settlement of it's obligations will be transferred to another Association or Associations that have objectives similar to those of the Association. The Association can only dissolve if two-thirds of the members present at a meeting, specially convened for this purpose, vote in favour of it.

9.13 The Association may not give any of its money or property to any of its members or office-bearers, except as reasonable compensation for work done for the Association, or as reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.

9.14 The Association must keep an inventory of everything it owns.

## 10 COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING:

### 10.1 Regions:

10.1.1 The Association operates on a regional basis. Proposals for merger or secession of Regions must be submitted to the EC. It must then submit it's finding to the AGM for approval.

10.1.2 The following office bearers must be elected to the board of a Regional Committee: President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer, Show Manager, Judges Officer, and at least one additional member. Although individuals may be elected to more than one position, a Regional Committee must consist of at least five (5) members. The President must be the Regional Representative. These office bearers must be elected at an AGM or special meeting of a Region.

10.1.3 Regions are entitled to elect persons to the honorary offices of Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice-Presidents on the basis of their particular contributions to the Region in question, over a long period of time. The offices of Honorary Presidents and Honorary Vice Presidents do not have executive powers.

10.1.4 Regional Committees are responsible for organizing the activities, and building on the image, of the Association on a regional basis.

10.1.5 Regional Committees are accountable to the EC for the way in which the Region's affairs are handled. The EC has power to investigate the state of affairs in any region. Annual financial statements, copies of bank statements and asset registers must be submitted to the National Treasurer within sixty (60) days from 31 December of each year.

10.1.6 Regions' bank accounts must be in the name of the Region and not in an individual's name. Regions that cannot comply with this must deposit their fees in the SAFPA's official bank account.

10.1.7 Regions may submit topics for discussion for the agenda of the AGM as well as the EC meeting (which takes place at the beginning of the year) to the National Secretary of the Association by means of minutes of the regional AGM. Such minutes must be submitted before 31 December of the year preceding the meeting. Regions' AGM minutes must contain a specific heading under which such discussion points are specifically minuted.

10.1.8 Regions' constitutions and rules may not be in contradiction with the SAFPA's constitution and rules.

10.1.9 Each Region is vested with legal personality and may litigate in it's own name. All assets collected by a Region are the property of the Region in question and each Region is responsible for paying it's own debts. The Association is not liable for any debts incurred by a Region.

10.1.10 Upon the merger of two or more Regions, the existing managements must be dissolved and a new management elected. All the assets of the affected Regions must be merged under the control of the newly elected management, who must submit copies of the bank statement and the asset register to the National Secretary and the National Treasurer within ninety (90) days of the date of the merger, together with a report by the Regional President on the functioning of the Region.

10.1.11 Upon dissolution of a Region, all assets of the Region, after the liabilities have been paid, must be held in trust by the EC for a period of two (2) years. If a new Regional Committee is established for the area in question within the period of two (2) years, these assets must be transferred by the EC to the newly established Region. If this does not happen, the assets will be passed to the Association.

**10.2 Specialist Clubs:**

10.2.1 Specialist Clubs may be established to promote the quality of specific breeds. This is subject to conditions and procedures laid down from time to time by the EC or it's committees, and must be complied with before such Club may be formed.

10.2.2 All members of Specialist Clubs must be members of the Association. The constitution and rules of these Clubs shall not conflict with the constitution and rules of the Association.

10.2.3 Specialist Clubs are accountable to the Association. The Executive Day Committee shall at any time have the right to initiate an investigation into the state of any Specialist Clubs affairs, its bank accounts and all registers.

10.2.4 Specialist Clubs bank account must be in the name of the Specialist Club and not in an individual's name. Specialist Clubs that cannot comply with this must deposit their money into the SAFPA's official bank account.

10.2.5 Specialist Clubs are responsible for their own funds and pay their own debts. Such Clubs will handle, care for and engrave their own trophies. The Association is not liable for any of the Specialist Clubs debts.

10.2.6 Specialist Clubs are entitled to appoint their own judges for the Championship Show. They must inform the National Judgeing Officer accordingly as per directions provided in the rules.

10.2.7 Upon the dissolution of a Specialist Club, all the assets of the Club, after payment of all debts, must be held in trust by the EC for a period of two (2) years. If a similar Club is

formed within the period of two (2) years, the EC must transfer these assets to the newly formed Club. If this does not happen, the assets will be passed to the Association.

**10.3 Liaison and Advertising:**

10.3.1 The Vice-President is responsible for advertising of the Association in his Region. The person must produce an advertising report at the Region's AGM. The report must be sent to the National Secretary together with the Region's AGM minutes.

10.3.2 If any of a region's office bearers are unable to attend any of the Association's meetings, the Regional Committee of such Region may designate a person in writing to represent the Region at the relevant meeting.

**10.4 Judges Forum (JF):**

10.4.1 The JF functions under delegated power of the EC, and is subject to the constitution and rules of the SAFPA.

10.4.2 The JF must ensure that a feasible system for judging as well as training and grading of judges is maintained.

10.4.3 The Executive Committee of the JF shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary and such other person or persons as the Judges' Forum may determine at it's AGM. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman must both be qualified judges.

10.4.4 All qualified judges are automatically members of the JF, provided they are paid-up members of the SAFPA.

10.4.5 The members of the JF elect the forum's Chairman every three (3) years. This Chairman holds the position of National Judges Officer on the Executive Committee of the Association. If he is unable to attend an EC meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the JF must attend on his behalf.

10.4.6 The Regional Judges Officer represents his Region on the JF. This person must be a qualified judge.

10.4.7 The functioning of the JF is determined by the members of the Judges' Forum. Amendments must be approved by the EC of the Association.

**10.5 The Hall of Fame: Electronic Medium Through the Internet:**

10.5.1 An electronic medium (website) will be maintained on the Internet and kept up to date. It serves as marketing for the South African Fancy Pigeon Association.

10.5.2 As an integral part of the website, all historical memorabilia, events and meritorious contributions or achievements of members and/or their pigeons will be recorded and preserved. This part of the webpage will be known as the Hall of Fame.

10.5.3 The Association will be responsible for the costs associated with the domain and Internet Server Provider. If the National Webmaster is a SAFPA member, the Association will also be responsible for normal maintenance costs. If the Webmaster is an external contracted person, normal maintenance will form part of his contractual obligations for which he is compensated.

**11 SHOWS:**

11.1 The Association must host a Championship Show each year by nominating a region to do so. The Region will be nominated by the EC from applications received from Regions. The EC can appoint a committee to host the Championship Show on their behalf if no applications have been received from regions.

11.2 The EC will announce their decision at the AGM.

11.3 Subject to the supervision and directives of the EC, the Region to which the Championship Show is awarded is responsible for the proper presentation and organisation of the Show.

11.4 At any Show of the Association, the Show Manager of the host Region must ensure that all the show rules of the Association are adhered to.

11.5 The Region hosting the Championship Show is entitled to receive all revenue and is responsible for all expenses.

11.6 Regional Committees can organize local shows and pigeon days and award special prizes at their discretion.

11.7 Specialist Clubs may organize shows, provided they do not interfere with the Championship Show or any Regional Show.

11.8 Dates of Regional- and other SAFPA shows are determined at the EC meeting held after the SAFPA AGM and approved at the next January/February EC meeting. Regions that want to deviate from approved dates or want to cancel shows must obtain permission from the EC.

11.9 The National Secretary must ensure that there are no date clashes between shows from neighbouring Regions or Specialist Clubs, as well as publish all show dates in the newsletter.

11.10 Only fully paid members of the Association will be allowed to display pigeons at official shows of the Association.

**12 RINGS:**

12.1 Rings must be ordered from the National Ringmaster. Proof of payment must accompany the order. Ring prices as well as postage on it are fixed annually at the AGM.

12.2 The National Ringmaster must ensure that ordered rings for the new breeding season are shipped annually on 1 December or as soon as possible thereafter.

12.3 Full record of the rings issued must be kept by the National Ringmaster.

12.4 No member may provide rings to a non-member of the Association.

12.5 A member who provides rings to a fellow member must immediately provide full details of the total, size and ring numbers to the National Ringmaster, who must adjust the records accordingly.

**13 THE FANCY PIGEON:**

13.1 A newsletter, "The Fancy Pigeon", is the official mouthpiece of the Association. Where this constitution requires an official notice to be given, publication of such information in "The Fancy Pigeon" or any recognized social/communication forum will be considered sufficient notice.

13.2 The AGM determines how often "The Fancy Pigeon" will be published.

13.3 If a member has not renewed his membership fee by 31 January of the year or has made arrangements (as approved annually in the budget) for payment of the membership fee with the National Ringmaster, the first (1st) issue of "The Fancy Pigeon" in the new year will be the last copy he will receive. If a member renews his membership fees at a later date, he will not be entitled to any of the copies he has forfeited in the meantime.

**14 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE:**

14.1 If any member acts contrary to any provision of this constitution or any rule, or is guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the EC, is to the detriment of the Association, the EC or AGM may terminate his membership, or impose on him another appropriate sentence. The degree of severity, and the extent to which the Association has been harmed, must be taken into account at the trial and sentencing. A member whose membership has been terminated forfeits his membership fees.

14.2 The decision of the EC or AGM is final. If the person has been sentenced by the EC, he can appeal to the AGM, and the decision of the EC can be overturned or confirmed by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote. If the decision of the EC is confirmed, the sanctions against the member will take effect immediately.

14.3 Where a charge has been lodged against a member, the EC, or in urgent cases, the Executive Day Committee, will have the power to suspend the member, pending the conclusion of a disciplinary investigation against the person.

14.4 No member whose membership has been terminated by the EC or AGM may become a member of the Association again unless he applies in writing to the National Secretary for re-admission. The EC must first recommend re-admission, before the AGM approves or rejects the application by a two-thirds (⅔) majority.

14.5 If the continued membership of one member of a partnership becomes undesirable and terminated, the remaining member remains on as an individual member; or the remaining members remain on as a partnership, without payment of additional membership fees.

**15 LIABILITY:**

15.1 The Association is vested with legal capacity and may sue or be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction in it’s own name. The National Secretary shall accept service of any proceeding and, if authorized to do so by the AGM, sign all powers of attorney that may be necessary for the purposes of a proceeding.

15.2 No member is liable in any way for any of the Association’s debts, unless they arise from his intentional and unlawful actions.

15.3 Members are indemnified by the Association for any costs that a member may incur as a result of any claim against or in connection with the Association, which does not arise from his intentional and unlawful actions.

**16 EFFECTIVE DATE:**

16.1. This constitution becomes effective on 11 July 2025 and supersedes all previous versions.

**Chris de Bruin**
**National President**
**11 July 2025**

**Gerhard van Aswegen**
**National Secretary**
**11 July 2025**