

GULF COAST HOMING CLUB, INC.(GHC)

DRUG TESTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

PREFACE

The purpose of these drug testing policies and rules is to protect the welfare of our avian athletes and to maintain fair competition among all GHC flyers. The GHC has adopted a zero tolerance drug policy, meaning any level of a banned or illegal performance enhancing substance detected on a drug test will constitute a positive test and result in punitive action by the club. No banned performance enhancing substances may be administered to the racing pigeons at any time. The handler/flyer of any racing pigeon(s) testing positive for a banned substance will at all times be responsible for the drug testing results. A GHC flyer may designate another individual to handle his birds and crates and to monitor the drug testing procedure, but that individual must be a GHC member. It is every flyer's (or designee) responsibility to monitor his birds and shipping crates on the GHC premises as well as witness the testing procedure if his birds are selected for testing. All GHC flyers must agree, in writing, to allow drug testing of any birds handled by them at any time of the year. Any member not agreeing to have drugs tests conducted will be banned from competing in any GHC race.

DRUG COMMITTEE

The GHC Drug Committee is responsible for developing the GHC Drug Policy and Procedures and associated test forms and to inform the members of any updates via email or the GHC website. The Drug Committee shall consist of 5 GHC members. The chairman is appointed by the club President at the annual meeting. The Drug Committee chairman will select 4 other members to complete the committee. All committee members will serve for one year. All drug testing shall be at the direction of and conducted by the GHC Drug Committee. The GHC President may order the testing of birds owned or handled by a Drug Committee member.

It shall be the responsibility of the Drug Committee to conduct the drug testing to assure the pigeons are free of any banned or prohibited performance enhancing drugs as listed on the GHC banned drug list. The list is primarily but not limited to those substances on the KBDB Red List posted on the GHC website. Every member must be aware the list is not exhaustive and that any drug or substance that has the same or similar chemical structure or biological effect as a drug or substance on the list is also prohibited. The list may be updated at any time and any changes will take effect 30 days after the members are notified.

The Drug Committee chairman is responsible for assigning committee members to help conduct the drug tests. The Drug Committee will decide which, how, and when GHC flyers are to be tested for the regular and sprint series GHC races as well as random loft testing. For all GHC special races, drug testing and which flyers or birds to be tested will be at the discretion of the race chairman of each special race.

TESTING RULES

The drug testing sample will be feces, feathers, or blood. Testing may be conducted prerace, postrace, or randomly at any time the committee deems necessary. Test samples may be taken from the lofts, individual birds, or transport containers of the club members. It is every member's responsibility to ensure their transport containers are free from any trace of banned substances. Containers used for transporting birds to the club for shipping any race conducted by the GHC shall be clean and not contain any bedding material. (e.g.: shavings, straw, shredded paper, etc.) Clean paper lining the bottom of the container is acceptable.

Drug testing at the GHC clubhouse will be in a designated testing area. No food or drinks will be allowed in the drug testing room. A flyer may designate another GHC member to handle and monitor his birds and shipping crates during the testing process, but the flyer/handler is fully responsible for the results attained. It is every flyer's responsibility, or his designee, to monitor and safeguard his crates against outside contamination. If a sufficient quantity of droppings is not obtainable in a flyer's crates for prerace testing, that flyer will be requested to bring a designated number of birds to the club for postrace testing. It is the responsibility of each flyer to maintain control and observation of his birds and to observe the testing procedure at all times during the entire drug testing process.

The birds selected for drug testing shall be taken to the designated testing area where at least two drug committee members shall obtain the necessary samples. If two drug committee members are not available to collect the samples, a member of the Board of Directors may fill the role. The pigeon flyer (or his designee) and the drug committee members are the only individuals allowed in the drug testing room during drug testing.

TESTING PROCEDURE

For both droppings and feather testing, the samples will be collected using sterile gloves, sterile containers, and sterile tongue depressors or other sterile device. Every effort will be made by the drug committee to maintain the integrity and sterility of the testing process. All samples collected shall be in the presence of the handler or designee.

Pigeons to be droppings tested will be placed by their handler (or designee) at the direction of the overseeing committee members in a labeled, clean cage prepared with clean paper underneath. The pigeons will remain in the cages until a sufficient quantity of feces is obtained at the committee's discretion from the birds or the flyer's shipping crates or both. The pigeons will be removed from the cages by the flyer or designee.

Pigeons selected for feather testing will be handled by the handler or designee as directed by a drug committee member for feather collection.

Any flyer refusing to cooperate with the testing protocol or attempts to disguise or manipulate the testing will be assumed guilty and face punitive action.

The collected fecal or feather samples will be placed in a sterile, sealable container and immediately labeled and sealed with tamper evident tape. The handler (or designee) must sign or initial the container and the lab submission form. The sample compliance form must also be signed or initialed by each flyer (or designee) being tested to indicate their accuracy and compliance with the rules. A copy of each will be given to each flyer.

Any complaints by the pigeon flyer being tested about the testing procedure or sampling process must be done at the time of testing. The complaint will be taken up by the Drug Committee. No complaints will be entertained once the sample compliance form is signed.

PRERACE, POSTRACE, RANDOM TESTING

PRERACE TESTING

For prerace testing, members chosen to be drug tested will be notified upon arrival at the club and immediately placed at the front of the entry line. After scanning their entries, the member will immediately take his shipping crates to the drug testing area for sampling. The member (or designee) will be asked to sign or initial the specimen container, the lab submission form and the sample compliance form. If a flyer refuses to sign the forms, and all protocol has been met, that flyer will be disqualified from that particular race and will face punitive action by the Drug Committee and Board of Directors. If a flyer refuses prerace testing, he will be assumed guilty and face punitive action by the Drug Committee and Board of Directors.

POSTRACE TESTING

Notification of postrace drug testing will be via the GHC website, email, and voice recording on the GHC club telephone the morning of the race date. It is every flyer's responsibility to check those sites on race day for notifications about drug testing. It is every flyer's responsibility to bring the designated pigeons to the club for testing within the designated reporting time. If a flyer reports for a race and fails to bring his birds that are designated to be tested, he will be disqualified from that particular race and face punitive action. If a flyer clocks race birds and fails to report for postrace drug testing, the flyer will face punitive action by the Drug Committee and Board of Directors.

RANDOM TESTING

Random drug testing may occur anytime. The Drug Committee may order the testing of individual birds, shipping crates, or sample collection from a flyer's loft. Failure of a flyer to comply with the Drug Committee's request will result in punitive action by the Drug Committee and Board of Directors.

POST SAMPLING AND RESULTS

After any drug testing, the sealed samples will be immediately packaged in a sealable shipping bag (e.g. FedEx Pak). The sealed shipping bag will have tamper evident labels placed across the opening, signed and dated by each flyer being tested. The sealed shipping bag will be placed in a mail bag that will be secured with a numbered zip tie security tag. All flyers being tested may take a picture of the tamper evident label and security seal to compare at the time of mailing. If the samples cannot be mailed the same day as collected, they will be stored in a locked refrigerator at the club for shipment to the drug testing laboratory at the soonest available mailing. A Drug Committee member shall mail the sealed samples with at least one member being tested witnessing the mailing. If no flyers being tested are available to witness the

mailing, a Board of Director member shall witness the mailing. A receipt shall be obtained indicating the date and time of the shipping and this document shall be retained by the Drug Committee chairman. The names and signatures of the drug committee member shipping the sample and the witness or witnesses to the mailing shall be indicated on the receipt.

When the results of the drug tests are received from the laboratory, the flyer's being tested will be notified of the results within 5 business days. The drug test results will be posted in the GHC clubhouse in a pass/fail fashion.

Should the test results reveal the presence of prohibited performance enhancing drugs or substances, the handler/owner shall be notified in writing or via email to appear before the Drug Committee and Board of Directors within 10 business days for an appeal and/or explain the findings. Medical treatment shall not be used as justification for a positive result. Pigeons treated medically with banned substances cannot be mixed with competing race birds in the loft. If said flyer does not appear before the Drug Committee and Board of Directors, the committee will assume the flyer does not wish to discuss the findings and will proceed accordingly. The Drug Committee and Board of Directors shall review the facts of the case and render a decision within 5 business days after that meeting. All decisions by the Drug Committee and Board of Directors will be final and not subject to any appeals. Any decision will not be subject to any legal proceedings against the GHC club, GHC members, Board of Directors, or Drug Committee members.

PENALTIES

The penalty for the first offense will include forfeiture of all prizes, monies, honors, and club awards associated with the entire race season, along with immediate suspension from all activities of the club for one year and a day. Also, the flyer will not be allowed to enter any money races as a flyer or breeder for 2 years following his return to competition as an active flyer.

The penalty for the second offense will include forfeiture of all prizes, monies, honors, and club awards associated with the entire race season and immediate permanent expulsion from the GHC.

If any disciplinary action is taken against a handler involving the GHC Classic race or any Florida series race and there is no evidence presented showing the breeder's involvement, a free entry shall be given the breeder in the next scheduled similar event for each disqualified bird that was eligible for a prize.