

Union Policy on Prohibited Substances in Racing Pigeons

Policy Number: AU 400-25

Last Revision: October 2025

The American Racing Pigeon Union (Union) has a Zero Tolerance Policy.

The Union has determined that the administration of performance-enhancing substances, or any substance harmful to racing pigeons, is banned. Reasons include:

- The destructive effect such substances have on fair competition.
- The potential harm to racing pigeons' health and welfare.
- The negative impact on member participation and the integrity of the sport.

This policy ensures fair competition, protects animal welfare, promotes good husbandry, and upholds the Union's authority over all Union-sanctioned races.

Members are responsible for educating themselves about current prohibitions. If there is any doubt, members should consult the product manufacturer or a licensed veterinarian before administering any substance.

400.1 Zero Tolerance for Prohibited Substances

- No Union member shall administer, or attempt to administer, any performance-enhancing or harmful substance to a racing pigeon at any time.
- No racing pigeon entered in competition in a Union-sanctioned race may contain or show the presence of any prohibited substance.

400.2 Adoption of Testing Program

- Any Union-chartered organization choosing to drug test pigeons in a Union-sanctioned race must:
 - Adopt a drug testing protocol in their bylaws before testing begins. All members must be informed of this protocol.
 - Union-chartered organizations pay all expenses related to testing.

400.3 Disciplinary Actions

Disputes concerning drug-related infractions shall be addressed at the club level. Each affiliated club shall be responsible for investigating and resolving these matters according to its internal procedures, which should adhere to the principles of fairness and due process.

- Clubs and organizations may take disciplinary action based on their test results without prior submission to the Union National Office.
- The Union does not require prior notification before affiliated organizations take disciplinary actions in races under Union jurisdiction.
- The Union may choose to review disciplinary actions if they affect national awards, Union records, or the right of a member to participate in future Union-sanctioned races.

400.4 Races Outside Union Authority

- This policy does not apply to races outside Union authority.
- While the Union may not have jurisdiction over non-sanctioned races, affiliated organizations may adopt rules that extend Zero Tolerance standards to those races.

400.5 Due Process and Fairness

- All drug testing protocols must guarantee due process and uphold the principle of “innocent until proven guilty.”
- Organizations must adopt and enforce protocols with diligence, fairness, chain of custody and consistency.

400.6 Protection of the Sport

The Union affirms that this Zero Tolerance Policy protects:

- **Fair competition** in all Union-sanctioned races.
- **Pigeon welfare and health** by banning harmful substances.
- **Good husbandry** practices required of all members.
- The **culture and integrity** of pigeon racing for future generations.

400.7 Limitations on AU Involvement

- The AU will not be responsible for investigating or enforcing drug testing protocols.
- The AU will not determine guilt or innocence.
- The AU will not be responsible for any legal or any other incurred costs by a member or club.

400.8 National Disclaimer of Liability and Jurisdiction

The American Racing Pigeon Union (AU) operates as a national membership organization that provides general guidance and support to affiliated clubs. The AU does not govern, administer, or enforce race-specific anti-doping policies. All decisions regarding testing, enforcement, and disciplinary action are the sole responsibility of the affiliated clubs/organizations.

AU expressly disclaims any legal or financial liability for actions taken by clubs or individual members in connection with anti-doping enforcement, including but not limited to: testing protocols, result handling, communication of outcomes, appeals, and sanctions.

AU will not be a party to any dispute arising from club-level enforcement, nor shall it be responsible for investigating or adjudicating any such matter. Each club is autonomous and responsible for ensuring due process and compliance with relevant state or local regulations. Furthermore, AU does not publicly share or endorse disciplinary actions.