



## TCSA CONSTITUTION

### **1. NAME**

This Club shall be called 'The Trails Club of South Africa' or more simply 'The Trails Club'. It is recorded that the Club was founded on 27 March 1983.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of this Club shall be:

2.1. To organise and carry out wilderness activities for members and visitors.

The chief activity will be hiking along trails and footpaths, climbing peaks and 'kloofing'. This will be supplemented by such other complementary activities as the Committee may from time to time deem to be suitable.

2.2. To promote conservation, both by word and deed, of our natural (indigenous) and historical environment, which will include the protection of indigenous flora, fauna, soil, water and buildings of historical significance, especially those in wilderness areas.

2.3. To communicate with and support similar organisations such as The Mountain Club of South Africa, Wildlife Society, Botanical Society, Department of Environmental Affairs and so on.

2.4. To promote the fitness and health of members through their participation in the Club's outdoor activities.

2.5. To promote friendship and fellowship among members of the Club and others with an interest in wilderness and especially hiking activities.

2.6. To act in a responsible fashion in the wilderness with an emphasis on safety of members, and to respect the land and property of the landowners on whose ground we hike.

### **3. MEMBERS**

#### **3.1. Application for membership**

An applicant for membership shall complete an application form on which he shall also undertake:

3.1.1. To abide by the Constitution and to uphold the aims and objectives of the Club, and

3.1.2. To absolve the Club and its members from any liability for loss or damage to his person or property whilst he is engaged in Club activities.

#### **3.2. Ordinary Members**

Shall consist of persons over 18 years of age. Applications for membership shall be considered by the Committee and applicants will be accepted as members only after approval by the Committee and payment of the initial subscription and entrance fee, if any.

#### **3.3. Life Members**

Members, of not less than two years' standing, who pay a lump sum, the amount of which shall be determined by the Committee from time to time, may become life members. In considering

an application for life membership, the Committee shall take into consideration, inter alia, such qualities as past service to the Club and the promotion of its objects and principles.

### **3.4. Honorary Members**

Persons who have rendered outstanding service to the Club may at the discretion of the members at the Annual General Meeting be elected Honorary Members. They shall not be required to pay subscriptions.

### **3.5. Junior Members**

Shall consist of persons between the age of 10 and 18 years. Applications for Junior Membership shall be considered by the Committee and applicants will be accepted as junior members only after approval by the Committee and payment of the initial subscription and entrance fee, if any. Junior members shall be only admitted on Trails Club activities, if accompanied and supervised by a responsible and consenting adult known by the junior member"

### **3.6. Termination Of Membership**

Membership of the Club shall terminate:

3.5.1. a) On resignation or death;

b) On failure to pay subscriptions within three months of due date; provided that a member in arrears may be reinstated at the discretion of the Committee upon payment of all arrears;

c) if, in the view of the Committee, a member is guilty of a breach of the Constitution or the aims and objectives of the Club, which may have the effect of harming the reputation of the Club.

3.5.2. Renewal of membership of the Club may be refused if, in the opinion of the Committee the behaviour and/or actions and/or attitude of a member are not in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Club. Any annual subscriptions already paid by such member for the year in respect of which membership has been refused, will be refunded in full by the Club to such member.

## **4. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

### **4.1. Annual Subscriptions**

4.1.1. All ordinary members shall pay to the Club an annual subscription at such rates as the Committee may from time to time prescribe.

4.1.2. Annual subscriptions shall cover a period coinciding with the financial year of the Club and shall be payable in advance.

### **4.2. Life Membership Subscriptions**

Life membership subscriptions shall be payable to the Club at such rate as the Committee may from time to time prescribe.

### **4.3. Increase In Subscriptions**

No subscriptions shall be increased by more than fifty percent (50%) during any one financial year, unless approved at a general meeting of the members.

### **4.4. Special Contributions**

Special contributions for the purposes of the Club may be invited from time to time.

## **5. FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Club shall end on 31 December.

## **6. MANAGEMENT**

6.1. The management of the Club shall rest solely with the Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and two additional members.

6.2. All members of the Committee shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election except for those members who have served on the committee for a continuous period of five years who shall not be eligible for re-election to the committee for a period of two years.

6.3. Any vacancies occurring at any other times may be filled by the Committee.

6.4. Three members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

6.5. No nomination of the Committee shall be accepted, unless the nominee has signified his willingness to accept office.

6.6. The Committee, at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, shall elect from among its members, a Vice-Chairman who shall chair in the absence of the Chairman.

6.7. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than three additional members.

6.8. Any Committee member absenting himself without leave from three consecutive meetings shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

6.9. The Committee shall have the power, from time to time, to appoint Sub-committees to undertake special duties and to report back to the main Committee. The Club Chairman shall, ex officio, be entitled to attend any Sub-Committee meeting.

6.10. The Committee shall have the power to create bye-laws to carry out the objectives of the Club, provided that such bye-laws are not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.

6.11. The Committee shall have the power, from time to time, to appoint members of the Club, not residing in Cape Town, to act as local Honorary Secretaries, and it shall be competent for any member of the Club to form, subject to the approval and confirmation of the main committee of the Club, a Local Section in any centre. When a Local Section comprises 20 or more members, it shall be deemed a branch, and such a Branch shall collect local subscriptions out of which an Affiliation Fee of 25 per cent of all annual subscriptions collected shall be paid to the Parent Body, the balance to be retained by the individual Branches for their administration.

6.12. The Committee shall have the power to purchase, lease, hire or legally acquire movable or immovable property, or access to such property in the name of the Club. The Committee may authorise two Committee members to sign documents for the purpose on behalf of the Club.

## **7. TRUSTEES**

All movable and immovable property of the Club shall be vested in the Chairman and Honorary Secretary as Trustees, who may sue and be sued on behalf of the Club.

## **8. GENERAL MEETINGS**

8.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on some day during the three months beginning on March 1st in each year, for the purpose of receiving the Chairman's Report and Financial Statement of the Honorary Treasurer, for the election of Office-Bearers and members of Committee for the ensuing year, and for considering other matters connected with the Club.

8.2. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote shall be decided by a show of hands, provided that it shall be competent for any member present and entitled to vote on such Resolution to call for a ballot. Every Resolution duly passed shall be binding upon every member of the Club.

8.3. The Honorary Secretary shall convene Special General Meetings of the Members by order of the Committee, or on receipt of a request signed by not fewer than ten Ordinary and/or Life Members.

8.4. Fourteen days' notice of any General Meeting shall be given to all members, and the notice of a Special General Meeting shall set out the purpose for which the meeting has been called.

8.5. Notice of any motion to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting shall be sent in writing to the Secretary on or before 1 March in each year. Any member entitled to vote on such motion who is unable to be present shall be entitled to vote thereon by proxy under his signature, such proxy to reach the Secretary not less than 24 hours before the Annual General Meeting. Only one proxy is allowed to be held by a Member.

8.6. Only fully-paid Ordinary and Life Members shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

8.7. Any change in the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of the Ordinary and/or Life Members present and entitled to vote at the General Meeting called for such a purpose.

8.8. Fifteen Ordinary and/or Life Members personally present and entitled to vote, shall constitute a quorum for any General Meeting.

## **9. INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION**

In case of doubt as to the meaning of any portion of this Constitution, the interpretation of the Committee shall be binding on all members.

*Amended 16.3.1990 & 28.6.1991 & 14.3.1997 & 9.5.2008*