

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. NAME OF THE CLUB

The name of the club shall be **THE MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB** hereinafter referred to as “the Club”.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Club are:

- 2.1 To promote hiking and backpacking activities.
- 2.2 To foster good relationships between hikers.
- 2.3 To promote nature conservation.
- 2.4 To train members in skills and competence for leading groups of hikers on trails.
- 2.5 To encourage the development of awareness of nature and respect for the environment.
- 2.6 To liaise and work with other hikers or backpacker clubs or associations.
- 2.7 To make recommendations for the improvement of facilities, trails, trail markers etc. for hikers and backpackers to nature conservation bodies.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to all persons from eighteen (18) years and older.
- 3.2 Application for membership shall be dealt with by the Management Committee or the Annual General Meeting of the Club and the Membership Manager shall maintain a register of all members.
- 3.3 Termination of membership shall occur:
 - 3.3.1 Three (3) months after the date on which the membership fee was due and unpaid.
 - 3.3.2 By decision of the Management Committee or the Annual General Meeting.
 - 3.3.3 By resignation and naturally, through the death of the members.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 4.1 Membership fees shall be determined by members at the Annual General Meeting and shall be reviewed annually.
- 4.2 Membership shall be categorized as follows:
 - 4.2.1 Ordinary member (above 18 years)
 - 4.2.2 Honorary member
- 4.3 Children under 18 can join club events for free when under supervision of any adult member.
- 4.4 Membership fees shall be paid to the Treasurer on the date of joining the Club and annually on 1 July, due date no later than 30 September.

5. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee shall be comprised of:

5.1 Composition:

- 6.1.1 The Chairperson

- 5.1.2 The Vice-Chairperson
- 5.1.3 The Secretary
- 5.1.4 The Treasurer
- 5.1.5 Fixtures Manager
- 5.1.6 Activities Manager
- 5.1.7 Membership Manager
- 5.1.8 Webmaster
- 5.1.9 Ordinary member
- 5.1.10 Ordinary member

5.2 Power and Duties:

The Management Committee shall be responsible for the due and proper functioning of the Club in all aspects including inter alia:

- 5.2.1 Carrying out the decisions of the AGM and the routine administration of the Club.
- 5.2.2 Representation of the Club at public level.
- 5.2.3 Accountability of the Club's finances and assets.
- 5.2.4 Responsibility for publications and publicity on behalf of the Club.
- 5.2.5 Operating a banking account in the name of the Club.
- 5.2.6 Delegating duties to other structures of the Club.
- 5.2.7 Liaison with other organizations.
- 5.2.8 Attending any meetings of the Club's affiliates at any time.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1 Annual General Meeting:
The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of July each year.
- 6.2 Special General Meeting.
The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting by direction of the Management Committee or on receipt of a request signed by not less than twenty (20) members within fourteen (14) days of receipt of such notice.
- 6.3 Management Committee Meeting:
The Management Committee shall meet on a regular basis on a date and at a time and venue determined by the Chairperson.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- 7.1 Election of Office Bearers shall take place annually.
- 7.2 Only Ordinary members shall be eligible for election.
- 7.3 Election shall be by a show of hands of those present and voting.
- 7.4 The Office Bearers shall be:
 - a) Chairperson
 - b) Vice-Chairperson
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Fixtures Manager
 - f) Activities Manager
 - g) Membership Manager
 - h) Webmaster

- i) Ordinary member
- j) Ordinary member

7.5 Additional members may be co-opted by the committee at any time of the year to replace resigning members or for a special purpose or project.

8. VOTING

- 8.1 Any member over the age of eighteen (18) years, shall have the right to vote.
- 8.2 Voting may be executed by a proxy in writing given only to another member of the Club by a member unable to be present at a meeting.

9. NOTICES OF MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

- 9.1 Notices of meetings shall be circulated to all members by the Secretary not later than the notice period specified herein.
- 9.2 Notices of meetings and agendas shall be emailed only to paid-up members at their last known email address.
- 9.3 The agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be determined by the Management Committee and shall include the following:
 - 9.3.1 Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
 - 9.3.2 Chairperson's Report
 - 9.3.3 Treasurer's Report and audited financial statements.
 - 9.3.4 Correspondence for attention.
 - 9.3.5 Amendments to Constitution (if any)
 - 9.3.6 Election of Office Bearers
 - 9.3.7 Any item requested for inclusion in the agenda by a member at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the AGM.

10. MEETINGS: NOTICE PERIOD

The notice period for meetings shall be as follows:

- 10.1 Annual General Meeting - 21 days
- 10.2 Special General Meeting - 14 days
- 10.3 Management Committee Meeting - 7 days

11. QUORUM

- 11.1 Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for Management Meetings.
- 11.2 Twenty (20) members, including the Management Committee, shall constitute a quorum for the Annual General Meeting and all Special General Meetings.

12. BANKING ACCOUNT

- 12.1 The Treasurer shall open a banking account for the Club in an approved financial institution.

- 12.2 The Treasurer and either the Chairperson or the Secretary shall operate the account and the Treasurer shall present a financial statement at all Management Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting
- 12.3 The financial year of the Club shall end on 30 June annually.

13. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED

Any matter not provided for herein shall be decided by the Management Committee.

14. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution shall only be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting. Any proposed amendments for consideration must reach the Secretary for submission to the AGM fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting.

15. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

The Club shall be dissolved at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, by not less than a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Upon dissolution all assets of the Club shall be transferred to any other club or association with similar aims and objectives.

16. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was originally adopted by the Annual General Meeting of the Club by more than a two-thirds majority of members present and voting on Wednesday, 4 August 1993.

RULES

1. Members of the Club shall adhere to all rules made by the Management Committee for the Club.
2. Members of the Club, and any accompanying children on an organized hike shall comply with all instructions of the principal leader and co-leaders of the group concerned.
3. All persons taking part in any Club activities do so entirely at their own risk and the Club and its Office Bearers shall be indemnified from any claims for losses, damages or injuries to any property or persons howsoever arising.

Revised 1 September 1993

Revised August 2001

Revised August 2002

Revised August 2015

Revised August 2019

Revised August 2023

Revised July 2024