

# COMEHIKE HIKING CLUB

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. Glossary of Terms

- 1.1 **ComeHike:** Hereunder referred to as 'the Club'.
- 1.2 **Member:** Any person being a paid up member of the Club.
- 1.3 **Committee:** The Club Committee duly elected according to this Constitution (refer to clause 7).
- 1.4 **Hike Leader:** A member of the Club that volunteers to organise or lead hikes or other activities in the name of the Club.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the Club are:

- 2.1 to promote hiking as a healthy and safe form of outdoor recreation for individuals and families;
- 2.2 to serve as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas relevant to safe hiking;
- 2.3 to provide Members with advice and up to date information regarding hiking routes, equipment and accessories;
- 2.4 to promote the Code of Conduct of the Club (see annexure A);
- 2.5 to provide a hiking calendar with social events as well as day and weekend hikes that will cater for the broad cross-section of Members; and
- 2.6 to provide alternative events, should advertised events be cancelled.

### 3. Membership

- 3.1 Application for membership must be made online in the prescribed format on the website: [www.comehike.co.za](http://www.comehike.co.za).
- 3.2 An annual subscription fee is payable, the amount to be determined by the Committee from time to time. The subscription fee must be paid on or before the last day of January, after which time membership will lapse.
- 3.3 Paid up Members will receive a membership card that must be produced on request of the hike leader.

- 3.4 The Committee may award honorary membership to Members and announce such awards at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 3.5 Honorary membership shall exempt such Members from payment of membership fees for the remaining period of their membership of the Club.
- 3.6 The criteria for awarding honorary membership shall be that the Member must have been in the service of the club for a cumulative period of fifteen (15) years, either as a member of the Committee or as a Hike Leader, or both. The Committee may also award life membership to any Member who has contributed to the running of the Club which, in their view, is significant enough to warrant the awarding of such honorary membership.

#### **4. Club Committee**

- 4.1 The Club Committee shall be elected at the AGM and shall comprise of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) additional Members.
- 4.2 The committee may co-opt as many members as are necessary to fill vacancies which arise upon the resignation of elected Committee members. The Committee may also co-opt up to three additional members to assist with special projects, duties or tasks.
- 4.3 Sub-committees may be appointed to assist with special projects, duties or tasks.
- 4.4 Both elected and co-opted Committee members shall be exempt from paying subscription fees and day walk fees and shall be deemed to be fully paid up members for their term.
- 4.5 Two (2) signatories shall be elected by the Committee after the AGM.
- 4.6 All sponsorship of Club hikes and events will be approved by the Club Committee prior to the hike or event.

#### **5. Disclaimer of liability**

- 5.1 The Club disclaims liability for and its members indemnify the Club against any liability of whatsoever nature arising in any way whatsoever during any hike, social function or any other activity of the Club.
- 5.2 This disclaimer of the Club and indemnity of members shall also apply in respect of transport to and from such activities of the Club.
- 5.3 This disclaimer and indemnity incorporates the terms of the indemnity form signed by members in respect of hiking activities and these terms are deemed to be read as if incorporated therein.

- 5.4 A copy of the indemnity form is attached as Annexure B to this Constitution.
- 5.5 The terms of this disclaimer and indemnity shall apply to Club members and visitors.

## **6. Annual General Meeting**

- 6.1 Written notice of an AGM will be given at least twenty one (21) days prior to the date of the meeting. The Club monthly newsletter may be used for this notification.
- 6.2 A quorum shall consist of the members present, who pass a motion that the business on hand can be successfully dealt with. All decisions taken shall be binding.
- 6.3 If the vote is not carried, the meeting will be postponed for one week and members will be given notice of such postponement. At such a postponed meeting all members present shall constitute a quorum. All decisions taken shall be binding.
- 6.4 The agenda shall comprise of the following:
1. Welcome and apologies
  2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
  3. Acceptance of minutes
  4. Matters arising from previous minutes
  5. Amendments to the Constitution
  6. Chairperson's Report
  7. Treasurer's Report
  8. Membership Report
  9. Acceptance of reports
  10. General (items to be handed in before the meeting commences)
  11. Election of new Committee
- 6.5 The election of the new Committee shall take place according to the procedure laid out in this Constitution (refer to clause 7).
- 6.6 The Chairman shall have an ordinary as well as a casting vote.

## **7. Election of the Club Committee**

- 7.1 An Electoral Officer will be appointed by the Committee prior to the meeting. He/she shall ensure that the laid down procedures are followed.
- 7.2 Only Members may vote and shall have one vote.
- 7.3 Members who cannot be present may vote by Proxy, which must be submitted, in writing and duly signed, to the Electoral Officer.
- 7.4 Members may be nominated in writing before the AGM or at the AGM. Such nominations must be seconded. Objections against any nomination shall be heard by the AGM.

7.5 The sequence of the election shall be as follows:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Additional Members

7.6 Should a portfolio remain unfilled, the Committee may co-opt a Member to fill such portfolio.

7.7 In the event of a voting tie, the Electoral Officer shall decide the outcome by the spin of a coin.

## **8. Committee Meetings**

8.1 Committee Meetings will take place at least quarterly or as decided by the Committee, from time to time.

8.2 A quorum shall be present, if those Committee members present decide that the business on hand can be successfully dealt with.

8.3 In the case of a tie in voting on an issue, the status quo shall remain.

## **9. Special General Meetings**

9.1 All requirements shall be as for an AGM, except that there shall be no Agenda and only the business on hand, for which the meeting was called, shall be dealt with.

## **10. Amendments to the Constitution**

10.1 A Committee meeting with all Committee Members present, may suggest amendments to the Constitution as they deem necessary and such amendments shall be presented, discussed, condoned or rejected, at the next AGM.

## **11. Termination of Club**

11.1 In the unlikely event of there being general consensus that the Club should be disbanded, a Special General Meeting must be called to confirm this and to decide what to do with the assets of the Club. These assets should be applied towards the furthering of hiking and, under no circumstances, for the benefit of any individual(s).

## 12. Hike Leaders

- 12.1 Hike Leaders shall be exempt from paying subscriptions, and shall be deemed to be fully paid up Members for the year in which they offer four or more hikes.
- 12.2 Hike Leaders may receive remuneration from the Club Treasurer for transport costs, telephone costs, permit and accommodation fees up to an amount set by the Club Committee each year.
- 12.3 Hike Leaders may not receive remuneration, discounts or free items from any organisation, company or individual to organise a hike or activity in the Club other than set out in 12.2. If any remuneration or discount is offered to a hike leader this should be divided equally among all Members participating in the hike or activity to reduce the overall cost of the hike or activity. If an item offered to the hike leader cannot be divided amongst the Members the hike leader should pay the Club the value of the item and divide the cost of the item between the Members participating in the hike or activity in order to reduce the overall cost.

## 13. Amendments

- 13.1 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 September 1998.
- 13.2 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 7 October 1999.
- 13.3 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 8 October 2008.
- 13.4 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 2012.
- 13.5 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 13 February 2019.
- 13.6 Amended at the Annual General Meeting held on 23 February 2022.

## 14. Signatories



24 February 2022

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**C F FORD  
CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**



24 February 2022

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**C B VAN ZYL  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATE**

*PKJW*

24 February 2022

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**L P KNIGHT  
SECRETARY**

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**DATE**