

EASTERN CAPE FALCONRY CLUB

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME OF THE CLUB

The name of the club is the **EASTERN CAPE FALCONRY CLUB** (hereafter referred to as “the club”).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The primary aim is the use and maintenance of suitable raptors in the pursuit of the sport of falconry and to hunt with such birds.
- 2.2 The club governs the taking, keeping, breeding and flying of these birds by members.
- 2.3 Assist and advise on rehabilitation of injured raptors.
- 2.4 Monitoring of the population status of raptors of wild raptors and publication of information.
- 2.5 Collation of information and close co-operation with the Department of Nature Conservation.
- 2.6 The establishment of a captive breeding programme. This need not be limited to species resident in the Cape Province. All wild raptors used in falconry remain the property of the state and as such do not belong to the member or the club. Any F1 progeny will be the property of the breeder and may be disposed of in prior consultation with the club and approval by Nature Conservation. The club does not encourage commercial trade in raptors, but members may receive reimbursement to cover breeding costs, and only after the approval from the club and the Department of Nature Conservation.
- 2.7 Any commercial falconry operation will adhere to guidelines as set out by the South African Falconers Association’s recommendations for commercial falconry, with approval by the club and nature conservation.
- 2.8 To serve as a source of advice and information. To act thereby as an extension for farmers. In this respect to liaise closely with conservation bodies.

3. CLUB YEAR

The club year shall run from the first day of January to the last day of December.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The membership shall consist of active ordinary members, associate members, and honorary members.

4.2 Each application shall be considered by the Committee. A majority objection shall exclude the applicant from the membership; the decision of the Committee shall be final.

4.3 All subscriptions shall become due and payable on the first day of January each year. The committee shall set the fees as is necessary. Members who fail to pay membership fees on time could have their membership terminated.

4.4 Members shall submit an annual report to the secretary and failing to do this could result in termination of membership.

5. ORDINARY MEMBERS

Paid up active and student members shall be entitled to one vote at general meetings. Associate members shall only receive such publications and newsletters sent to members. Associate members may rehabilitate raptors but may not keep birds for falconry purposes and may not exercise a vote. Ordinary members must reside in the Eastern Cape.

6. HONORARY MEMBERS

The committee shall have the power to invite suitable persons to become honorary members for a period at the discretion of the committee. Honorary members are exempt from subscription fees, and have no voting rights. They may make recommendations to the committee.

7. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

7.1 Failure to pay subscriptions: after three months from the due date of subscriptions payable the committee shall be entitled to deprive a member of membership.

7.2 Breach of conduct: Any member who is in breach of the Rules and Regulations of the club may be deprived of membership by

the committee, subject to the member having first been given 14 days notice to remedy such breach.

- 7.3 Any member who, in the opinion of the committee, has behaved in any manner detrimental to the good name of the club may be deprived of membership.
- 7.4 Any member whose name has been removed from the membership roll shall have the right to appeal at the next general meeting, provided that prior notice of such appeal shall be given to the secretary. The decision of the general meeting shall be taken by ballot and shall be final and binding.

8. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee shall be duly elected at the annual general meeting of the club and shall consist of the chairman, and secretary/treasurer and two committee members of at least B grading. Election shall be by vote of members at the annual general meeting. Term of office: one year.

9. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- 9.1 The committee shall direct and manage all the affairs of the club. The committee shall decide on a suitable venue for the annual general meeting. All members to be notified at least 14 days before the meeting.
- 9.2 The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings.
- 9.3 The committee may appoint other sub-committees to handle additional club activities.

10 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.

No amendment or addition to the constitution shall be made except at a general meeting. Proposals to amend or add to the constitution shall be in writing and signed by both proposer and seconder. The amendment or addition shall only be passed by a majority of two thirds of those entitled to vote and must be approved by the representative of nature conservation.

11 INTERPRETATION

In the event of doubt as to the meaning or interpretation of the constitution, the committee shall be the final arbiter and its decision shall be binding upon its members.

12 LIMIT OF LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The liability of members of the club is limited to the amount of their respective unpaid subscriptions.