

Constitution of the Gantouw Hiking Club

1. Name of Club

The name of the Club is Gantouw Hiking Club.



2. Founding

The Club was founded in 1977.

3. Definition

In this constitution:

- 3.1 Where referring to the male gender, the female gender will also apply, and when referring to the singular the plural will also apply and vice versa.
- 3.2 "Club" means the Gantouw Hiking Club.
- 3.3 "Member" means a fully paid-up member of the Gantouw Hiking Club.

4. Objectives

- 4.1 The Club objectives are to enhance membership and to ensure that all members benefit from the following privileges:
 - 4.1.1 To afford members the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of South Africa by arranging hikes in unspoilt areas.
 - 4.1.2 To achieve spiritual release through physical effort.
 - 4.1.3 To develop and maintain a love of outdoor life and nature.
- 4.2 The Club will attempt, through cooperative conservation:
 - 4.2.1 To assist in the promotion and expansion of the natural hiking system in South Africa to the public at large.
 - 4.2.2 To encourage its members to support nature conservation and to abide by the rules set by the conservation authorities.

5. Language of Communication

- 5.1 All official Club communication will be made available in English.
- 5.2 The Club will strive to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all language groups.

6. Composition of Management

- 6.1 Management will comprise of at least six members, including a chairperson, secretary and treasurer. Other duties to be assigned include membership administration, coordination of the hiking programme, and the organising of social functions.
- 6.2 Vacancies will be filled by co-option.
- 6.3 Four members will form a quorum at management meetings.
- 6.4 The chairperson has the overriding vote in the event of a tied vote.
- 6.5 The management will be elected annually.
- 6.6 After serving a three year period, the chairperson may not be re-elected, until a full year has lapsed.

7. Management Duties

- 7.1 To organize all hiking trips, camps and day walks.
- 7.2 To manage the funds of the Club.
- 7.3 To maintain control of purchases and expenses.
- 7.4 To maintain and enhance the interests of the Club.
- 7.5 To ensure the code of conduct is effected.
- 7.6 To approve and oversee all fundraising activities.
- 7.7 In the event of a dispute the management will decide on the interpretation of the constitution.

8. Control of Funds

- 8.1 Expenses must be approved and kept on record by management.
- 8.2 An account will be established in the Club's name at a bank as management deems fit.
- 8.3 Signing powers will be given to the chairperson, treasurer and one other management member.
- 8.4 Withdrawals must carry two management approvals.
- 8.5 A financial report and income statement must be provided at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Accountability

- 9.1 The Club will not acknowledge responsibility towards members regarding
 - 9.1.1 loss or damage to property,
 - 9.1.2 injury or death,
 - 9.1.3 claims of any nature whatsoever.
- 9.2 Members will be held accountable for payments of their cancelled bookings.

10. Membership

- 10.1 Aspirant members should complete at least one hike with the Club before application.
- 10.2 Visitors hike at their own risk and the Club will not be held responsible for any loss or injury.
 - 10.2.1 Visitors are subject to regulations of the Constitution and the Gantouw Hiker's Code of Conduct during hikes and any other Club activities.
 - 10.2.2 A daily tariff established at the Annual General Meeting must be paid by visitors for day hikes.
- 10.3 Membership fees:
 - 10.3.1 Membership fees are payable per person as determined at the Annual General Meeting.
 - 10.3.2 The fees as stated in 10.3.1 are payable on or before 31 January each year, or by a date decided on by Club management and communicated to members in advance.
- 10.4 The rights and privileges of members of the Club are to participate in all trips, camps and day walks organized by the Club, subject to logistic and safety restrictions agreed upon by the organisers and Club management.
- 10.5 Disciplinary Measures:

Members guilty of contravening the Constitution or Gantouw Hiker's Code of Conduct will be disciplined by the management as the management sees fit.
- 10.6 Membership will be discontinued in the following instances:
 - 10.6.1 Should membership not be paid promptly and in full as in terms of section 10.3.
 - 10.6.2 The management may discontinue the membership of any members at any time should they consider this to be in the interest of the Club.
 - 10.6.3 No monies are refundable to the member when membership is discontinued.

11. Annual General Meeting

- 11.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held each year during the month of February.
- 11.2 Written notification must be provided to members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- 11.3 The following matters will be addressed at the AGM:
 - 11.3.1 Previous year's minutes.
 - 11.3.2 Financial statement and report.
 - 11.3.3 Chairperson's report.
 - 11.3.5 Appointment of new management.
 - 11.3.6 General.
- 11.4 To form a quorum, ten club members, in addition to any members of Club management, must be present at the meeting.

12. Amendments to the Constitution

- 12.1 At a Club management meeting, with a majority of management members present, the management may propose amendments to the Club's constitution as they deem necessary.
- 12.2 Any such proposed amendments must be presented to the Club members for discussion and approval at the next AGM, or at a special meeting called for this purpose.
- 12.3 Written notification of the meeting and the proposed amendments, with opportunity for comment, must be provided to members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- 12.4 To form a quorum, ten club members, in addition to any members of Club management, must be present at the meeting.
- 12.5 Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by at least two thirds of the members present at the meeting.