

MCSA Cape Town Section

Guidelines For Applications For Financial Assistance For Expeditions

Sponsorship by the MCSA CT Section can only be considered in principle if the expedition complies with the following criteria:

1. The objectives of the expedition must fall within one or more of the following categories:
 - 1.1. The expedition's objective is to climb in and/or explore a remote mountain area.
 - 1.2. The expedition's objective is to attempt a new and/or significant route on rock, snow, or ice, where the preparations and logistics involved have the character of an expedition.
 - 1.3. The event has been organised by a Section of the MCSA or by Cencom with the intention to introduce new members to expeditions.
 - 1.4. The event will impart knowledge, skills, and experience to the participant(s), that they could not otherwise acquire within South Africa.

Events falling under the last category should preferably be supported by a training fund. Only if the training fund is unable to provide assistance may the expedition fund do so.

2. The applicants must be members of the CT Section, preferably for at least 2 years and be in good standing.

The expedition may include team members who are not members of our Section, but only members will be considered for sponsorship.

3. The expedition has a fair chance of success.
4. The expedition is not part of a commercial venture with paying clients.

The hiring of Sherpas, porters, liaison officers, and guides in line with a country's regulations or logistical requirements does not necessarily count as commercial.

5. The "**Application For Financial Assistance**" form has been filled in and submitted at least two months before the start of the expedition.

Only if the expedition complies with all items above should sponsorship be considered. If the expedition is eligible for sponsorship the following needs to be considered to determine an appropriate amount.

1. Uniqueness of the expeditions aims
 - 1.1. Is it a first ascent?
 - 1.2. Is it a new route?
 - 1.3. Is it a first of any kind for South Africans?
2. Benefit to the Club
 - 2.1. What is the value to expedition members in respect of gaining experience and skills?
 - 2.2. How much of this experience and skill is likely to be passed on to other Club members?
 - 2.3. What is the inspirational value of this expedition to other Club members and mountaineers?
 - 2.4. What are the applicants' records in terms of service to the Club?
3. Planning
 - 3.1. Is the expedition planned with the necessary care?
 - 3.2. Is there a reasonable chance of the expedition succeeding in its goals?
 - 3.3. Have safety factors been adequately considered?
4. Budgeting
 - 4.1. Does the budget seem realistic?
 - 4.2. If specialised equipment needs to be bought, could this be returned to the Club for future use by other members?

5. Do the expedition members have sufficient skill and experience to undertake the expedition goals?
6. Was the application received two months prior to departure?

Applications may be rejected on several grounds, including

1. Not meeting requirements as laid out above.
2. False or deception information in the application.
3. Incomplete information in the application.
4. Insufficient Club funds at the time.
5. Changes in expedition plans, objectives, or team members may result in a sponsorship being withdrawn. Such changes must be communicated to the Section.

The aim of the expedition fund is not to finance expeditions, but merely to show encouragement and approval by contributing a portion of the costs.

The Section has a number of other ways to show support for an expedition. These include the loan of special equipment, the writing of a letter of support that may improve the chances for the expedition members to obtain sponsorship elsewhere or of obtaining required permissions, and the wealth of experience of other Club members.

Allocated funds should be made available by the Section at a reasonably early time to enable the applicants to use these funds for the preparations of the expedition.