



## GENERAL RULES FOR HUTS AND CLUB PROPERTIES – DECEMBER 2023

**Club properties may be fully or partially owned by the Cape Town Section, or by the MCSA national body. In some instances access is governed by legally registered servitudes, and in others by informal arrangements with other landowners.**

**It is critical that you follow access arrangements for each hut or property to the letter, and behave courteously and with consideration for neighbouring landowners, and other members and guests, at all times.**

**The following general rules apply when using any of the Cape Town Section huts and properties.**

### **Fees**

1. Members may use huts and properties during daylight hours at no charge.
2. If a property (with no hut) specifically permits camping, members may do so free of charge, but all access procedures must be adhered to.
3. Charges are levied for using a hut overnight and for camping on hut grounds. These charges must be paid at the Cape Town Section office or by EFT before your visit.
4. Charges are determined by the General Committee and change from time to time.
5. Please check <http://www.mcsacapetown.co.za/access-properties/rules-bookings/> for the current fees for huts and properties.
6. Members who joined after December 2023 and who have not qualified for a hut key pay the same rate as guests.
7. Members are responsible for paying charges of the guests they introduce.

### **Authorisation**

8. Groups of more than eight people on a day or night visit must get authorisation from the Cape Town Section office or the relevant property Convenor.

## **Non-Members**

9. For daytime visits, an adult, Youth (17 – 24) or Student member may take up to four guests to a hut or property. For larger groups of guests, authorisation must be obtained from the relevant hut or property convenor.
10. For overnight visits to a hut, its grounds or a property, adult or Youth members *who have qualified for hut key privileges* may each bring one guest, within the overall guest limits for a booking. (Family/Child members, i.e. members' children under 17 *who have themselves been registered as members by their parents*, may not bring guests.) Authorisation must be obtained from the relevant hut or property convenor for larger groups.
11. Members must accompany their guests for the entire visit.
12. Members are responsible for any damage caused by their guests.

## **Register**

13. All members and guests must make correct and legible entries in the members' and non-members' registers immediately upon arrival at a hut or property, irrespective of the duration of the visit.
14. The entries must contain the following information:
  - a. Name and address of the member;
  - b. Number of days and nights to be spent in the hut or on the property;
  - c. Name of the MCSA section to which the member belongs;
  - d. Name of the member introducing a non-member.

## **Hut Key Privileges, and Qualifying Criteria**

15. All huts and some properties are accessed either by a single key and/or a combination lock. Combinations change from time to time. Please check with the Cape Town Section office before visiting any hut or property.
16. Before new members may obtain a key or a combination, they must meet the following qualifying criteria for hut key privileges:
  - a. Be a paid-up member of the Cape Town Section for at least one year;
  - b. Attend a "new members' social" at the Clubhouse;
  - c. Take part in at least one Conservation (hacking), Hut or property work meet *held at one of the Section's huts or properties*; and
  - d. Participate in additional Cape Town Section meets of other types (e.g. weekend or mid-week meets as listed on the Calendar; Community meets and social events do not qualify).

Upon meeting all the above criteria, a member may apply for hut key privileges by submitting a written motivation detailing their involvement to the Cape Town Section office, at [admin@mcsacapetown.co.za](mailto:admin@mcsacapetown.co.za).

17. Members with hut key privileges may not duplicate the key, lend it to non-members or members without hut key privileges, or share a combination.

## **Liability**

18. Members are personally liable for any damage to property, whether that of the Club or of third parties, through acts on their part.

## **Fire Precautions**

19. The lighting of fires in hut *grounds* or on *properties* is strictly prohibited, with one exception: at Du Toit's Kloof Hut, fires are permitted ONLY in the designated fireplaces, and at the designated outside fireplaces ONLY if there are no strong winds.
20. Consideration for the protection of Club assets remains the top priority in respect of the rules pertaining to fires. (A hut Convenor may, at their discretion, permit fires at specific times of the year, in which case such permission will be made explicit on the website or by other means.)
  - a. Fires are NOT permitted inside Agtertafelberg Hut, except as provided for above.
  - b. Fires are permitted inside Table Mountain Hut, ONLY in the two woodburning stoves provided. (Wood must be carried in; no collecting of wood is allowed in TMNP.)
21. No petrol, benzine, paraffin or spirit-burning stoves or lamps may be used in a hut. Where gas stoves are used in a hut or on a property, members must take every precaution to prevent a fire.
22. Candles may NOT be used on any property without a hut, or outside any hut.
  - a. Candles may NOT be used inside or outside Agtertafelberg Hut.
  - b. The use of candles inside Du Toit's Kloof and Table Mountain Huts is strongly discouraged, but permitted ONLY if the candleholders provided are used, and any lighted candles are monitored at all times by those present.

## **Maintenance and Cleanliness**

23. Do not pollute the water supply.
24. Don't leave food in the huts, except for dried foods in closed containers.
25. Take your refuse away with you – nothing must be left in a hut, on its grounds, or on a property.
26. All club utensils must be cleaned and put away.
27. No trees or plants on hut grounds or on the property may be damaged, unless authorised by the convenor.
28. Toilets must be used if provided. Where no official toilets are provided, normal wilderness hygiene principles must be applied.
29. Members spending a night at a hut shall, by 9 am:
  - a. clear and store bedding;
  - b. remove all articles belonging to them and store them; and
  - c. ensure that the hut is clean and tidy, and that the floor is swept.

30. The member who leaves a hut last shall ensure that:
  - a. all windows, shutters and doors are closed and properly secured;
  - b. any solar-powered lights are switched off; and
  - c. the hut is clean and safe.
31. Locked gates must never be left unlocked for any reason, and must be locked immediately after entry and departure.

### **Disturbance**

32. Please don't disturb or cause offence to any others using huts or properties. Members and guests must observe quiet from 10.30 pm.
33. No radios or music players may be used in huts or on grounds or properties.
34. Smoking is strictly not allowed in huts. Should you choose to smoke outside, ensure that your smoke does not affect other visitors, and take care to extinguish and remove butts.

### **Dogs and Other Pets**

35. Dogs and other pets are not allowed in MCSA huts or on grounds or properties at any time. (The only exception to this is a fully trained service dog assisting a person with a physical disability to reach or stay at a hut or property, in which case prior written permission must be obtained from the General Committee.) Be aware that this restriction applies also to CapeNature land, and any properties adjacent to our own across which we gain access.

### **Members of Other Sections**

36. A member of another section can *mutatis mutandis* use a hut, its grounds or a property, subject to these rules.
37. The member may not hire a key to a hut or a property; they must use the key the Cape Town Section has provided to their section.

### **Access**

38. Any access arrangements or restrictions stipulated by authorities and landowners must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so may cause loss of access for the MCSA as a whole, and may result in termination of membership or blocking of membership applications for transgressors.

### **Bookings**

39. All visits must be pre-booked and prepaid. Huts can be booked up to two months in advance, by members only. **(Please note: Using a member's name to reserve and pay for a place that is later used by a guest, or by another member who is still required to pay guest rates, is a serious transgression which could result in your hut privileges being revoked and/or your membership terminated.)**

40. Before visits, check whether the hut or property is fully booked by visiting the relevant Members Only section (and Hut Calendar) on the website. If it is available, use the online booking site at <https://booking.mcsacapetown.co.za/> (or contact the Cape Town Section office) to make your reservation.
41. Fees must be paid during the online booking procedure, or by EFT, as appropriate to secure your booking.
42. Members will receive confirmations of bookings by email. These must be carried by members on their visits.
43. Members must cancel a booking if they can't make it, as a courtesy to others. Fees are not refundable.
44. Casual un-booked overnight visits to the huts are not permitted.

### **Commercial Use of Huts or Properties**

45. Commercial use of huts and properties is strictly prohibited without first obtaining the written consent of the General Committee of the Cape Town Section.

### **No Drone Zones**

46. National parks and private properties are restricted zones where the SACAA (South African Civil Aviation Authority) stipulates that no one may fly a drone. Cape Town Section huts and properties are therefore no-fly zones for both commercial and recreational drones.