



The Mountain Club of South Africa

Cape Town Section

Founded 1891

EXPLORE • DISCOVER • CONNECT • PROTECT

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Email: office@mcsacapetown.co.za • Website: www.mcsacapetown.co.za
Clubhouse open Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm, and Friday 7.30pm – 8.15pm

GENERAL RULES FOR HUTS AND CLUB PROPERTIES – JUNE 2019

Some mountain properties are either owned or partially owned by the MCSA or a servitude has been granted and is administered by the Cape Town Section.

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.
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 are responsible for paying charges of the guests they introduce.

Authorisation

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

Non-Members

8. 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.
9. For overnight visits to a hut, its grounds or a property, Youth or adult members may bring up to two guests. (Family members, i.e. members' children under 17, may not bring guests.) Authorisation must be obtained from the relevant hut or property convenor for larger groups.

10. Members must accompany their guests for the entire visit.
11. Members are responsible for any damage caused by their guests.

Register

12. 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.
13. The entries must contain the following information:
 - a. Name and address of the member
 - b. Number of days and nights to be spent in hut or on property
 - c. Name of MCSA section to which the member belongs
 - d. Name of the member introducing a non-member.

Keys

14. All huts and 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.
15. Before new members may obtain a key or a combination, they must meet the following qualifying criteria (wef 1 August 2018):
 - a. Attend a “new members’ social” at the Clubhouse;
 - b. Take part in at least one Conservation, Hut or property work meet;
 - c. Attend at least one additional meet of any description (weekend, mid-week, work or Outreach meet); and
 - d. Be a paid-up member of the Cape Town Section for at least one year.
16. Members may not duplicate the key, lend it to non-members, or share a combination.

Liability

17. 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

18. The lighting of fires in hut grounds or on properties is strictly prohibited.
19. No fires are permitted even in designated fireplaces inside huts or in hut grounds. Consideration for the protection of Club assets remains the top priority in this regard. (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.)
20. 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.
21. No candles may be used in a hut or on a property.

Maintenance and Cleanliness

22. There must be no pollution of the water supply.
23. Don't leave food in the huts, except in closed containers.
24. Take your refuse with you – nothing must be left in a hut, on its grounds, or on a property.
25. All club utensils must be cleaned and put away.
26. No trees or plants on hut grounds or on the property may be damaged, unless authorised by the convenor.
27. Toilets must be used if provided. Where no official toilets are provided, normal wilderness hygiene principles must be applied.
28. 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
 - c. ensure that the hut is clean and tidy, and that the floor is swept.
29. 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
 - c. the hut is clean and safe.
30. Locked gates must never be left unlocked for any reason, and must be locked immediately after entry and departure.

Disturbance

31. Please don't disturb or cause offence to any others using huts or properties. Members and guests must observe quiet from 10.30 pm.
32. No radios or music players may be used in huts or on grounds or properties.
33. 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

34. 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 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

35. A member of another section can *mutatis mutandis* use a hut, its grounds or a property, subject to these rules.
36. 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

37. 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.

Bookings

38. All visits must be pre-booked and prepaid. Huts can be booked up to two months in advance, by members only.
39. Before visits, check whether the hut or property is fully booked by visiting the relevant Members Only section on the website. If it is available, contact the Cape Town Section office to book.
40. Once the office has confirmed availability, the fees must be paid either at the office or by EFT.
41. Once payment is received, the office will send confirmation of the booking. This must be carried by members on the visit.
42. Members must cancel the booking if they can't make it, as a courtesy to others. Fees are not refundable.
43. Casual un-booked overnight visits to the huts are no longer permitted.

Commercial Use of Huts or Properties

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

MCSA (Cape Town Section)
General Committee
June 2019