

THE FREE STATE FALCONRY CLUB

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. For the purpose of these Rules and Regulations:

MEMBER	Shall mean any member of the FS Falconry Club whether he be an active or non-active falconer.
HAWK	Shall mean any diurnal Raptor.
CLUB	Shall mean the FS Falconry Club
COMMITTEE	Shall mean the General Committee of the Club.
2. No member shall acquire a hawk, or transfer a hawk to another member, in terms of the conditions under which the club is permitted to capture hawks by the Nature and Environmental Conservation Directorate. Applications to acquire hawks shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the club for due consideration by the committee.
3. No member shall take or attempt to take any eggs or eyas of a hawk without prior authority having been sought and obtained from the General Committee.
4. These rules shall not prohibit any member from obtaining a hawk by importation, but no member shall import or export, or attempt to import or export any hawk into or from the FS without the Committee's consent.
5. All birds shall be kept in suitable "mews" with every regard for their health and well being.
6. All hawks other than those used for breeding purposes shall be exercised regularly: that is to say, they shall be flown free on at least three days per week during flying season.
7. No hawk that is being flown shall be released or transferred to another falconer without notifying the committee and gaining approval.
8. The accommodation, furniture and fittings provided for any hawk/s shall be kept clean at all times.
9. No member shall be permitted to hunt on any property without the permission of the owner or lawful occupier thereof.
10. Under no circumstances is a member allowed to release his/her hawk/s without the authorisation of the committee. If any member should wish to return a hawk to its natural environment, arrangements shall be made for the training back of such hawk to return it to its wild state. The place where it will be released shall be determined by the committee.
11. The Secretary shall keep a record of all hawks in the possession of members, including dates of acquisition, place at which the hawk is kept, transfer, loss or release. Each member shall be responsible for keeping the secretary informed in terms of the above but must also maintain his own records and reports as an individual to the Committee.

12. Twice yearly the Committee shall convene with the Nature and Environmental Conservation Directorate to discuss new permit quotas and any other relevant information.
13. No member of the Club may make any statement or submit any article for publication by the Press unless the contents of such statement or article have first been approved by the Committee.
14. All trapping of hawks and taking of eyasses shall only be done with consent of the General Committee and with the necessary permits.
15. Trapping of hawks and taking of eyasses may only be done by A Grade and B Grade Falconers appointed by the Committee.
16. Breeding projects may only be undertaken by A Grade Falconers in conjunction with the committee.
17. Peregrine falcons may only be flown by A Grade Falconers.
18. A Member leaving his hawk in another members care for more than two months must notify the committee irrespective of the season.
19. The loss or the death of a hawk must be reported immediately to the committee.
20. Every effort must be made to recover a lost hawk.
21. The use of Aylmeri Jesses is compulsory.
22. A limited number of permits for Falconry has been issued to the FSFC on the strict understanding that the club enter into a breeding program to supply hawks for Falconry in the future. For this reason member's hawks must remain available for breeding at all times. To this end, any member, for whatever reason, who ceases to practice Falconry is bound to return his hawk to the club.

Recommendations for Design of a Mews

Your mews must embody certain requirements in order to satisfy the Club. How you achieve these requirements will depend on your individual circumstances and on how much money you are prepared to spend. However, the minimum size for a mews for one bird is a 2.5m – 3m.

In general, your mews must provide protection from weather, from predators and from undue disturbances. It may take the form of the traditional closed-in mews or the so-called outdoor facility.

The building, which is your closed-in mews, must allow easy access for you with your hawk on your fist. If more than one hawk is to be kept in the mews. The hawks must be leashed separately or individually separated by partitions and the area for each hawk must be large enough to allow it to fully extend its wing. There must be at least one window protected on the inside by vertical bars spaced closer than the width of the hawk's body, and a secure door that can be easily opened, closed and locked. The floor must be washed river sand, lawn, or a surface that permits easy cleaning. The floor surface must be well drained. Adequate perches must be provided.

The outdoor facility is basically an enclosure fully wired on top and sides and incorporating adequate shelter from the weather. Your hawk must have complete protection in bad weather and therefore

you will have to cover one or more sides with weatherproof material. The area must be large enough that the hawk cannot strike the sides when bating from the perch. The enclosure must have a lockable door. Since your hawk will now spend her full time outside, you must be *ABSOLUTELY* sure that she has adequate shelter from the weather at all times of day and night.

If your outdoor facility is wired in then remember that the mesh only needs to be small enough to exclude the smallest predators, which you are likely to have in your area.

The kinds of materials, which you use for a mews, are not important as long as they accomplish the basic requirements as stated above. You are always welcome to discuss any particular problem with a Club Committee Member.

FREE STATE FALCONRY CLUB (FSFC)

CONSTITUTION

Section 1: Definitions

In this Constitution unless the context otherwise indicates:

- 1.1 The FS Falconry Club shall hereafter be termed the Club.
- 1.2 Hawks means any bird belonging to a raptor species approved for the use of falconry by The Nature and Environmental Conservation Directorate of the FS.
- 1.3 Member means an ordinary member of the association who is not in arrears with the payment of subscription, and who has not been excluded or suspended from the club.
- 1.4 Words in the masculine include the female, and words in the plurals include the singular, and vice versa.
- 1.5 By-laws mean the rules and regulations of the Club governing the practicalities of falconry.

Section 2: Name

- 2.1 The name of the Club is the *FREE STATE FALCONRY CLUB (FSFC)*

Section 3: Objects

The objects of the Club are the following:

- 3.1 To improve aid, and encourage competency in the art and practice of falconry among interested persons.
- 3.2 To provide communication among and to disseminate relevant information to interested members.
- 3.3 To protect the recognitions of falconry as a legal field sport.
- 3.4 To promote scientific study of raptorial species, their care, welfare training a captive breeding.
- 3.5 To promote the conservation of Birds of Prey.
- 3.6 To establish practises and traditions in falconry which will aid, perpetuate and further the welfare of falconry and the raptors it employs.

Section 4: Membership

- 4.1 The membership of the Club shall consist of:
 - a. Active Members.
 - b. Non Active Members. (Not flying for two seasons)
 - c. Associate Member. (D grade)
- 4.2 Application for Active Membership any class of membership shall be in writing and proposed and seconded by the Club Committee. Such application shall be deemed to be acknowledgement to be bound by this Constitution and any amendments therefore as also the rules and regulations of the Club.
- 4.3 Each application shall be considered by the General Committee, following the lodgement of the application. The decision of the General Committee shall be final and such Committee shall not be obliged to give its reasons for declining any application for membership.
- 4.4 All provisions of the constitution shall apply equally to all class of members except where otherwise stated herein.

- 4.5 All subscriptions fees shall become due and payable on the first day of January to the last day of March, of each year.
- 4.6 Membership and entrance fees shall be as agreed by the Committee. Full payment by members is due for the club year no later than the month of March. If a falconer join the club after the month of June 50 % is payable for the year. Associate Members starting their apprenticeship shall pay the full club fee irrespective of the date of joining.
- 4.7 **Active members:** Shall be members flying or keeping hawks during a season. Shall have a vote at a club meeting and be eligible to pay the full club fee annually irrespective of flying or keeping a hawk.
- 4.8 **Non Active Members.** Shall be members not flying or keeping a hawk. Shall not have a vote at a meeting and be eligible to pay 50% of the club fee. Non Active members will be invited to field meets and receive the SAFA publication.
- 4.9 **Associate Members (D-GRADE):** The Committee may at its discretions accept any new member as an Associate Member. An Associate Member shall have no vote and shall not keep a hawk. An associate member shall be accepted by a tutor as an apprentice. After complying with the club regulations for an Associate Member as taken up in the by-laws the Committee may elevate an Associate Member to Active membership. An Associate Member will be eligible to pay the full club fee from the starting date of his apprenticeship. An associate member who does not continue with falconry but affiliates himself/herself with the club will become a Non Active Member of the club as mentioned in 4.8.
- 4.10 **Conditions of membership:**
- a. All persons by becoming members of the Club submit themselves to the rules of the Club.
 - b. All members agree not to hold the Club responsible for any loss or damage of personal property, or injury to persons.
 - c. The member chooses as domicilium citando excecutandi (jurisdiction) for all purposes hereof the address given in the membership application form unless otherwise notified in writing.
 - d. Any member changing his address shall within thirty days inform the Secretary of the Club.
 - e. All provisions of this Constitution shall apply equally to all grades and classes of members except where otherwise stated herein.

Section 5: Grading

All Members shall be graded according to the following format:

5.1 D Grade Falconers (Associate Members)

A tutor, who is an A or B Grade Falconer, is required by a D Grade Falconer until his interest and dedication to the sport has been ascertained. A D Grade Falconer is not permitted to own a hawk and has no vote at a General Meeting. A D Grade Falconer may be appointed as a C Grade Falconer on recommendation of his tutor and approval of the club committee.

5.2 C Grade Falconers

C Grade Falconers qualify for their first Hawk. May train fly and keep only one approved bird at one time. C Grade falconers will have to fly their birds to the satisfaction of Grading party

appointed by the Committee before upgrading. A Grading Party shall consist of any two A Grade falconers appointed by the Committee grading a falconer in the field according to the grading standards set out in the appendix.

- a. C Grade Falconers will be allowed to fly the following birds.
 - Long wings : Rock Kestrel, Greater Kestrel
 - Short wings : African Goshawk
 - Rehab birds approved by the committee.
- b. Will have to acquire a Pointing dog, should he wish to progress to “B” Grade.

5.3 B Grade Falconers

Any C Grade Falconer can be appointed as a B Grade Falconer by the Committee after a successful hawking period and flying to the satisfaction of Grading Party. Both long and short wing species must have been flown successfully. B Grade Falconers may hold maximum of 2 birds at any one time. Grading will only be granted if in possession of telemetry.

- a. B Grade Falconers will be allowed to fly the following birds.
 - Long wings: Lanner Falcon, Captive Bred Peregrine Falcon.
 - Short wings: Red Breasted Sparrow hawk.
 - Exotics (Harris Hawk only.)
- b. At this stage the B Grade Falconer must have access to a good working dog (Pointer). All B Grade hawks must be flown with a transmitter on at all times.
- c. B Grade Falconers can trap hawks after accompanying an A Grade Falconer on a trapping excursion and satisfying the Committee with their trapping skills.

5.4 A Grade Falconers

Any eligible Falconer can be appointed as an A Grade Falconer by the Committee taking into consideration his ability, years of practical falconry and loyalty to the art. A B Grade falconer can be appointed by the Committee after a successful hawking period and flying to the satisfaction of a Grading Party.

- a. A Grade Falconers are allowed to fly the following birds:
 - Long wings: Peregrine (passage), Red Necked Falcon, Taita Falcon, Hybrid Falcons, Exotics.
 - Short wings: Black Sparrow hawk, Eagles.
- b. It is compulsory for A Grade Falconers to fly with telemetry at all times.
- c. Hybrid falcons can only be flown after two successful Peregrine Falcons, and strictly according to the SAFA HYBRID POLICY.

The Grading Committee reserves the right to upgrade any member who is progressing at such a rate that the above system is retarding his progress. The Grading Committee shall objectively review the grading status of each member at least annually. It is however the grading falconer’s responsibility to make himself available for grading to an appointed Grading Party.

Section 6: Officers an Management

6.1 Club Committee

- a. The club shall be managed by a Club Committee duly elected and consisting of the following:
 - The Chairman, Secretary and two Committee members.
- b. The Club Committee shall direct and manage all the affairs of the Club in a manner, which it may consider conducive to the interests, good management of the club and the furtherance of its objectives, which are not specially required to be otherwise performed. Without in any way limiting the above general powers, the Club Committee shall have power:
 - To convene meetings of the Club.
 - To acquire and dispose of, to hold and have the custody and control of the funds and other moveable property of the Club.
 - To open banking and saving accounts which shall be operated under two signatures of the Club Committee?
 - The Club Committee shall meet at least twice annually and shall consider:
 1. The questions arising out of membership.
 2. Audit of the Club account prior to the Annual General Meeting
 3. Any other matters connected with Club affairs or objectives.

6.2 Special functions of the Club Committee

- a. To create and constitute such Sub-committees as may be necessary for the better running of the affairs of Club.
- b. To open such accounts that are necessary for the better running if the affairs of the Club and to nominate the members who are permitted to draw upon such accounts.
- c. To make, amend and suspend the By-Laws of the Club in terms of Section 12 hereof.
- d. To recommend the annual membership fees payable by the members of the Club.
- e. To exclude or suspend any member for good cause.
- f. In the event of a vacancy on the Committee, the Committee may transfer the functions entrusted to the absent member to one or more of the remaining members of the Committee or to the co-opted member.
- g. The Committee shall be empowered to invite outsiders to attend specific otherwise confidential committee meetings if it is considered that their presence may benefit the Club.
- h. To deal with matters of urgency.

6.3 Election of the Committee

- a. The Club Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. If the nominations exceed the vacancies, a secret ballot election shall be conducted.
- b. No member shall be elected Chairman unless he has been a member of the Club Committee for the preceding year.
- c. No member shall be elected to serve on the Club Committee unless he has actively flown a Hawk during the preceding year.

- d. Any member elected to the Club Committee must be either an A Grade Falconer or a B Grade Falconer.

6.4 Meetings of the Committee

- a. Meetings of the Committee shall not be held less than twice annually.
- b. Reasonable notice of Committee meetings shall be given to all its members by the Secretary.
- c. The quorum of the meeting by the Committee shall be two members inclusive of either the Chairman or Secretary.
- d. Every decision of the Committee shall require a vote in its favour. Such vote shall be a simple majority of the entire Committee present at the meeting.
- e. A meeting of the Committee shall also be convened at the request of the Chairman or two of its members.
- f. The provisions of 6.5 shall apply to any meeting of the Committee.

6.5 The Chairman.

- a. The Chairman of the Club shall preside at all meetings of the Club.
- b. In the absence of the Chairman all his powers and duties shall devolve on the Secretary.
- c. The Chairman must be an A Grade Falconer.
- d. The Chairman is the holder of the permit for the club and duly responsible for all the raptors involved, and thus has the power by means of the committee and constitution to apply all rules, regulations and by-laws on all club members.

6.6 The Secretary

- a. The Secretary of the club shall conduct the correspondence of the Club and be responsible for all the general administration.
- b. The Secretary shall give due notice of all meetings of the Committee and the Club.
- c. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all the meetings of the Club and of the Committee. Minutes must be signed by Chairman and another committee member.
- d. The Secretary shall have charge of the Club's records and minute books.
- e. The Secretary shall be responsible to the Committee for all the income and expenditure of the Club during his term of office.
- f. The Secretary shall be entitled to draw upon the accounts of the Club, in terms of Section 15.
- g. The Secretary shall provide a written statement of income and expenditure to the present at the Annual General Meeting.

6.7 Disciplinary Committee

- a. The Chairman and an additional two A or B Grade Falconers who are members of the Club will constitute the Disciplinary Committee.
- b. The Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the chairman should the need arise.

- c. The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for the insurance that all aspects of falconry are carried out within the confines of the recognised directorate nature environmental conservation laws and those drawn up by the Club and published either in this document, or in the By-Laws of the Club.

6.8 Duties of the Disciplinary Committee

- a. To investigate the conduct of any person who is suspected of practices falling outside those conducive to the maintenance of a high standard of falconry.
- b. To conduct such an investigation in an exhaustive manner with the knowledge of the true course of events being the only objective.
- c. To make recommendations regarding their findings and suggested disciplinary action to the Club Committee for consideration.
- d. All investigations will be conducted discretely and as confidentially as possible.
- e. All persons being investigated will be given the opportunity to explain all events pertinent to the investigation before all the members of the Disciplinary Committee.
- f. The Disciplinary Committee is entitled to interview any person either member or non-member or organization in the course of the investigation.
- g. Adequate records will be kept concerning all aspects of all investigations and or stored in a confidential manner.

6.9 The Grading Committee

- a. The Club committee will be responsible for grading of Active Members..
- b. The Club committee can appoint any two A Grade falconers as a Grading Party to grade a particular member at a field meet or in the field at another occasion.
- c. The Graders will apply the clubs grading rules as stipulated in the By-laws.(Appendix 3
- d. Section 5 applies to the Grading Committee's functioning.

6.10 Liaisons and Public Relations

- a. The Chairman of the Club shall be solely responsible for all dealings with the press or any other organization outside the Club.
- b. The Chairman may delegate any willing member to represent the Club within specific circumstances and on specific topics.
- c. Any member not duly delegated may not discuss Club activities with any person or organization. Any views expressed in this manner will not be taken as representative of the Club sentiment and disciplinary action may be taken against such perpetrators.

Section 7: Meetings

7.1 Meetings of the Club may either be the Annual General Meeting, Field Meets, or a Special Meeting.

7.2 Notice of Meetings:

- a. At least 30 days notice shall be given in email or telephonic of any General Meeting and at least 7 days notice shall be given before any Special Meeting. Both notice periods shall be from the time of notification to all available members.

7.3 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held at a place to be decided by the Committee. Notice of the date of the meeting shall be given telephonically or by email to all

members at least 30 days and notice of the agenda at least 14 days before the date of that meeting.

7.4 Duties of the Annual General Meeting

- a. To read and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of any Special Meetings held during the year.
- b. To receive a statement of financial position of the Club from the Secretary.
- c. To receive the report of the Chairman of the General Committee for the year.
- d. To elect the Chairman, Secretary and General committee of the Club for the year.
- e. To appoint an Honorary Auditor.
- f. To consider and if necessary to vote upon any other matters that may arise.

7.5 Special Meetings

- a. A Special Meeting shall be convened at the written request of at least a quorum of the members of the Club or by the Committee, subject to 6.4 and 7.6.
- b. The request to convene a Special Meeting shall state the matters to be considered at the meeting.

7.6 Meeting Procedures

- a. All meetings of the Club shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Club.
- b. In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting shall be presided over by the person upon whom the powers and duties of the Chairman have devolved.

7.7 Quorum for Meetings

- a. Except where otherwise provided in this Constitution, the quorum for any meeting shall be 15% of the members.
- b. In the absence of the required quorum at any meeting, the matters of the meeting, shall be conducted without the necessary quorum.
- c. Any quorum of members may, within 14 days of the date of the meeting, lodge an objection against any decision taken at such a meeting.
- d. The Committee shall, within 7 days of receipt of an objection, give notice of a special meeting in order to obtain approval of the decision against which an objection has been lodged.
- e. Any decision taken at a meeting conducted in terms of 7.6 (a) shall be effective only:
 - If no objection thereto is lodged, after the lapse 14 days from the date of the meeting.
 - If an objection thereto is lodged, when the decision has been approved at a meeting convened in terms of 7.7 (d).
 - Any objection lodged in terms of 7.7 (c):
 - Must be lodged within the stated period of time or the right to object shall lapse.
 - Shall clearly set out the grounds of objection in print.

7.8 Voting

- a. Only Active Members of the Club may vote at any meeting.
- b. Voting shall be by shown of hands if the meeting so decides, or by secret ballot.

- c. Except where otherwise provided in this Constitution all matters determined by a vote shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting.
- d. The provisions of this section shall also apply to meetings of all of the Committees of the Club.

Section 8: The Constitution

8.1 Any dispute with the regard to the meaning or interpretation of this Constitution shall be referred to the Committee, which is required to take advice from appointed legal advisors of the Club.

8.2 Amendments to the Constitution

- a. Any amendment to this Constitution shall be considered only at an Annual General Meeting of the Club in accordance with the provisions of this clause.
- b. The quorum of the meeting at which an amendment to the Constitution is to be considered shall be one third of all members of the Club.
- c. Any amendment to this Constitution requires a vote in favour thereof of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting.
- d. After the amendment to this Constitution has been approved it shall be entered in the copy of the Constitution under signature of the Chairman of the Club.

Section 9: Discipline

- 9.1 At all times, all members shall adhere to all aspects of the Constitution and Club By-Laws.
9.2 Failure to adhere to 9.1 may result in disciplinary action being taken against perpetrators.

9.3 Disciplinary Procedures

- a. The Disciplinary Committee will investigate all incidents possibly requiring disciplinary action as per 6.9
- b. The findings of the Disciplinary Committee will be referred to the Committee for their approval and implementation.

The Committee may for any disciplinary reason impose the following on any member:

- Permanent expulsion from the Club.
 - Suspension of a membership for any period of time.
 - Suspension from any component of Club activities for any period of time.
 - Confiscation of FSFC birds.
 - The imposition of any proviso, which must be, met prior to the normal status of a member being resumed.
- c. Should the above disciplinary impositions not be adhered to for any reason the involved member will be automatically expelled from the Club.
 - d. Any disciplinary action decided on by the Committee must be fully explained in writing to the relevant person within 14 days of a decision being made.

9.4 Appeals against Disciplinary Findings

- a. Any member may, within 7 days of receiving written notification of disciplinary findings and actions, appeal against these.
- b. Appeals will be made in writing to the Chairman.

- c. Within 30 days of receiving an appeal, the President shall convene a joint meeting between the involved member and both the Committee and Disciplinary Committee to review the decision.
- d. This meeting will take place at a time and venue acceptable to all parties concerned.
- e. Additional persons permitted to attend this meeting and participate will be:
 - Legal advisors to the Club.
 - Legal advisors to the involved member.
 - Any witnesses which the Club may require.
 - Any witnesses which the involved member may require.
 - After this meeting both the Committee and the Disciplinary Committee will meet within 7 days to review their findings.
 - Any further disputes will be settled in a civil court at the expenses of the involved member.

Section 10: Club year

The Club Year shall be from the first day of January of each year to the last day of December of the same year, both dates inclusive.

The financial year of the Club shall run concurrently with the Club Year.

Section 11: Affiliation

- 11.1 The Association may be affiliated for a period at any time to anybody if any such affiliations could assist it in pursuing and attaining its objectives, and on condition such affiliation does not in any way violate any clause of this Constitution.
- 11.2 Before seeking any affiliation the Committee shall obtain the approval of the Club.
- 11.3 Only a member of the Committee may be its delegate to any body, which it is affiliated, or the Committee may delegate a member to fulfil this function.

Section 12: By-Laws

- 12.1 The Committee may make such By-Laws for the Club as it deems to be in the interest of the conduct of the affairs and management of the Club. Such By-Laws shall at all times be subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- 12.2 The Committee may, in the interests of the club, amend or repeal the By-Laws.
- 12.3 Any By-Laws made by the Committee shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.
- 12.4 Any dispute with regard to the meaning or interpretation of the By-Laws of the Club shall be dealt with as provided in 9.4.

Section 13: Interpretation

- 13.1 In the case of doubt as to the meaning of, or interpretation of this Constitution, the Club Committee shall be the final arbiter and its decision shall be binding on its members.

Section 14: Representation to Nature Conservation

- 14.1 The Chairman and secretary will be the liaisons for the club to Nature Conservation.

Section 15: Finances

15.1 Accounts

- a. All funds coming into the possession of the Club will be deposited into accounts in the name of the Club.
- b. All accounts will be properly audited with a full account of the disposal of all funds being made available at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. Only members of the Club Committee or other delegated members specified by that Committee might have access to the Club's accounts.

15.2 Debts

- a. The Club may not be held responsible for any debt incurred by any individual
- b. Only members of the General Committee may debit the Club in any way.

Section: 16 Indemnities

- 16.1 The Club or any of its members is hereby indemnified against any claim, which may arise in connection with any injury to any member or damage to any member's property while he is engaged in any Club activity, being transported to or from an excursion, or while receiving medical attention at the instigation of any Club member.
- 16.2 The Club or any of its members is under no obligation to take out insurance to cover any injury or damage contemplated in 16.1