

## **The Mountain Club of South Africa**

### **Code of Conduct for Mountaineering and Climbing**

The MCSA, together with the UIAA, subscribes to the “Kathmandu Declaration on Mountain Activities” and the “Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mountain Sports”.

Mountaineers and Climbers should:

#### **1. Access**

- Familiarise themselves with and observe all regulations regarding access to and conduct on State, Municipal and Private Land.

#### **2. Community Relations**

- Be courteous to landowners, mountain dwellers and fellow visitors;
- Respect other people’s needs for privacy and quiet; and
- Assist and encourage other visitors to adhere to this Code of Conduct.

#### **3. Responsibility and Safety**

- Ensure that they are familiar with safety concerns, both for themselves and others;
- Not throw or roll rocks in the mountains; and
- Be ready to help others in the event of an emergency or accident.

#### **4. Cultural Heritage**

- Not disturb sites or objects of heritage or cultural value (e.g. archaeological items, bones and pottery); and
- Not wet, touch or deface San rock art.

#### **5. Natural Heritage**

- Not remove wild plants or flowers or damage them unnecessarily;
- Not disturb animals or birds (and their nests) unnecessarily;
- Not allow wildlife to become a nuisance, either by feeding them or leaving food or waste in accessible places; and
- Not deface trees or rocks or leave any form of graffiti.

#### **6. Fire**

- Take all the necessary precautions, especially in the use of stoves; and
- Not make fires unless explicit permission has been obtained from the land owner or the responsible authority.

#### **7. Waste**

- Remove all rubbish from mountain areas, including that of others;
- Inspect campsites for waste before leaving;
- Keep an adequate distance (i.e. at least 50m) away from camping spots, huts, caves, summit beacons, wetlands, rivers or lakes while defecating or urinating; and
- Ensure that all excreta and toilet paper are buried where possible.

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**8. Prevent Water Pollution**

- Swim downstream from drinking water collection points;
- Not enter streams or rivers just after applying sunscreen;
- Use sand, grass, heated water or biodegradable soap instead of detergent for washing dishes;
- Not use soap, detergent and toothpaste where these can cause water pollution; and
- Not empty dirty water into streams or rivers.

**9. Hiking and Camping**

- Stay on existing paths and avoid creating new ones;
- Not take short cuts on steep slopes, since this accelerates erosion;
- Use existing camp sites in preference to establishing new ones; and
- Not clear vegetation, level ground or dig trenches unnecessarily.

**10. Rock Climbing**

- Co-operate with managing authorities; and
- Not place (or replace) bolts or anchors, without clearance from the relevant sport climbing/bolting sub-committee.

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