



Rules of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated

Original version adopted 4 December 1996
Amended 7 August 2002, 5 February 2003 and 7 May 2008

1. Discipline

The Organisation may, subject to the rules of natural justice - fine and/or suspend some or all membership privileges and/or require an apology from a member for an offence. The period of suspension may be fixed or indefinite. Any matter of discipline shall be dealt with at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose.

2. Membership

2.1 Every applicant for membership must be nominated by a financial member, and must pay the current subscription and entrance fee (if any). They must also, at the time of election to membership, undertake to preserve caves from wilful or negligent damage and they must acknowledge to be bound by the Constitution and Rules of the Organisation. Such undertakings and acknowledgments shall be in a form prescribed by the Organisation and they shall be deemed a member upon the Committee's acceptance of the application. In the case of members under the age of eighteen years of age, a suitable waiver and indemnity from the parents or guardians must accompany the application.

2.2 Applicants for membership shall ordinarily be required to do at least two underground trips and receive a favourable report from those members participating before being eligible for election. This requirement may be waived or modified if the Organisation is satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person and his/her caving experience has been acquired elsewhere, or if the applicant indicated on his/her application that he/she does not wish to participate in underground activities, or if the applicant is a former member of the Organisation. In all cases the applicant's name shall be submitted to a General Meeting for election.

2.3 The Organisation shall not be obliged to entertain any application for membership.

2.4 The membership year shall be from the first day of April to the thirty-first day of March inclusive.

3. Conduct of Meetings

So far as is consistent with the Constitution and rules of the Organisation -all business of the Organisation and all meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the usual rules relating to the management of clubs and organisations, including the rules of debate and natural justice.

4. Nomenclature

The adoption of names of cave and karst features shall be in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Australian Speleological Federation and Nomenclature Board of Tasmania.



5. Ethics

- 5.1 Every member shall preserve and conserve caves, karst, cave scenery, and all natural contents, both animate and inanimate.
- 5.2 All members shall give adequate consideration to safety and the consequences of their actions at all times.
- 5.3 Natural cave contents may not be damaged or removed, except in the course of original scientific research work, exploration or preservation carried out with the approval of the Committee. The person(s) undertaking such removal are to bear the full responsibility for his/her actions.
- 5.4 No rubbish or excreta shall be left in caves. Members are encouraged to remove rubbish left by others.
- 5.5 Carbide shall be used in a responsible manner. Spent carbide is to be carried out of caves and disposed of in a responsible manner.
- 5.6 Prior to entering any cave, the Party shall identify themselves to the landowner or his/her representative. Whilst on that land the Party shall abide by rules or regulations of the landowner or controlling authority.

6. Equipment

- 6.1 The Trip Organiser shall give adequate notice to the Equipment Officer of equipment required and date of collection.
- 6.2 All equipment loaned/hired shall be recorded by the Trip Organiser, Equipment Officer or a responsible delegate.
- 6.3 All Organisation equipment shall be returned as organised with the Equipment Officer in a clean, safe condition. All defects or any abnormal occurrences (*such as a rope subjected to a fall*) are to be reported immediately.
- 6.4 Equipment shall not be lent or hired to non-members.

7. Information and Data Handling

- 7.1 All members are to abide by the Data and Information Policy, as determined from time to time by the club.
- 7.2 A copy of all raw survey data produced by members shall be forwarded to the Karst Index Officer within twelve months of its collection.
- 7.3 Members are strongly urged to number tag, document, and survey cave and karst features following the Australian Speleological Federation guidelines. They must also forward any such documentation to the Karst Index Officer.

8. Official Activities of the Organisation

- 8.1 **Caving trips** - In order to be recognised as an official activity of the Organisation, a caving trip shall meet all of the following conditions:
 - (a) The Organisation shall hold a signed disclaimer for each participant.
 - (b) The trip shall have a designated leader, who shall be an approved Trip Leader as defined elsewhere in the Rules.
 - (c) The leader shall notify the Organisation of the trip in accordance with the procedure described elsewhere in the Rules.



- 8.2 **Meetings** - Meetings held in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Constitution and Rules shall be regarded as official activities of the Organisation.
- 8.3 **Other events** - In order to be recognised as an official activity of the Organisation, events other than caving trips or meetings shall meet all of the following conditions:
- (a) The event shall have a designated co-ordinator, who shall have been approved by the Executive prior to the event.
 - (b) The co-ordinator shall notify the Organisation of the event in accordance with the procedure described elsewhere in the Rules.

9. Trip Leaders

- 9.1 The Executive shall maintain a list of persons who are eligible to lead caving trips.
- 9.2 A person may be included on this list only if all of the following conditions are met:
- (a) The person is a financial member of the Organisation.
 - (b) The person has been a financial member of the Organisation, or of another organisation with similar objectives, for at least twelve months.
 - (c) The person has taken part in at least twelve caving trips.
 - (d) The Executive considers the person to have sufficient experience, to be sufficiently responsible and to be sufficiently capable to be able to be entrusted with the safety of others.

10. Notification of Official Activities

- 10.1 Wherever possible, prior to the commencement of a caving trip, the leader of the trip shall notify the Public Officer. If this is not possible, the leader shall instead notify a member of Executive and shall then notify the Public Officer at the soonest possible opportunity thereafter.
- 10.2 The procedure for the notification of a caving trip to the Public Officer or a member of the Executive shall be determined from time to time at a General Meeting. However, the notification shall include the following details:
- (a) The date of the trip.
 - (b) The place or places to be visited
 - (c) The names of the participants.
- 10.3 The co-ordinator of an event other than a caving trip or a meeting shall notify the Public Officer of the event prior to its commencement.
- 10.4 The procedure for the notification of an event other than a caving trip or a meeting to the Public Officer shall be determined from time to time at a General Meeting. However, the notification shall include the following details:
- (a) The date and time of the event.
 - (b) The nature of the event.
 - (c) The location or locations of the event.

11. Conduct of Caving Trips

- 11.1 The trip leader shall ensure that the party is sufficiently experienced and equipped for the trip being attempted and shall ensure that the trip operates in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Constitution and Rules.



STC Inc Rules: Version 4 - 7 May 2008

- 11.2 The trip leader shall consult with other members of the party, but shall have the final say in all decisions.
- 11.3 The trip leader shall at all times be in control of the party, except in the event that he or she is unable to so do, in which case the most experienced available person shall take control.

End of the Rules of the Southern Tasmanian Caverneers Incorporated