

SOUTHERNS BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

PREAMBLE

1. In terms of its Constitution Southernns Beekeeping Association aims primarily to promote and advance the science of Apiculture within South Africa and to encourage the competency and professional conduct amongst its members in their beekeeping activities. To this extent the Association expects of its members that they themselves maintain a competent and professional approach in all aspects of their beekeeping activities.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REGULATIONS

2. All members who keep bees whether for recreational use, commercial use or for any reason relating to the production and harvesting of honey bee products must comply with the statutory laws of South Africa and Local Government by-laws in beekeeping.
3. All members who keep bees must be registered with the national regulatory body, namely SABIO, as prescribed in terms of the Agricultural Pest Act, and must hold a valid registration number issued by that regulatory body.

INSURANCE COVER

4. All members who keep bees should consider being covered with some form of insurance for public liability.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

5. All members of the Association are expected to:
 - 5.1 adhere to the Association's Constitution;
 - 5.2 practice proven and ethical standards in working and managing their bees or any activity associated with apiculture, including the removal of feral swarms and any aspect of research and development in apiculture;
 - 5.3 behave in a proper, lawful and responsible manner in all activities associated with beekeeping;
 - 5.4 behave in a responsible manner in all dealings with the general public on beekeeping matters;

- 5.5 acknowledge and respect the views of fellow beekeepers without derogatory or disparaging comment whilst maintaining their right to express their own views in any forum of the Association.

LANDOWNERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

6. Any member who keeps bees on property which is not his own must have the permission of the Landowner to keep his bees on that property.
7. The member shall at all times act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner whilst working with his bees on any site.
8. The beekeeper must work as safely and as responsibly at all times especially with regards to the use of smoke whilst working his bees and be aware at all times of the hazards relating to the negligent use of fire.
9. The beekeeper should at all times keep the area in which he keeps his bees in a tidy and clean environment and avoid any damage to other landowner's property.
10. The beekeeper should maintain regular contact with the landowner and adhere to reasonable requests made by the landowner regarding the keeping of bees on the property.
11. The beekeeper must ensure that the interests of the general public are observed when working on his bees or transporting bees in any vehicle.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN REGARDING MISCONDUCT

12. In the event that any member brings the name of the Association into disrepute or conducts himself in any manner deemed irresponsible or unethical the Committee of the Association may act in terms of the Constitution in dealing with the matter.

CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF BEE REMOVALS

13. Any member of the Association who carries out the removal of feral swarms must be trained and competent to do so. The bee remover must know his limitations and must not endanger the safety of other persons, livestock, pets or other animals.
14. The primary responsibility of the bee remover should be to preserve the feral colony as a unitary community colony in order to re-hive the colony in its entirety and independence rather than creating hybrid colonies. Where this is impractical the bee keeper should be experienced in combining swarms in order to preserve the majority of the feral swarm removed.
15. No feral swarms which are accessible and can be re-hived should be destroyed. A bee remover should decline a job without recompense if he

believes he is not capable of or is constrained in any way from completing a successful bee removal.

16. Where the client requests that the bees should not be destroyed the bee remover must decline the work without recompense if he cannot remove the bees for relocation. In the event that the client requests that the bees be destroyed whereas the bee remover is of the opinion that the bees can be relocated he should endeavour to persuade the client to allow him to remove the colony.
17. The bee remover should be prepared to refer a removal to another bee remover without due favour where he is not able to remove the swarm.
18. The bee remover who undertakes an assignment must commit to his arrangements with the client in respect to date and time or communicate with the client where he is unable to honour the commitments made.
19. Any fees charged by a bee remover for undertaking an assignment shall be at the discretion of the bee remover as agreed with the client. The Association shall not prescribe to any member with respect to any charges levied for such assignment and the bee remover shall not involve the Association in any way regarding any dispute arising out of any services rendered.
20. The Association reserves the right to act in terms of its Constitution against any member with respect to any irresponsible action or conduct caused by the member who may bring the aims and objectives of the Association or the bee keeping fraternity in general into disrepute in respect of any activity associated with the removal of bees or their destruction.

FIELD DAYS AND OUTINGS

21. All members who attend Field Days, Field Trips or any Outing held under the auspices of the Association do so at the invitation of the Association and the hosts where the activity is held. Members and their guests and family attending such functions are required to respect the requests as made by such hosts regarding access to their premises and the non removal or otherwise of property belonging to the host.
22. Any person who conducts himself in an irresponsible or unacceptable manner at any function or outing organised by the Association may be requested to leave such function by any member of the Committee.
