



International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

IAF is an accredited NGO providing advisory services to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NGO-90006) and an accredited member of IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature.



A Simple Constitution for a Falconry Club based on the Constitutional Objectives of the IAF

This brief document is part of the actual Constitution of IAF and it can be used as a strategic starting point for your committee when they work on your own registration documents. You should add other details that are especially relevant to your country and might like to include such things as a code of conduct and details of how the club is to be administered, election of officers etc. It should be in your own language and drafted in accordance with your nations traditions.

Objectives of the *[insert name of club or organization]*.

1. To represent falconry in *[insert country name]*. Falconry is the traditional sport of taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey. It is a hunting art.
2. To preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.
3. To encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and to promote, under scientific guidance, domestic propagation for falconry.
4. To develop, maintain and amend national and international laws, treaties and conventions to permit the pursuit and perpetuation of falconry.
5. To require the observation of falconry, hunting, conservation and welfare laws, regulations, traditions and culture with regard to the taking, import, export and keeping of birds of prey, the taking of quarry species and the right of access to land in the country concerned.
6. To promote and uphold a positive public image of falconry with specialist organisations which regulate or otherwise affect falconry.

You may also find the following statements of use:

Falconers fly raptors from the wild and from domestic breeding. Falconry has evolved for centuries as a way of life with high utility for human and wildlife populations, whereby falconers encourage, develop and maintain:

- (i) knowledge from their research on domestic and free-living animals (e.g. pioneering successful captive propagation and release of endangered raptors);
- (ii) skills for conservation and for reducing human problems from wildlife (e.g. protecting aviation from bird strikes and improving safety of power lines);
- (iii) education that engenders support for conservation and human cultural diversity (e.g. through ancient falconry traditions that encourage respect for wildlife);
- (iv) resources (funding and personal effort) for incentive-based conservation (e.g. revenue from minimal-impact hunting to maintain non intensive land use).



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To safeguard the future of falconry, IAF considers it wise for falconry organisations:

- a) to encourage falconers in activities which benefit humanity and wildlife conservation;
- b) to obtain regulations that enable such activities by falconers;
- c) to create public awareness of their beneficial activities;
- d) to preserve organisational knowledge by archives and use of their elder statesmen.

In these contexts, IAF also encourages:

1. development of skills among falconers that benefit humans and wildlife;
2. support for young falconers in occupations that engender such skills;
3. seeking opportunities to benefit wild raptor populations through domestic breeding;
4. access to wild raptors for falconry in ways that conserve their populations;
5. policies that acknowledge the value and rights of falconers as well as responsibilities;
6. development by falconers of close relationships with their regulatory authorities;
7. development by falconers of culturally sensitive public relations strategies.

IAF has also a number of Position Statements on various topics which may help if officials ask for more information. It is important to set up a dialogue with the authorities, even if they at first refuse your request, you can ask why and then answer their negative reasons.

IAF is happy to provide personalized formal letters to help you in this, but we need you to find out the right people in your country to send these to.