

## **Rider Responsibilities**

Arrive sufficiently early so that you are ready to leave at the scheduled time. It is inconsiderate to be dressing or pumping up tires while everybody waits for you.

Carry your own spare tube, pump (co2 cylinders), water bottle etc. Don't rely on others to support you.

Ride safely and respect all traffic laws.

Notify the ride leader or another rider before leaving the group.

If you pass the ride leader and don't meet the group at the next regroup point, you are on your own.

Wearing a helmet is mandatory.

Headphone use is prohibited.

The safety of the group depends on members riding smoothly and predictably. Do not move out of your line of travel without checking to see that you will not be moving into another rider. Signal your intentions. Do not treat this rule lightly; there can be very real consequences due to your inattention.

Communicate. Remember that riders behind you often can't see what is in front of you call out hazards that may cause a crash or flat tire. Call out overtaking (car back) or oncoming (car up) cars when they may be passing close to the group. Call out braking when you slow unexpectedly.

Ride to the right. It is legal to ride two abreast but common sense should tell you to single up when being overtaken by a car, it is safer and just common courtesy towards the motorist. If you are riding significantly to the left of everybody else in the group perhaps you are doing something wrong, move to the right. Having somebody hanging out in traffic is dangerous to the whole group. If challenging motorists is in your DNA do the group a favor and ride by yourself.

Do not take chances at intersections. If part of the group makes it through they will slow the pace until the rest of the group can catch up. Often riders will call out clear as they ride through an intersection to indicate that it is safe for following riders to proceed. Do not follow that rider without first checking for yourself, your safety is in your hands.

When the group stops stay to the right, do not form groups that swell into the road and block traffic.

The intent of this document is to provide for a safe and enjoyable cycling experience. If you are new to riding this may seem like too much information. But don't be overwhelmed. Join the group, watch experienced riders and just do what they do. Safe practices will soon become second nature.

It is natural for regular club riders to group together with their riding friends. If this is you and you notice a new rider trying to figure out where they fit in, introduce yourself and offer to answer any questions. They may pay you back by offering you a wheel to follow by the end of the season.