



1. General Rules of the Ride

- 1.1 All riders must keep between the ride leader in the front and the tail-end-Charlie at the back.
- 1.2 General road rules are to be followed at all times:-
 - 1.2.1 Riders are not to ride more than two abreast.
 - 1.2.2 Riders must ride single file beside double lines and across bridges.
 - 1.2.3 Riders are to obey road signs such as STOP and GIVE WAY signs etc.
- 1.3 All riders are to follow instructions given to them by the ride leader or tail-end-Charlie.
- 1.4 All children under 16 are to be accompanied and under the supervision of an adult / parent / guardian or carer.
 - 1.4.1 It is the responsibility of the adult / parent / guardian or carer of any children attending the ride, who are required to be fitted with approved child restraints under current Victorian Road Law when travelling in a vehicle, to provide their own support vehicle fitted with suitable legally compliant child restraints.
- 1.5 The safety of riders and other road users is paramount. Where safety is being compromised by the behaviour of any riders, the riders concerned will be cautioned by the ride leader or tail-end Charlie, and advised that a repeat of the unsafe behaviour will result in them being returned to the marshalling point. Returning riders to the marshalling point will only be taken after the ride leader and the tail-end-Charlie have consulted with each other and agree that this is the best course of action.

2. Newcomers

- 2.1 All newcomers and anyone with special needs / disability, should be directed to a club official of the ride. It is the responsibility of the club official to:-
 - a) Introduce the newcomer to the rules of the ride: i.e. keeping behind the ride leader, follow the instructions of the ride leader, use of the support vehicle when having problems, etc.
 - b) Introduce the newcomer to other club members as appropriate.
 - c) Invite the newcomer to the refreshment break.

3. Riders with Special Needs

- 3.1 Where a person with special needs / disability requires the support of a responsible adult / carer, they must be accompanied on the ride by their responsible adult / carer.
- 3.2 If an adult club member is concerned about the safety and/or welfare of a person with special needs, they should discuss their concerns with the ride leader and tail-end Charlie to seek the best resolution of the matter. Where possible, these concerns should be made known to the person with special needs, or their carer. If necessary, the person can be returned to the initial marshalling point in the support vehicle.

4. Ride Leader

- 4.1 The Ride Leader should try to keep the tail-end-Charlie and support vehicle in sight (i.e. not get too far ahead of them).
- 4.2 When riding up long steep hills, the ride leader should endeavour to find a safe place to stop and wait for the slower riders to catch up.

4.3 The ride leader must ensure that if they allow faster riders to go ahead up hills that they make the overtaking riders aware that they must regroup in a safe area upon reaching the top or an alternative safe location to regroup, determined by the ride leader.

5. Support Vehicle

5.1 It is the responsibility of the driver of the support vehicle to keep within sight of the tail-end-Charlie where possible.

5.2 It is the responsibility of the driver of the support vehicle to verbally advise passengers of behaviour deemed inappropriate by the driver.

5.3 In situations where the driver feels uncomfortable about the behaviour or welfare of any passengers in the vehicle, they should alert the riding group by two way radio or a continuous blast on the horn.

5.3.1 The tail-end-Charlie should immediately drop back and join the driver of the support vehicle to provide any assistance required.

5.3.2 Where necessary, tail-end-Charlie can summon other club members via two way radio to provide appropriate assistance to the driver or passenger without endangering the safety of other riders.

5.4 Where the driver feels uncomfortable continuing with the passenger in the support vehicle, because the welfare or behaviour of the passenger cannot be managed to the satisfaction of the driver, the driver will advise tail-end Charlie of their concerns. Tail-end Charlie and the ride leader will confer, and direct the passenger to discontinue the ride immediately. The passenger will be removed by notifying their emergency contact to attend immediately, or by requesting the attendance of the appropriate emergency service, as determined by the situation at hand.

6. Risk Management

6.1 The club is mindful of safety issues associated with riding and makes every effort to anticipate problems and address them appropriately.

6.1.1 On days when the forecast temperature has been predicted to exceed 35 degrees C, the ride will be cancelled. When the forecast temperature is 35 degrees C or less, the club may elect to modify the ride to suit the prevailing conditions.

6.2 Rides are researched in terms of road conditions to assess suitability for our rides.

6.3 A club official reads out the rules and regulations at the beginning of each ride from a standard script.

6.4 Any known hazardous items such as bridges, gravel, road works etc. are brought to the attention of the riders before starting the ride. Where new hazards arise on the ride, a club official or ride leader will make a decision, to the best of his or her ability, as to the best course of action to be taken.

6.5 A comprehensive First Aid Kit is carried in the support trailer on each ride, and the club has a number of qualified First Aid members.

6.6 It is determined before each ride that a mobile phone is available for emergency use.

6.7 A support vehicle accompanies each ride for riders' use and any emergencies that arise.

6.8 Dangerous riding practices are discouraged. Riders who commit dangerous or unsafe acts will have their details recorded, and be dealt with in accordance with clause 1.5.

6.9 Bicycle reliability and set up for rider comfort is addressed where needed.

6.10 It is mandatory for the committee to discuss safety issues at committee meetings.