

Oakville Cycling Club

Risk Management Plan

Purpose of this Policy:

1. Cycling can be a dangerous activity. The Oakville Cycling Club (OCC) has developed this Risk Management Plan to document how OCC rides are to be managed to reduce risks associated with cycling activities. These policies are to be practiced by OCC members, and any permitted visiting riders as permitted by Ontario Cycling Association rules, during every OCC ride. All OCC members, and any permitted visiting riders, share the responsibility for making OCC rides as safe as possible.

Each OCC member shall receive a copy, electronic or otherwise of this Risk Management Plan and a copy shall be available on the OCC website at www.Oakvillecc.com . Additional information regarding OCC rules and programs can also be found on the OCC website.

Definitions

2. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a. "OCC Rides" means rides formally organized by the OCC and as described on the OCC website. Rides not listed on the OCC website are not OCC rides.

OCC Incorporation

3. The OCC was incorporated on April 30, 2013.

Insurance

4. The OCC requires each member to purchase General Liability Insurance coverage through the Ontario Cycling Association (OCA). General Liability Insurance is designed to protect a person (member) or any entity (Province, Club, Canadian Cycling Association) against any legal responsibility arising out of a negligent act or failure to act as a prudent person would have acted, which results in bodily injury or property damage to another party. OCC members should familiarize themselves with the terms of the insurance coverage. The coverage details may be accessed through the OCA website.
5. The OCC must receive notice from the OCA of signed insurance waivers from each OCC member; membership is not assigned or granted until such notification is received by the OCC.

Standards of Care

6. This Risk Management Plan and all OCC programs and rides shall adhere to the following, as applicable:
 - a. UCI, CCA, OCA rules and regulations as they pertain to Club Rides.
 - b. Ontario Highway Traffic Act
 - i. While on OCC Rides, all OCC members must adhere to and obey all rules of the road as per the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. The Ontario Highway Traffic Act is available here: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h08_e.htm
 - c. OCA guidelines with respect to group rides during the Covid-19 Pandemic. All OCC members are required to sign the ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, RELEASE, INDEMNITY and ASSUMPTION of RISK regarding COVID-19 as found on the OCA website. The guidelines being updated from time to time.

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- d. OCC members will follow applicable laws with respect to social distancing (minimum of 3m) while participating in OCC group rides, events and activities. Covid-19 additions are effective immediately and will remain in place until removed/amended via a new risk management plan.
- e. In implementing COVID-19 safety measures/protocols, the Oakville Cycling Club will follow the latest Return to Sport and Progressive Return to Cycling Guidelines of the Ontario Cycling Association (found at www.ontariocycling.org/covid-19-information/). All members should familiarize themselves with these items prior to participating in any Oakville Cycling Club activity.

General

7. All members of the OCC are responsible for bringing forward to the OCC Board and/or the OCC Executive any safety issues related to OCC Rides which present themselves throughout the riding season.
8. While on OCC Rides, all OCC members must adhere to and obey all rules of the road as per the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.
9. Any OCC member on an OCC Ride should immediately advise the ride leader(s) and other members of the ride should the member feel the group or individuals in the group are riding in an unsafe manner. The member should withdraw from the ride if they feel unsafe. Riders who are riding unsafely and putting themselves or the group at risk are subject to verbal and / or written warnings and failure to correct could result in riding restrictions within the club and possible removal.
10. All participants of the OCC Rides must provide proof of membership in good standing prior to each ride, if requested by the ride leader. If an ineligible rider insists on participating even after being asked not to, then the OCC Ride may proceed, however, the ride leader shall advise the ineligible rider, with a witness present, that he or she is ineligible and is not covered by any OCC insurance and is responsible for all his/ her actions. Occasional non-members guests may be permitted on OCC Rides provided the guest can provide proof of OCA sponsored insurance. Casual non-member riders encountered on a club ride will not be permitted to join the ride.
11. Each OCC Ride participant will conduct themselves in a responsible manner and retains liability for their own actions.

Ride Leaders

12. A ride leader(s) will be appointed by the OCC Ride Coordinator for each OCC Ride. The ride leader will identify himself/herself to the group so that everyone is aware of who is leading the ride. The ride leader may describe the general ride route, and may provide a brief safety tip at the commencement of the ride. Each individual group on an OCC Ride shall have a leader. If no leader is available for any particular group, that group ride will be cancelled.
13. The ride leader(s) has the final decision on all matters pertaining to the OCC Ride and his/her decisions must be respected by all participants.
14. Ride leaders will carry cell phones for emergency use on all OCC Rides and, from time to time, will remind riders to carry their own cell phones on OCC Rides. Riders should immediately call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Rides

15. OCC Rides on roads will be planned to use lesser- traveled roads where possible and practical.
16. OCC Rides will not run if lightning is present and will be cancelled if lightning is sighted.

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17. When a large number of riders come out for any given group, the riders will be encouraged by the ride leader to break into smaller groups. A size of 6-12 (maximum) is a reasonable group. Groups should be at least 100 metres apart on the road to allow other vehicles to pass safely in two maneuvers.
18. Riders must not be left behind during an OCC Ride unless they first confirm with the ride leader(s) that they are detaching from the group; all members of the OCC Ride are responsible for ensuring they properly notify the ride leader(s) if they are detaching from the group. Riders continually lagging the group pace will be encouraged or required to ride with a more suitably paced group.
19. OCC members are responsible for ensuring that their bicycle is in good working order before attending each OCC Ride.
20. Bicycle helmets must be worn at all times while participating in any OCC ride and other protective equipment is strongly encouraged (e.g., gloves, eye wear).
21. Front and rear lights are required during any OCC Ride which takes place one half hour before sunset and/ or which may extend into darkness.

22. OCC members are responsible for ensuring they are sufficiently fit for their desired activity.
23. OCC members are responsible for bringing sufficient liquids and food, wearing appropriate clothing as required, for each OCC Ride, as well as appropriate tools/ spare tubes, etc.
24. OCC members are not to be under the influence of any drug or beverage product that could impair their riding judgment while on a OCC Ride.
25. Any and every accident on a OCC Ride shall be immediately reported to a OCC Board and/or Executive member to be reported to the Ontario Cycling Association (OCA) through the proper reporting procedures and forms provided by the OCA. The list of Board and Executive members can be found on the OCC website.

Skills Development

26. The OCC encourages all riders to be comfortable and proficient with group riding before joining a OCC ride. Members are encouraged to read the OCC Road Bike Etiquette Guide, available on the OCC website, www.oakvillecc.com/index.php/member-resources/group-ride-etiquette .
27. To support rider skills development, the OCC may periodically hold skills development programs for road riding and encourages all OCC members to attend these programs and /or other cycling skills courses.
28. Riders may be requested to complete a skills development program before attending or continuing to attend regular scheduled OCC rides.
29. New or novice member are encouraged to participate in the Recreational/Introductory group rides offered by the OCC before participating in more challenging or technically advanced rides.

Review and Approval

30. This policy is reviewed annually.
31. This policy was approved by the Oakville Cycling Club Executive
32. This updated RMP went into effect June 10, 2021

Version June 10, 2021