

Oakville Cycling Club

RIDE POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Plan:
 - a. "OCC" = Oakville Cycling Club
 - b. "OCC Rides" - means rides formally organized by the OCC with signup through OCC's prescribed signup platform and as described on the OCC website. Rides not listed on the OCC website nor organized through the signup platform are not OCC rides.

Purpose

2. Cycling can be a dangerous activity. The Oakville Cycling Club (OCC) has developed this Ride Policy 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, during every OCC ride. All OCC members share the responsibility for making OCC rides as safe as possible. A copy of this Ride Policy 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.

OCC Incorporation

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

Standards of Care

4. This Ride Policy and all OCC programs and rides shall adhere to the following, as applicable:
 - a. Ontario Highway Traffic Act - 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
 - b. The OCC will abide by government laws and/or health advisories that limit group sizes or the dynamics of those rides (example spacing between riders). OCC members will follow those same laws/advisories participating in OCC group rides, events, and activities.

General

5. 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.
6. While on OCC Rides, all OCC members must adhere to and obey all rules of the road as per the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.
7. 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.

8. OCC rides and events are for current OCC members. The OCC may ask for proof of membership, for which the enrollment confirmation email shall suffice. 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. Casual non-member riders encountered on a club ride will not be permitted to join the ride.
9. Each OCC Ride participant will conduct themselves in a responsible manner and retains liability for their own actions.

Ride Planning

10. OCC Rides will not run if lightning is present and will be canceled if lightning is sighted.
11. OCC rides will not run if sustained winds are greater than 35 KPH and or gusting winds greater than 45 KPH
12. OCC rides will not run if temperatures are above 35 degrees Celsius or a humidex greater than 40 degrees Celsius.
13. Ride leaders can change the route to accommodate weather conditions. Ride leaders will have final decision on proceeding with a ride.

Equipment

14. OCC members are responsible for ensuring that their bicycle is in good working order before attending each OCC Ride.
15. OCC Members are responsible for ensuring they know how to properly operate their bicycles, including shifting, braking and shifting while on inclines.
16. Riders must carry on a ride a spare tube, inflation device and multi-tool for on-ride repairs.
17. 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).
18. Front and rear lights are required.
19. Riding with headphones, including ear-buds and bone conduction earbuds is prohibited.
20. Bicycles must be equipped with drop handlebars. The use of Tri-bars on organized group rides is prohibited. Clip-on aero bars can remain on the bike but must not be used during an OCC ride. To facilitate group riding, bar width is limited to 55cm.
21. Class 1 E-bikes, with drop handlebars permitted for groups 21, 23, 25 and 27 KPH speed groups. These must be strictly class 1 only with no throttle. Pedal assist only.
22. All riders must carry identification and emergency contact information on all rides. Riders are encouraged carry cell phones for emergency use on all OCC Rides. Riders should immediately call 911 in the event of an emergency.
23. Riders must not use cell phones while riding their bike, unless the phone is mounted on the bike.
24. Use of drones to follow riders and capture video/pictures is also prohibited.

Rides

25. 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 is a reasonable group. Groups should be at least 100 meters apart on the road to allow other vehicles to pass safely in two maneuvers.
26. OCC members are responsible for ensuring they are sufficiently fit for their desired activity.
27. 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.
28. OCC members are not to be under the influence of any drug or beverage products that could impair their riding judgment while on an OCC Ride.
29. 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.
30. Any and every accident on an OCC Ride shall be immediately reported after the ride to an OCC Board and/or Executive member. The list of Board and Executive members can be found on the OCC website.

Ride Leaders

31. The Ride Leader will identify himself/herself to the group so that everyone is aware of who is leading the ride. The ride leader will describe the general ride route and will provide a brief safety instruction 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 canceled.
32. 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.
33. 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.

Skills Development

34. The OCC encourages all riders to be comfortable and proficient with group riding before joining an 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.
35. 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.
36. Riders may be requested to complete a skills development program before attending or continuing to attend regular scheduled OCC rides.
28. New or novice members 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

37. This policy is reviewed annually.
38. This policy was approved by the Oakville Cycling Club Executive.
39. This policy went into effect on July 16, 2020.
40. This policy was reviewed and updated on August 31, 2025