

## VSCC E-Bike Policy

VSCC encourages, supports, and welcomes everyone to cycle with us. E-bikes are a valued addition to the cycling community and, when used responsibly, contribute positively to the overall cycling experience.

This policy outlines how e-bikes should be used on VSCC Club Group Rides to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants.

Our ride leaders are volunteers; there is no expectation that anyone be required to lead mixed E-Bike and conventional bike groups if they are not comfortable in doing so.

E-Bike riders must check with ride leader in advance that it's OK to join a ride (unless the ride is already marked as E-Bike friendly)

## General Principles

- E-bike riders are expected to choose rides that match their skill level and experience.
- All riders, including those on e-bikes, are expected to follow the same group riding etiquette.
- This policy applies to all road-legal E-bikes, including those with drop or flat handlebars, mountain bikes, and gravel bikes. Participation is allowed on appropriate rides unless otherwise specified by the Ride Leader.
- This policy is intended for adult riders aged 18 and over.

## E-Bike Rules

1. **Legal Compliance:**  
All e-bikes must comply with UK road law: a maximum motor power of 250W, with motor assistance cutting out at 25kph (15.5 mph). Only pedal-assist bikes (not throttle-controlled "twist and go" types) are permitted.
2. **Prohibited E-Bikes:**  
Throttle-powered e-bikes are **strictly prohibited** on all VSCC Club Group Rides.
3. **Sportives and Events:**  
E-bikes may be used in sportives if permitted by the event organiser. They may only be used in competitive events if those events are specifically designated for e-bikes.
4. **Group Pace:**  
E-bike riders must ride at the pace of the group and should not ride ahead or separate themselves from other riders.
5. **Safety and Conduct:**  
The Group Ride Leader has the authority to address any unsafe or inappropriate e-bike usage to ensure the safety of all riders.
6. **Battery Management:**  
E-bike riders must ensure they have a fully charged battery and a spare if necessary. It is the rider's responsibility to be self-sufficient in the event of battery failure. Ride Leaders are not responsible for returning riders to the start point if they run out of battery.

7. **Hill Climbing Etiquette:**

E-bike riders should show consideration to other riders when climbing hills. If riding at a different pace, they should wait at the top in a safe regrouping location.

8. **Mixed Group Awareness:**

In mixed groups of mountain and non-mountain e-bikes, especially off-road or in unfamiliar terrain, riders must be mindful of the power differences (e.g., turbo mode). Extra caution must be taken to ensure the group remains safe and cohesive.

9. **Age Restrictions:**

Riders must be at least 14 years old to legally ride an e-bike on UK roads. Youth cyclists aged 14 or over may only participate when accompanied and supervised by a ride-guardian (in line with our Youth Policy) and with prior approval.

10. **Adapted E-Bikes and E-Trikes:**

Adults requiring adapted e-bikes or e-trikes should contact the Club Welfare Officers in advance to discuss participation.

VSCC is committed to promoting safe, inclusive, and enjoyable cycling for all. We look forward to seeing more riders out on the road and hope this policy provides helpful guidance for e-bike users.

Version Control

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2025 05	05/2025	JC	Fully revised