

VSCC Safe Riding Policy & Procedure

Purpose

The purpose of VSCC's safe riding policy and procedure is to support the safety of club members on official VSCC club rides, by defining the escalation and subsequent management of club riders whose riding techniques/behaviours are deemed to compromise the safety of themselves and other club riders.

Background

- VSCC prides itself on the steps it takes to ensure the safety and enjoyment of its club members on group rides by proactively encouraging safe riding techniques. It does this in a variety of ways e.g.
 - Having trained club ride leaders who i) brief those on club rides before rides commence and ii) encourage appropriate group riding techniques while out on a club ride
 - Having Group Riding & Safety Guidelines on VSCC website that provide details of group riding techniques and club calls/signals
 - https://vsccl.vercel.app/assets/docs/VSCC-Group-Riding_compressed.pdf
 - <https://vsccl.vercel.app/safety/index.html>
 - Encouraging new members to initially join slower paced rides to allow them to learn group riding techniques and club calls/signals
 - Promotion of safe group riding tips and techniques via it's Facebook page and its bi-weekly newsletter
 - Periodically offering coaching sessions to all club riders e.g. at the Brownlee Track
- Although rare, there may be circumstances where a club member's riding style/behaviour is deemed to be of a magnitude that they compromise the safety of other cyclists on one or more club rides and where it is felt intervention is required e.g. not adhering to VSCC group riding guidelines
- The below procedure lays out the mechanism for the escalation and subsequent management of any such circumstances.

Procedure

Before/On the Ride

- Ride leaders to continue to take proactive steps to help ensure rider safety.
 - Post event with safety info (M check, membership card/ICE details, health issues)
 - Contact any unknown riders signing up for their ride to understand their level of experience of group riding (action as appropriate e.g. suggest joining a slower paced group initially)
 - Post the route well ahead of time so riders have time to assess suitability and download/add to their device

- Conduct a ride briefing, including introductions of any new riders and emphasising group riding calls/techniques
 - Ongoing monitoring/management of the group and providing appropriate feedback
 - Expectation that other ride leaders on the ride will contribute to the monitoring/management of the group on the ride
- Should any riding techniques/behaviours give sufficient cause for concern it is suggested ride leaders pause the ride to provide constructive, generic feedback to the group before recommencing. If individual feedback is required, ride leader should ideally find an opportunity to have a discreet chat during the ride.

Post-Ride

- At the end of the ride, if a ride leader has deemed a member's riding style/behaviours to have seriously compromised the safety of other riders they are encouraged to address these with the rider in question
 - Emphasise that the goal is to protect the safety of themselves and club members on rides
 - Provide specific examples of riding style/behaviours that gave cause for concern and why they were concerning/potential implications
 - Suggest actionable steps for improvement, including signposting to safety and group riding information on the VSCC website, any upcoming coaching sessions etc
- In the event of the issue and proposed solution not being acknowledged during/post ride:
 - The ride leader must inform the rider that the ride leader is required to confidentially inform the club's Safety Officer (SO) due to the seriousness of the situation
 - Ride leader to speak confidentially to other members on the ride to gain their feedback
 - Ride leader to inform the SO within 48 hours of the incident where possible

Safety Officer Review

- Evaluate severity of the Issue
 - SO will investigate and classify the report as a minor concern or a major safety risk. If a major safety risk an Incident Report will be raised and processed accordingly.
 - If multiple reports are submitted about the same rider(s), the SO will note the frequency and severity of the reports to determine action needed.
- Follow Up and Monitoring by Safety Officer
 - After reporting a concern with a rider, SO will ensure the rider understands they have a responsibility to improve their group riding skills for the safety of all riders
 - Follow up with Ride Leaders to monitor and ensure improvement
- Escalation of Persistent Issues
 - If unsafe behaviour continues despite interventions, further steps may be necessary. In exceptional circumstances, suspension may be necessary from group rides, until improvements have been made, to ensure the safety of our members.
 - These improvements remain the responsibility of the individual rider, who will need to inform the SO when he/she believes the necessary improvements have been made and wishes to be considered for reinstatement on club rides.

- In the event of the individual being readmitted to club rides, their ability to ride safely in groups will be subject to scrutiny from ride leaders.
- If satisfactory improvement has not been achieved then permanent exclusion from club rides will need to be considered and this decision will be made by a committee comprising, but not exclusive of, the chair, vice chair, safety officer, ride leader co-ordinator, development officer and welfare officer.

VERSION CONTROL

2025 04 04

04/04/2025

JD