

T&DCC Safety and Etiquette guidelines for new and existing riders

Introduction: This document gives guidelines for new & existing members about the safety & etiquette when riding in a group.

Safety when riding.

1. Always follow the NSW road rules for cyclists, see the T&DCC club web page under the heading "Info".
2. At the ride briefing listen to the ride leaders' instructions as hazards are included
3. When turning onto a side street, wait for the ride leader to go first. A bigger margin should always be allowed for when riding as a group. Always check the status before proceeding in case another vehicle suddenly appears, such as cars pulling out from the kerb or speeding. Do not get in a lane with a left/right arrow then go straight ahead. Do not say "Clear" it is up to all riders to judge for themselves, you can say vehicle left or right.
4. Always remember it is a **ride** and not a race. Some accidents within our groups in the past have been caused by riders racing. Never overtake another cyclist on the inside/left line.
5. Never ride with overlapping wheels, that is half wheel. If riding side by side, leave a **1 metre gap**.
6. Never stop suddenly without warning other riders in a loud voice, calling out "**Stopping**", and use the stopping hand signal if safe to do so. Traversing bad surfaces with one hand is dangerous and should only be done if it is safe.
7. Always callout "**passing**" if you are overtaking a rider, this warns the rider not to change direction.
8. Do not ride too close to the cyclist in front of yourself, allow time to safely stop in case of an incident. Allow more distance at higher speeds, or downhill. Always have **both hands on the brake levers** in case a fast stop is required. A senior ride leader from a Sydney club passed on this important tip.
9. When passing parked vehicles, always allow a safe distance from the **vehicle doors**, so as not to be doored. A lot of bicycle accidents occur in this manner, as some of our members can vouch.
10. Do not ride in the **blind spot** of any type of vehicles. A lot of cyclists have been killed by turning trucks that did not see the rider in the blind spot on their left-hand, or right-hand side.
11. As when driving vehicles, mobile phone use is not allowed when riding for calls or other purposes.
12. Be aware of the weather conditions, and ride within the range of your capability. The club will advise riders when a ride is to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, such as high temperature and humidity.
13. In case of an incident Inform the leader, and the sweep of any incident due to a mechanical problem or accident. Use WhatsApp, phone, or pass message verbally. The group should stay with the affected rider till given all clear to carry on. In case of a serious medical incident ring "000" immediately. The nominated first aid person should be notified immediately.
14. Be cautious around walkers with dogs, whether they are on or off leashes. Always slow down and stop if required. Some of our riders have had accidents due to owners not controlling their dogs.
15. Do not ride on roads saying private roads. For example, those that include the words "only authorised persons allowed on site". Those that do may make their insurance null and void and be liable to prosecution.
16. Do not overtake the ride leader unless they advise you that it ok to do so. In some cases, the ride leader will tell the group to ride ahead and meet at a designated place.
17. Do not change direction suddenly as this is dangerous, as is cutting in on another rider.
18. When on the road, and a car approaches from behind, call out "car back".
19. Do not get involved with arguments with motorists or other bike riders from outside or inside the club.
20. When crossing roads at lights, and the number of riders is too large to cross the road, follow the ride leaders instructions who will then break the group into two groups

Riding Etiquette

1. Be Courteous to other riders, drivers, and walkers on the shared paths, remembering walkers, people in electric chairs, etc have the right of way over cyclists. Always use your bell to warn others on the path that you are coming, and slow down when nearing the other path users. Remember pedestrians have the right of way.
2. When riding on a shared pathway, notify riders behind you of obstacles on the path such as walkers, other riders, debris etc. In a loud voice call out "**walker up**", "**bike up**", or whatever the nature of the hazard. For debris on the path point to the ground and move hand in a circular motion.
3. Always give hand signals when stopping, cornering, braking, and when moving to avoid hazards on the road or path. For hazards on the road do the same while calling out the nature of the hazard, such as "**Pothole**".
4. When stopping on a shared pathway, pull to the side of the path so as not to obstruct others on the path. When stopping on the road, pull off to the side of the road so as not to obstruct vehicles.
5. When riding on the road you are legally allowed to ride 2 abreast, but when in a busy traffic area, going up hills, or where we are holding up vehicles, ride single file so as not to hinder drivers.
6. Do not get involved in arguments with abusive motorists as the situation can escalate.
7. When crossing a road with a pedestrian crossing, do not ride unless the traffic signal has a bike symbol. Always walk across zebra crossings without bike symbols.
8. When crossing a road, don't scatter, always let the ride leader go first, then cross as a group or groups.
9. If leaving the ride at any stage advise the ride leader and sweep. If taking a detour, then inform the ride leader of your intention, we need to be able to find you if you do not re-join the group. If not close to either the leader or sweep, then inform a marshal who can pass on the information.
10. Always stay behind the ride leader, only go ahead of them when invited to, and don't block their view at intersections.
11. Apologise to any rider you may have risked their safety by your behaviour.