



Droitwich Cycling Club - Ride Leader Guidance

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This guidance is for Droitwich Cycling Club Ride Leaders who run non-competitive group club rides for both members and guests.

1.2 Organised rides, and the people that lead them are the lifeblood of our club, it is very rewarding for leaders and participants alike. Whilst they are guidelines to follow, much of the below is common sense.

1.3 Ride leaders are covered by British Cycling's insurance providing they are acting on behalf of Droitwich Cycling Club.

2.0 Ride Leader Development

2.1 Whilst not required, Droitwich Cycling Club wants to actively support our ride leaders by part funding their British Cycling ride leader qualifications to enable their development as leaders.

2.2 Those interested in attaining their Ride Leader qualification should make contact with the Club Secretary.

3.0 Duty of Care

3.1 Ride Leaders accept responsibility for leading the group and owe the other riders a duty of care to reduce the chance of them being exposed to unacceptable risk of injury, as far as is reasonably practicable.

3.2 Rides are open to club members, members of affiliate clubs and guests (a guest being defined as someone 'trailing' club activities prior to membership for a limit of three attendances).

3.3 Each Ride Leader will have in mind the type of ride they wish to plan and lead and the abilities and experience of the Club members it might attract. Whatever the type of ride, the Ride Leader should look to work to the practices set out in this document, to ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants.

3.4 It is essential therefore that a Ride Leader carries out the control measures in the Club's Generic Risk Assessment. Many of the measures are in fact the responsibility of individual riders so this will need to be communicated to riders from time to time. Attention should be paid to new members or guest riders turning up for the first time to make sure they are reasonably competent and have a suitable bike.

3.5 Ride Leaders must undertake to lead to the best of their ability and avoid creating foreseeable risk of injury. They must take reasonable steps to deal with any potential risk of injury, which they know exists or arises during a ride.

3.6 Ride Leaders are volunteers, not professional guides. Droitwich Cycling club guidance makes this clear and states that the individual riders have a duty of care to themselves and others who may be affected by their actions. All riders must take full responsibility for their actions and to also use their own judgment as to what is best for their own and the group's safety in any particular situation, but:



3.7 As a Ride Leader you must override unsafe decisions about group actions made by others, if they occur.

3.8 A Ride Leader will have knowledge of the route they are leading, be aware and reasonably follow this guidance and be an experienced rider.

4.0 A Ride Leader will aim to make a group ride enjoyable by

4.1 Planning a ride - Road

- Using roads with low traffic volume
- Considering scenic routes or destinations of interest
- Choosing 'Hilly' or 'Flat' routes
- Matching the time and length of ride to daylight hours (or specify lights)
- Avoid or manage hazardous junctions
- Consider avoiding large urban areas unless specifically a planned feature of a ride

4.2 Giving a Pre-Ride Briefing

4.2.1 Group rides tend to fall into two categories: The standard weekly club social rides and the one-off special events or outings.

4.2.2 A special event will need a briefing communicated in advance so that club members may decide whether the ride is for them. The Ride Leader may need to check entrants' abilities are suited to the ride in advance and may wish to limit numbers.

4.2.3 For standard weekly club rides a briefing on the day is usually sufficient though Ride Leaders may wish also to provide advance information, particularly in special circumstances due to say a longer route or changeable weather conditions.

4.3.4 In either case the briefing should:

- Outline route,
- Distance,
- Hills,
- Surfaces and road types to be encountered,
- Known hazards,
- Average speed,
- Comfort stops,
- Café stops,

5.0 On the Ride

5.1 After the briefing and before setting off, the Ride Leader should:

- Take a headcount check and names if necessary, to comply with insurance requirements (it may be possible to prepare a list in advance) and when needed, appoint an assistant/back marker.
- Making introductions for any new riders to the group.



5.2 When riding, the Ride Leader will implement the Club's Group Riding Rules, paying particular attention to:

- Keeping the group together and providing support.
- Not leaving anyone behind unless agreed during the ride and then only where safe to do so.

5.3 Delivering the ride that has been briefed, facilitating regrouping (e.g. at junctions; after hills) and keeping to the planned speed, subject to:

- Making adjustments to the planned ride for comfort and safety.
- Always choosing a safe place to stop as a group, and in particular avoiding road junctions, bends and other physical road hazards.
- Warning riders before stopping and keeping the carriageway clear.
- Assess the problem and decide whether to hold up the ride or leave the affected rider with helpers and details of the route to the next stop(s).
- If unsure of the route, stop well before junction to consult map.
- Check for presence of back marker at junctions. If necessary, wait for slower riders beyond the junction

6.0 Equipment failures on the ride:

6.1 In the event of punctures, breakdowns etc the priority is to keep the group safe. Clear the Carriageway/trail if possible or instruct the group to continue to a safe waiting place.

6.2 Ride Leaders are not expected to be bike mechanics and often others in the group may be able to help with mechanicals. No one should carry out any repairs or adjustments that they are not reasonably confident they can carry out successfully.

7.0 Ride Leader Position in the Group

7.1 It is not necessary for the Ride Leader to be on the front for the entire ride. This will be the best position when there are sections of more complex route finding or junction, or areas like narrow lanes where route knowledge might help in decisions for singling out.

7.2 The Leader also does not have to be the back marker though there may be times, particularly on long climbs where this is appropriate.

7.3 Often the best position is in the middle. And if on front best to be the right-hand side as this gives better visibility of the group behind.

8.0 Wearing of protective equipment

8.1 The club requires that helmets are worn at all times during rides of any type.

9.0 First Aid

9.1 It is not a Club requirement for a Ride Leader to carry or administer first aid.



10.0 Dealing with an accident

10.1 If someone has an accident, first ensure you're not endangering yourself or others by approaching them. Find out if anyone has a first aid qualification and follow their instructions or, if you hold a qualification, follow the procedures you learned.

10.2 There is some excellent advice provided by British Cycling [HERE](#)

11.0 Club Rider Development

11.1 The Ride Leader should encourage the development of individual club members' abilities and potential for leading rides. Sharing information about bike and riding safety in an informal, supportive and polite way is part of this.