

Manningham Bicycle User Group Inc.

Ride Guidelines

Purpose:

In response to the current insurance climate, it has been necessary to develop a Risk Management (RM) Policy to identify and control risks effecting Manningham Bicycle User Group (Manningham BUG). As a result of developing the Policy, the Committee felt that there should be general guidelines appropriate to social rides that the Manningham BUG organises or facilitates. These guidelines are not binding and are purposely excluded from the RM Policy due to their specific nature. The guidelines are designed to make people aware of their responsibilities and highlight risks that should be considered.

Guidelines

1. Ride Leaders

Ride Leaders carry responsibilities such as demonstrating a duty of care when organising or leading a ride. It must be noted that not all Manningham BUG rides have a Ride Leader. Some groups meet at a designated location and decide on the day where they will ride. In this case, there is no Ride Leader. For clarity, in these Ride Guidelines, the person riding at the front of the group will be called the “Front Marker” to distinguish from a Ride Leader.

Organisers or leaders of any event have to demonstrate they had a “duty of care”. For a person to be deemed negligent, they are said to have omitted doing something a prudent and reasonable person would have done in the same circumstances. A Ride Leader can demonstrate a duty of care by planning the ride. Such things as the route of the ride, the use of roads or bike paths, estimated duration and indicative degree of difficulty should be communicated to prospective participants so individuals can gauge whether they are physically capable of riding the route. Where possible, the Ride Leader should make general inquiries of the participants to gauge whether they are capable of completing the ride.

The Ride Leader should be competent to lead the group and has the right to limit numbers, change the route or cancel the ride if required.

The Ride Leader should make a list of each participant’s emergency phone number prior to the start of the ride.

Ride Leader Checklist

- Leaders should be competent to be able to lead a group
- Leader should assess and manage risks as appropriate for the group
- Leader has the right to limit the number or participants on the ride or to cancel the ride if there are not enough numbers
- Leader has the right to change the route if it is considered to be potentially dangerous
- Leader has the right to make general inquiries of the participants to gauge their competencies to complete the ride
- Leader should record emergency contacts and phone numbers prior to the start of the ride
- Leaders to report to Committee if there are any accidents or incidents that could potentially result in liability

2. Participants

Participants that are not members of Manningham BUG can ride on Manningham BUG rides, but will be encouraged to become Manningham BUG members.

Participants must understand that riding a bike can be dangerous and should take care when riding. It is the responsibility of participants to wear helmets that comply with the law. Participants should respect other road and bike path users. Full Personal accident insurance is not covered by Manningham BUG and it is recommended that riders take out insurance such as that provided by Bicycle Victoria. If a participant has special needs or limited cycling experience, they should convey this to the Ride Leader.

Manningham BUG membership forms will include a waiver that will be valid for the period of membership. Ride participants will be asked to register their name, and emergency phone number prior to joining a ride.

3. Rides

A “Back Marker” (someone riding behind the slowest rider) may be required to ensure that nobody is left behind on a ride. Ideally the Back Marker should be a strong rider that is capable of riding ahead to get help if required and may carry a first aid kit if available. It is unlikely that someone with first aid training will be attending every ride, but having a first aid kit available may be of use in an accident or emergency. Ideally, the Front and Back Markers should have a mobile phone.

In large groups, it may be necessary to re-group from time to time to ensure that the group does not become too spread out. It is also important that riders remain in the general riding group (not ahead of the Front Marker) so as to not interrupt the rest of the group by missing turn offs or making wrong turns.

When riding in groups, it is advisable to point out hazards to other riders. This includes calling things such as “bollards”, “passing”, “stopping”, “dog”, “loose dog”, “ped (pedestrian) ahead”, “bike / car front / back”, “glass”, etc. The warning makes other riders aware of the hazard and gives them time to react to avoid the obstruction.

The Ride Leader should try to arrange that experienced riders ride with, or look out for, inexperienced riders. This helps to improve the inexperienced rider’s confidence as well as alerting them to potential hazards.

In the case of an accident or serious injury, the Committee should be notified as soon as practical.