

Stirling Bike Club

Group Riding Risk Assessment

V1 May 2024 by A Denny CMIOSH, RSP



Associated Documents	<i>This Risk Assessment must be read with reference to the following documents</i>
Documents - Internal	Road Ride Leader (RRL) Guidance, Group Road Ride Handbook
Documents - External	UK Highway Code

Prior to Ride				
Hazard (pre-ride)	Description	At Risk	Controls	Expected Behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsafe bike • Unsuitable clothing • Lack of experience • Lack of fitness 	Individual's ability or lack of knowledge of equipment & riding ability may cause an issue during the ride	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-posted route on Spond • Ride organiser briefing • Guidance from other riders • Pre-ride communications • Individual ability & learning • Cycling Helmet Mandatory (EN 1078 minimum standard) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual must communicate with the ride organiser & clarify any lack of experience / ability before the ride begins • The individual must ensure their bike is in safe working order (working front & rear brakes; bar end-plugs fitted; bolts & fixings secure) • Individuals must always bring suitable hydration (e.g. a water bottle) on rides • The ride organiser may assign a 'buddy' for the ride • Ride organiser should check that each rider has suitable clothing / equipment / helmet for safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chosen route • Size of group • Group rules / etiquette • Expected weather • Known hazards 	The posted route may change due to the formation of the group, weather conditions or incidents.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route pre-posted on Spond • Rider names / numbers on Spond • Club established road etiquette • Pre ride Road organiser briefing • SBC speed guidelines for groups must not be exceeded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ride organiser should assess the route for known hazards, expected weather & brief the group accordingly • The ride organiser must brief on etiquette & may split the group if too large (max. 16) or rider abilities are too varied • All riders are expected to follow club etiquette and ride leader instructions • The ride organiser may decide to amend the ride due to conditions or rider behaviours

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During Ride				
Hazard (ride)	Description	At Risk	Controls	Expected Behaviours
Fixed road hazards	Road furniture (bollards, road narrowing etc.)	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fixed road hazards should be adequately signposted to Traffic Signs Regulations 2016 Front riders standard calls & signals when approaching hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even where cyclists have right of way, be prepared for oncoming traffic Front riders must shout out / indicate upcoming hazards via hand signals Front riders slow group down, halt if required, in good time & taking group size and experience into account When merging into traffic, group may have to split – allow time for group to re-establish
	Junctions			
	Roundabouts			
Variable road hazards (urban)	Parked vehicles	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride organiser should plan route to avoid congested areas / times and check for any planned roadworks etc. SBC agreed signals / shouts for upcoming hazards 'Single up' shout should be used sparingly, especially in urban environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic assessments of traffic situations required by lead riders of the group giving shouts / signals of upcoming hazards All riders must be aware of vehicle hazards especially in built-up environments – vehicle doors opening into traffic, lack of signals from vehicles, sudden changes in direction
	Traffic congestion			
	Roadworks			
	Broken road surface			
	Vehicles loading / unloading			
Variable road hazards (country)	Trails & paths	All riders, pedestrians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride organiser should survey trails for suitability before ride Avoid peak times / public holidays on popular walking trails Ride organiser should advise on general condition of trails and highlight fixed hazard Generally, ride in single file and allow more space between riders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed should be reduced on trails Be aware of debris, loose surfaces, roots etc
	Mud etc. on road			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When approaching other users, reduce speed and give a warning
	Horses, dogs etc. on road / path			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow down around loose dogs Reduce speed and communicate with rider / handler to minimise animal fright
	Farm machinery			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure driver has sight of riders, visibility may be restricted in farm vehicles

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Variable weather conditions	Heavy rain	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride organiser to check weather forecast day prior to ride & cancel ride on Spond if required • Ride organiser to check weather prior to ride and amend route / delay start / cancel ride dependant on conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudguards compulsory for wet weather riding (full length preferred) • Ride organiser to check that all riders have suitable adverse weather gear (waterproof jacket, gloves hat etc. • Ride organiser should check that all riders have suitable lights / hi-viz equipment for riding in conditions of poor visibility
	Snow / ice			
	Fog / poor visibility			
Collision	Individual fall	All riders, pedestrians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride organiser may be first aid trained, recommended to carry space blanket • Mobile phones available • If serious, police should be called & any witnesses identified 	<p>Dynamic assessment of situation, take into account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severity of issue / injury • Ability to ride on / complete route • Local environment, weather etc. • Emergency services access • Riders not left alone if rescue required
	Bike/bike collision			
	Bike/car collision			
	Bike/other collision			
Mechanical breakdown	Bike unfit to continue ride / speed or safety impaired	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride organiser encourages individual bike check pre-ride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals encouraged to carry basic repair equipment & maintain their bike • Normally expertise within group for basic repairs • Riders not left alone if rescue required
Rider health issue	Rider unable to continue ride / ability impaired	All riders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride organiser may be first aid trained, recommended to carry space blanket • Mobile phones available • Seek local assistance if required • If serious, ambulance should be called 	<p>Dynamic assessment of situation, take into account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severity of issue • Ability to ride on / complete route • Local environment, weather etc. • Riders not left alone if rescue required • Emergency services access • Seek shelter / assistance from locals



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Version History

Version	Date	Reason for Issue
1.0	Sep 2024	Initial version adopted by Club