

Wigan Borough Community Cycling Club

Ride Protocols when Riding in a Group

Ride Leader

- The Ride Leader is leading the ride and is aware of the hazards on the route. Do not overtake the Ride Leader unless the Ride Leader has permitted you to do so.

Rules of the road

- Follow the rules of the road for the safety of the group. This means adhering to traffic lights, give way signs and so on.
- If the group is larger than 8 riders and cars are trying to overtake, consider breaking into two groups if safe to do so, leaving a gap (approximately 4/5 car lengths) between the two for a car to pull into during an overtaking manoeuvre.
- If a vehicle has been patiently following the group for a long time e.g. on a long ascent, consider pulling over where safe and convenient to do so to allow the vehicle to pass. Note Highway Code - Rule 169: "Do not hold up a long queue of traffic, especially if you are driving a large or slow-moving vehicle. Check your mirrors frequently, and if necessary, pull in where it is safe and let traffic pass".

Overlapping wheels and inside overtaking

- This is the golden rule of riding in a group. Do not overlap your front wheel with the rear wheel of the rider in front. If the rider in front suddenly moves across the road/track your wheels will collide and the likely outcome is a crash, which could take out not only you but other cyclists in the group.
- Overtaking on the inside can be highly dangerous and should be avoided as far as possible.

Ride steady, hold your line and no sudden braking

- Ride in a predictable and consistent manner.
- Avoid any sudden, erratic or unpredictable behaviour that could potentially endanger the cyclists behind you.
- Hold your line and avoid sudden side-to-side movements.
- If you do need to move out ensure you indicate to the person behind you of your intention to change direction.

Communicate hazards

- Everyone in the group should make those following aware of hazards as they may be riding close behind and their view may be obscured.
- Potholes, sunken drain covers, glass and posts are examples of hazards that we frequently encounter on our on road and off road rides
- Assist the cyclist behind you by pointing out hazards either verbally or by using your hand and pointing towards the hazard (but without compromising your own safety).
- When pointing out hazards seek to ensure sufficient warning is given the rider(s) following you.

Self-regulation

- We will never leave a rider stranded or left behind. The back marker will use the walkie talkie to make the Ride Leader aware of any mechanical breakdowns or if a significant gap has developed.
- Riders should tactfully make other riders aware if they are contravening the ride protocol. Offence should not be taken if it is apparent that this has happened.
- As a collective group we should take personal responsibility to make other riders aware if any of our ride protocols and other good practices are not being followed. Any such conversations should be held with tact and diplomacy.