



BayWest Bicycle Users Group
Promoting Cycling in the West

Code of Conduct for BUG Riders

Purpose

This Code of Conduct outlines the proper practices for all BUG ride participants (“riders”), be they BUG members or visitors. It is a set of conventional principles and expectations that are binding on each rider in order to pursue the principal aims of the BUG, namely: to undertake safe and enjoyable rides at minimum inconvenience to others and to uphold the Group’s good reputation.

Legal Responsibility

BUG rides may use a combination of public roads, bicycle lanes, and combined bicycle/pedestrian paths and tracks. There are specific rules, many enforceable by law, for the conduct of safer cycling and these must be understood and complied with by all riders. BUG riders are to confirm annually, at the time of registration, that they have refreshed their knowledge and understanding of:

- <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/bicycles>
- <http://www.victorialawfoundation.org.au/publication/bike-law/read>

Ride Preparation

It is the sole responsibility of riders to consider individual preparedness for each ride. This requires consideration of the following:

- **Fit for the ride:** physically capable of undertaking the ride, aware of the possible side effects of medication, and not suffering under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **Equipped for the ride:** wearing and taking appropriate clothing for the anticipated conditions and satisfying legal requirements, carrying sufficient water, snacks, sunglasses and sunscreen and dressed and equipped to ensure high visibility to other road users.
- **Bicycle serviceability:** riders must ensure that the bicycle satisfies all legal requirements, be in sound condition and that a spare tube, tools and puncture repair kit be carried.
- **Insured for the ride:** BUG insurance cover is limited to general liability. Whilst not enforceable, riders are advised to review requirements with regard to personal accident, ambulance and bicycle-specific insurance.
- **ID:** riders are encouraged to carry some form of identification and a mobile phone number of person(s) to be notified in the event of an accident and a MYKI card should it prove necessary to return using public transport.
- **Ride pull-out:** in the event of having to withdraw from a ride, riders must make every attempt to inform the Ride Leader beforehand.
- **Ride ban:** at the Ride Leader’s discretion, participants may be denied permission to take part in the ride should there be reasonable doubt regarding the state of the rider and/or equipment.

During the Ride

The Code of Conduct presumes that riders will comply with the Bike Law handbook and that common sense and good etiquette will prevail at all times on the ride. The more significant aspects for riders to follow are that they should:



BayWest Bicycle Users Group
Promoting Cycling in the West

- Be predictable with all your actions.
- Hold your line – no wobbling or riding from side to side.
- Brake carefully and indicate to others when you are braking by voice or hand signal (most crashes that occur in group riding result from braking).
- Ride clear of other bikes – at least two wheel diameters space from others.
- Overtake a rider to their right – advising the rider of your intention and having received acknowledgement.
- Look ahead – watch the shoulders of the riders in front and, if possible, look ahead of them (avoid looking down at the rear wheel of the rider ahead, risking missing hand signals).
- Stay alert – have an avoidance strategy.
- Communicate to the other riders and listen to their communications – always indicate your intentions before you do something and indicate any hazards on the pavement or ahead.
- Remain between the Ride Leader and Tail Rider.
- Unless there is a demanding reason not to remain between the Ride Leader and Tail Rider, when possible, an explanation must be given and permission sought from the Ride Leader.
- Follow the route as designated by the Ride Leader.
- Inform the Ride Leader prior to joining or leaving the ride.
- Follow the path of the Ride Leader at all times as any deviation will be assumed to mean that the rider has voluntarily left the ride.
- Inform the Ride Leader of any untoward/unplanned incident that might influence the ride.
- Comply with the recognised bicycle signalling code.
- Give due consideration to pedestrians (especially children and walkers with dogs) by giving advance approach warning and leaving plenty of room.

Communications within the group

- Advise other riders of your intentions – use hand signals and a voice warning where possible (remember it can be hard for some people to hear voices, especially when the wind is blowing in their ears).
- Watch and listen to the communications from others as they indicate their intentions.
- Pass the signals on – they are intended for all in the group, so pass them on, up or down the group.

Calls and hand signals

- 'Car up' (voice) if car (or 'runner', 'walker', 'bike', 'dog', etc) for hazard coming towards group.
- 'Car back' (voice) if car (or 'bike', 'truck', 'bus', etc) for hazard coming from behind – usually called from the back of the group.
- 'Slowing' or 'stopping' (voice)
Hand signal: open hand held backwards towards riders behind.
- 'Turning left/right' (voice) – at an intersection
Hand signal: arm straight out indicating direction.
- 'Straight ahead' (voice) – when riding straight through an intersection.



BayWest Bicycle Users Group
Promoting Cycling in the West

- 'Car left/right' (voice) at an intersection to warn others, especially when you are making the crossing and others may follow without looking (NOT 'car' by itself, as it can be confused with 'clear').
- 'Clear' (voice) at an intersection to advise others that there are no vehicles approaching – use carefully.

Ride Leader's Responsibilities

The Ride Leader is the principal member of the ride and is responsible for route selection, administration (before and on the ride), informing riders of any alterations (including cancellation) and issuing the pre-ride briefing and leading the ride. The Ride Leader, by definition, will lead the ride along the designated route and will control the pace.

The Ride Leader will ensure that safety is paramount and will take all reasonable precautions to minimise risks to the riders; however, individual safety remains the responsibility of each rider.

The Ride Leader will be the principal point of contact and decision maker in the event of an untoward incident. This includes the authority to deny an attendee permission to participate should there be reasonable cause and, in the unlikely event, to counsel a rider should it become necessary.

In greater detail, the above mentioned responsibilities involve the following:

- Ensure that the ride is advertised well in advance on both the BUG's Facebook Event and web pages and that the details are correct regarding the meeting point, start time, route, distance and the Ride Leader's mobile phone number.
- Inform BUG riders of late changes to the advertised ride by posting on the BUG's Facebook page and informing confirmed riders by text message.
- Be fully aware of the planned route, consider completing a route check and if in doubt consult VicRoads, PTV, and Bicycle Network for potential disruptions.
- Select refreshment stops as necessary.
- Complete the verbal pre-ride brief (as per the MICE briefing format) informing riders and ensuring their compliance to participate on the ride.
- Give early warnings of hazards – remembering that those behind cannot see the road ahead.
- Ride at a speed comfortable for the conditions and the riders, comply with the Bike Law handbook, minimise risk and display good manners and consideration of other road and path users at all times.
- Follow the standard bicycle signalling procedures to warn the riders, pedestrians and other road users, as necessary.
- Take the lead in response to any untoward/unplanned event.

Tail Rider's Responsibilities

The Tail Rider fulfils the advisory duty covering the Ride Leader's blind spot behind. The key role is to inform the Ride Leader of any untoward event occurring among the riders that the Ride Leader may be unaware of but has to act upon. Secondly, the Tail Rider initiates warnings to riders ahead of an approaching hazard from behind.

In greater detail, the above mentioned responsibilities involve the following:



BayWest Bicycle Users Group

Promoting Cycling in the West

- Remain at the back of the group throughout the ride unless there is a sound reason for doing otherwise.
- Warn the Ride Leader of any relevant concern by passing a message up the line or by a mobile phone message.
- Warn the riders ahead, using the standard calls, of any approaching hazard from behind.
- Carry a mobile phone, switched on and with the Ride Leader's contact number entered.
- Illuminate a hazard tail light.