

Ballina Bicycle Users Group (Ballina BUG)

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Code of Conduct (Code) is to describe the type of behaviour which Ballina BUG is seeking to promote and encourage its members and supporters to adopt.

2. GOVERNANCE

The Code shall be known as Ballina BUG's Code of Conduct. The Code shall govern the conduct of all persons formally associated with Ballina BUG or other persons attending Ballina BUG rides. In particular, it shall apply to:

- Persons acting for and on behalf of Ballina BUG.
- Persons participating in Ballina BUG organised events.

3. KEY PRINCIPLES

Ballina BUG wishes to operate in an environment where safe cycling is practiced and promoted.

Ballina BUG wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property. Respect is defined as consideration for another's physical and emotional wellbeing and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to either.

Ballina BUG wishes to operate in an environment that is free from harassment. Harassment is defined as any action directed at an individual or group that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment.

Ballina BUG wishes to operate in a non-discriminatory environment. Respect the right, dignity and worth of every human being - within the context of the activity, treat everyone equally regardless of gender, ethnic origin or religion.

Persons to whom this Code applies acknowledge and agree to comply with the disciplinary and grievance procedures promulgated by Ballina BUG. If any disciplinary action is taken, persons directly affected shall be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings and the right to appeal against any decision against them.

4. KEY ELEMENTS

All persons who are bound by this code shall:

- Follow and promote the principles of safe cycling.
- Act in a manner which is compatible with the interests of Ballina BUG.
- Accord people involved in or affected by Ballina BUG activities with the appropriate courtesy, respect and regard for their rights and obligations.
- Show a positive commitment to Ballina BUG policies, rules, procedures, guidelines and agreements;
- Respect the law and in particular those laws that apply to cycling.

5. PRINCIPALS OF SAFE CYCLING

All persons who are bound by this code shall:

- Keep your bicycle in good condition by having regular maintenance checks that will enhance the cycling experience and the longevity of the bicycle.
- Carry out the 2 minute check of the bicycle before every ride.

- Always wear an approved bicycle helmet, properly fitted and fastened to the head.
- Inform the Ride Leader(s) of any medical condition that could affect their ability to complete the ride.
- Ensure they know the ride route before starting the ride.
- The Ride Leader(s) and the Sweep shall ensure they both have mobile phones and both have each other's mobile numbers.
- Obey the directions of the Ride Leader(s) or the Ride Leader's delegate.
- Support the Ride Leader's efforts to ensure the ride is safe and enjoyable for all participants.
- Be seen, be safe. Increase visibility with bright, light clothing which also keeps the cyclist cool while being comfortable. Use reflective clothing especially at night and in poor conditions.
- Be prepared for bad weather and always wear eye protection.
- Always obey the road rules, including traffic lights, Stop signs and Give Way signs. Give way to pedestrians and other vehicles when entering a road.
- When using a shared pedestrian/bicycle path, keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.
- Ride in a predictable manner and hold consistent lines that do not require other road users to react suddenly to their movements.
- Ride no more than two abreast unless overtaking.
- Give clear hand signals when changing lanes or turning right.
- Stay alert for warnings and changes in pace.
- Give plenty of warning of obstacles such as pot holes. Use clear hand signals and loud verbal calls. For example, call "HOLE LEFT"
- Give plenty of warning before passing other cyclists or pedestrians. Use the bicycle's bell or loud verbal calls. For example, call "PASSING RIGHT".
- Not pass on the inside left of another cyclist.
- Not overlap wheels or "half wheel". It disrupts the flow of a pack, is dangerous and discourteous to other riders. If wheels touch, riders usually crash.
- Maintain control of their bicycle at all times. It is an offence to ride with both hands off the handlebars, feet off the pedals or to carry anything which prevents the rider from having control.
- Acknowledge courtesy and recognition by other road users – a smile or a wave promotes good relations.

6. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

This list provides examples of behaviour deemed to be unsuitable and not in the best interests of Ballina BUG.

- Antisocial behaviour such as using bad language, spitting, and snorting can offend people when done in the wrong time and place. To build goodwill with the community, restrict any anti-social behaviour so as to not offend others.
- Participating in "Road rage". This is not a solution for either riders or drivers. Everyone makes mistakes whether driving or riding. Stay calm but report any obvious dangerous behaviour to Police.
- The denigration and/or intimidation of another person, or behaviour likely to constitute emotional abuse.
- Excessive use of alcohol, acting in a way that becomes a public nuisance, or creating a public disturbance.
- The use or encouragement of the use banned substances.
- The making of statements which are deemed to denigrate the Ballina BUG.
- Any form of harassment.