

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Manning Valley Cycling Club (MVCC) Code of Conduct is to provide a general guide of conduct for members, coaches, support staff, commissaries, officials etc. which our club is seeking to promote and encourage.

Our Club strives to promote a safe and enjoyable cycling environment for all its members in the company of other cyclists. It endeavours to lead by example and relies on each of its members to take responsibility to achieve this.

## 2. KEY PRINCIPLES

- MVCC wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property.
- MVCC 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.
- *By being an MVCC member, you are expected to adhere to this code of conduct.* Breaches of this Code may result in a disciplinary penalty in which case all of the circumstances of the incident will be examined prior to any decision being taken. The Club President and at least one member of the Executive Committee will be responsible for investigating and deciding on any disciplinary action

## 3. KEY ELEMENTS

All persons who are bound by this code shall:

- Act in a manner which is compatible with the interests of MVCC;
- Accord people involved in cycling with the appropriate courtesy, respect and regard for their rights and obligations;
- Treat people's property with respect and due consideration of its value;
- Show a positive commitment to MVCC and Cycling Australia's policies, rules, procedures, guidelines and agreements;
- Respect the law;

#### **4. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR**

This list provides examples of behavior deemed to be unsuitable and not in the best interests of the club or sport.

- Physical or mental abuse of an athlete by any person who, in the context of cycling, is in a position of authority over that athlete;
- Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or conduct directed towards any race official and which is related to any decision made by such official;
- 'Sledging' other athletes, officials or event organisers. Sledging is defined as a statement that is deemed to denigrate and/or intimidate 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.
- Damaging another person's property or depriving them of that property.
- Any form of harassment.

#### **5. EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS**

A range of issues has arisen as a result of the increased use of the email as a tool for club business. Email can be a very powerful tool, but also creates unacceptable and unintended consequences on many occasions.

- Do not send chain mail.
- Do not use email to send defamatory, threatening or obscene messages to other members.
- Do not use email to direct any criticism or other similar comment.

To overcome this difficult subject, the club requires all emails to be directed to the club Secretary. The Secretary will then forward the information as required to all members. If you receive an email from the Secretary, do not "Reply to All", your response must be to the Secretary only.

NOTE: If you have a complaint, issue, suggestion etc. the appropriate process is to refer the matter to the club Secretary. The Secretary will then assess the issue and refer to the next club meeting or direct to the club Executive.

## 6. RIDING ETIQUETTE & CONDUCT

It is the responsibility of each individual to practice safety in respect of their own actions, as well as being friendly, courteous and respectful in their conduct towards other cyclists, motorists and pedestrians. Club members need to set an example for other cyclists.

- Cyclists must stop at red lights – you will gain the respect of motorists and it's the law!
- Keep to the left on the road to allow clear passage for passing traffic
- Always wear an approved helmet
- Obey the rules of the road – conduct one's self with the same consideration as one would expect from any other road user, particularly motorists. Aggressive behaviour and gestures by cyclists will alienate motorists and could lead to endangering other cyclists.
- Ensure lights are used when necessary
- Be predictable and always indicate your intentions.
- When riding with others, ride maximum two abreast but be courteous if the road narrows
- Communication is the key – signal or call your intentions and identify hazards to ensure your safety and the safety of those near you
- Keep an even pace - do not brake or slow unexpectedly, be aware that there is a compounding effect to those following. Look ahead at what is happening on the road and anticipate the moves of the cyclists ahead of you