

Ramblers Cycling Club Inc.

Incident and Disciplinary Policy

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Introduction

Ramblers Cycling Club (RCC) seeks to create a racing environment that is competitive, fair and encouraging. Members are expected to follow the principles of the fair play charter and:

- Compete within the rules
- Respect officials
- Respect other competitors
- Respect the public including other road users
- Be gracious winners and dignified losers
- Race hard but race fair, and importantly
- Enjoy themselves.

As cycle racing has a degree of risk that is at times high, all members are expected to compete in a safe manner, especially obeying all relevant road laws and regulations and race rules of RCC, Cycling New Zealand (CNZ) and Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

This policy sets out the policy and procedures of the club when it comes incidents during, and surrounding, club racing. Discipline during open club events would be handled by the commissionaires involved with that event.

Crashes

In event of a rider(s) crashing whilst riding with a bunch (unless in sight of the finish line), the bunch is neutralised until the wellbeing of rider(s) involved is established.

If approaching a crash scene, the race is neutralised. Riders must communicate both the crash scene and neutralisation to the bunch. Do not start racing until clear of the scene.

You may offer your services to marshal the crash scene or assist injured riders, however please be aware that surplus people attending a crash scene can create a hazard.

Race-day incidents reporting and immediate disqualification

All rider participating in a RCC club race must

- **respect** officials, competitors and other road users
- **respect the venue** (no urinating other than in designated facilities)
- **obey** relevant road rules, regulations and race rules of RCC, CNZ and UCI

During a RCC race any riding that is unsafe, dangerous or breaches the above 'code' is **Unacceptable**.

Any member that witnesses Unacceptable riding during a race is required to report it to a SuperVision Sports Ltd (SVS) employee following the race.

If a grade captain, RCC committee member, SVS employee or RCC marshal ("Official") witness Unacceptable riding, they have the right to instantly disqualify the rider. The instant disqualification must be communicated to the rider within a reasonable time and the rider must then immediately ride back to the finish solo. The Official must report the instant disqualification to an SVS employee immediately following the race.

Crossing the centre line

A critical RCC race rule is that riders must not cross the centre line. Riders should at all times position themselves in a bunch to ensure that they do not risk crossing the centre line.

The only defence for crossing the centre line is if the rider was forced over by other riders and

- they subsequently returned inside the centre line as soon as safe to do so and
- immediately dropped to the back of the bunch and gained no benefit from their indiscretion

The minimum sanction for crossing the white line is disqualification, but may also include suspension or fine.

Investigation

- Any reported Unacceptable riding is to be investigated by the club captain, or a member of the race sub-committee.
- The person concerned must then be advised that an allegation of Unacceptable riding has been made (without identifying the source) and details provided to them. They should have the option to respond.
- If necessary the investigator may make further enquiry of witnesses. A decision made and the person concerned informed. If this affects the outcome of a race, the results shall be amended.
- The above is the standard process, however it may be abbreviated if the situation is clear cut such as where an Official has seen an incident themselves, there is clear video footage or it involves crossing the centre line.

Race sub-committee

Serious race offence allegations and non-racing disciplinary matters (conduct affecting the reputation of the Club/behaviour at cycling events organised by the club or where the club is participating etc) will be dealt with by a race sub-committee appointed by the RCC committee.

The race sub-committee will normally be comprised of the Club Captain and a minimum of two other RCC committee members.

The allegation is to be notified to the person concerned providing details of the alleged infraction/misconduct and an indication of the likely range of penalties if the allegation is found to be proven. The person concerned has the option of putting their case to the committee in person or in writing. If they elect to appear they will be notified of the time, date and place of the hearing.

The disciplinary sub-committee's decision will be conveyed to the person concerned in writing along with brief reasons for the outcome.

Conflict of interest

If a member of the race sub-committee is involved in an incident – either through being the person complained about, the object of rider abuse, or through having a family member who is the subject of a complaint - they should not carry out the investigation or be involved in making any decision about how the matter is to be dealt with.

Sanctions

- The CNZ sanctions (in order of seriousness) are: Warning, reprimand, relegation, disqualification, fine, suspension, and withdrawal of licence.
- RCC also has other options available such as a “quiet word” from the club captain, requiring an apology if appropriate, loss of points, or the requiring of some form of rider upskilling or club service such as mentoring a lower grade. (It is acknowledged that this last sanction could not be enforced but could be offered as an alternative to another sanction)
- In general the following actions will be regarded as serious and most likely to result in suspension - abuse of officials or dangerous riding affecting the safety of other road users, including fellow riders.
- The club will also keep a record of incidents requiring disciplinary action and their outcomes. Any prior incidents involving any rider will be taken into account when determining sanctions for any proven subsequent infractions by that rider.

